

5 Communication Tips for Leaders

Effective leadership requires communication

Many qualities describe effective leaders – honest, intelligent, innovative, and compassionate, among others. No one set of characteristics defines what leaders need in every situation. However, what every leader does need to be effective, no matter the setting or group they are leading, is the ability to communicate well. Communication skills set leaders up for success.

Employ communication skills to understand people

The act of leadership involves leading others. It requires understanding the people one is leading and involves the communication skills of assessing their needs, listening to their dreams and concerns, demonstrating empathy, finding common ground, and creating connections. When people feel understood they participate in accomplishing goals and facilitating change.

Employ communication skills to research a situation

Leadership is needed when a situation arises that requires problem-solving, decision-making, or change. The effective leader employs a variety of communication skills for researching the facts, anticipating barriers, comparing and contrasting options, determining the desired outcomes, and selecting a course of action. Effective leaders are critical and creative thinkers.

Employ communication skills to cast a vision

Effective leaders are skilled at vision casting. This requires putting the problem or situation into context others can understand, helping them see what needs to be done, the role they can play, and the steps needed to reach the desired outcomes. When people can visualize the destination desired, they are well on their way to overcoming a problem or achieving their goals.

Continually grow your communication skills

Effective leaders are learners, continually growing their knowledge base and developing their skills. Having a teachable disposition creates in leaders a humble mindset, a willingness to expand their thinking, an openness to novel ways of solving problems, and flexibility for trying out new approaches. Leaders who grow lead others to grow, change, and achieve their goals.