



Considering a Leadership Role?

Answer These Ten Questions First

By Janice Knight

1. **How well do I know myself?** The most effective leaders are in touch with who they are and how they feel—especially during the important transition time into a new position.
2. **How flexible am I?** Moving into a leadership role can be a huge stretch...how can you avoid “pulling” something?
3. **How do I handle failure?** Good leaders fail frequently. Rather than viewing failure as a shame and a negative, it’s best to see it as a valuable learning tool.
4. **Do I have a victim mentality?** True leaders look not to blame staff or bosses for any given situation but to take responsibility.
5. **How’s my work/life balance?** Being out of balance in either direction makes for less potent leading.
6. **What do I model?** Your actions will be seen by those you lead as “what it takes to be successful.”
7. **How committed am I to learning?** Leaders are *always* striving to learn, grow and improve.
8. **How much of a people-pleaser am I?** Leaders have to make decisions that might make some people unhappy. This can be rough if you’re the type that wants to make everyone happy all the time.
9. **How confident am I?** Confident leaders don’t have to micromanage, and they inspire others to have confidence in themselves.
10. **Why am I interested in being a leader?** Consider “interviewing” people who are currently leaders in your company/field about what they like and don’t about their leadership role. You may hear things you hadn’t considered.

Janice Knight is a certified personal and professional coach (CPCC) from The Coaches Training Institute and a certified Senior Human Resources Professional (SPHR), with 25+ years experience working with business leaders, executive directors and managers. She is the Chief Creative Officer and Owner of YrCoach and Knight Line Consulting and offers both coaching and consulting services. Email: info@yrcoach.com; www.yrcoach.com if you are interested in exploring and optimizing your leadership skills. (530) 273-0700.
Author’s content used under license, © 2008 Claire Communications.