

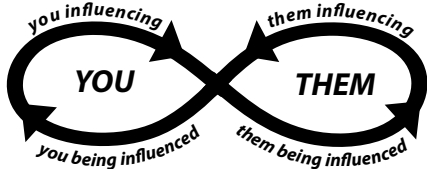
5 Must-Dos for Leaders Today

Leadership is one of the most important skills for you to develop to increase your success, help you stand out among your peers, and position you to have power, influence, and impact in your life and work. Even CEOs will ask about the “must-dos,” those things that are most important to focus on to be most successful. The following **5 must-dos** will accelerate the success of your leadership today:

1

LEADERSHIP IS YOUR WILLINGNESS TO INFLUENCE YOUR WORLD AND BE INFLUENCED BY IT.

Leaders don't sit on the sidelines waiting to see if someone else will step in. Over and over again, your success depends on your willingness to step in and be part of creating results and successes and inviting those you are leading to step in and influence your thinking and that of the group.



2

PAUSE TO STOP REACTING AND START RESPONDING.

Successful leaders are able to actively and regularly pause to ask themselves, *“Is what I am about to do or say in alignment with my goals?”*



There is power in this **Fundamental Pause®** and great leaders know that their first, hair-trigger reactions are not always the most effective responses. They also know that each day, as demands, crises, and unexpected opportunities come at them, they will be most powerful if they build the Fundamental Pause® into their moments, hours, and days.

3

KNOW YOURSELF.



Powerful leaders are committed to reflecting on what is going on inside their heads and hearts and then taking action from their best self. Knowing what's happening internally is crucially important to creating a climate of respect for yourself and for others. One of the most powerful series of questions you can ask yourself is:

- What am I afraid of in this situation?
- How do I act when I feel that?
- How would I act if I were at my best?

4

BE OPEN TO AND CURIOUS ABOUT OTHERS.

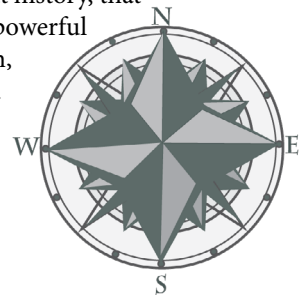
In the same way that you must understand what is going on inside of you, it is critical to your success as a leader that you get to know those you are leading, paying attention to how they show up when they are stressed, what they do when they are at their best, and exploring how you can help them move toward being their best. A quick moment of Pausing to guess what might be shaping the actions of those you are leading will shift your ability to influence them.



5

TAKE ACTION integrating **POSSIBILITY THINKING, TRANSPARENCY** about why this is important to you, inviting the development of a **SHARED VISION, FOSTERING ACTION** to get results, and providing **GOAL-BASED FEEDBACK.**

These five actions are the like spokes on a wheel; together they create power and balance. We have seen in our work, in the literature and research, and in the stories of great leaders throughout history, that these five powerful actions can, when used together, create incredible success.



Leaders, at all levels of an organization, are responsible for increasing the impact of their organization's brand while mitigating risks to success and profitability. These must-dos accelerate leaders' ability to create and sustain success and get results, engage critical talent, and build cultures of innovation and success. If you would like support for your leadership or that of your team's, [let's talk...](mailto:letschat@carpentersmith.com) or you can always talk to us at letschat@carpentersmith.com.