

Enemies of Effective Leadership – 2

“The following list includes some things that can destroy anyone’s effectiveness as a leader:

- **Lack of Initiative.** Leading isn’t just about talking, it’s about doing. Ultimately, you will be judged as a leader by what you successfully accomplish. Initiative is taking your thoughts and words into the realm of action.
- **Lack of Organization.** Leadership is a group activity. You are required to motivate your followers to accomplish some goal or mission. To do this effectively you have to be able to organize their efforts. Your followers will lose heart if your efforts and theirs are chaotic.
- **Lack of Standards.** Just as you have values, a leader must have standards, as well as her followers. An ill-disciplined army can win a battle but it will lose in the long run. A leader must set basic standards of human behavior for her followers. The more standards a leader has, the more respect she will have from her followers.
- **Lack of Trust.** Trust is the foundation of leadership. If you do not have trust, you cannot lead. Trust is built through consistency and honesty. If you do not trust your well-meaning followers, they will not trust you. You must demonstrate your confidence in it.
- **Failure to Empower.** You cannot ‘use’ people. They will gladly follow a trusted leader with a compelling vision, but will become cynical and alienated when they know they are being manipulated for your purposes alone.
- **Lack of Ongoing Involvement.** Accomplishing a challenging task requires persistence and effort over the long haul. An effective leader sees the task through to successful conclusion, whereas the dreamer or visionary can envision the result but has no conception of how to accomplish it.
- **Lack of Emotional Maturity.** To win the hearts and minds of your followers you must have the emotional maturity to build solid, enduring relationships with all manner of people. As a result you can’t be impulsive, rash, or overly-emotional in your dealings with others. Likewise, you must maintain a leadership presence by avoiding childish actions and immature reactions to others around you.”

SAMPLE

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Discussion Point: Discuss a leader's ability to lead, as well as the impact the leader's actions have on their followers.

Take Away: Trust is the basis for successful leadership. Anything that damages that trust, damages your leadership.