# **How to Develop Your Leadership Style**

Developing your personal leadership style doesn't need to wait until you hit the C-suite. Wherever you are in your career, you can cultivate the essential habit of self-awareness. The process of finding a style will look different for everyone.

### **Practice discipline**

- A good leader needs discipline.
- Developing discipline in your professional (and personal) life is a must to be an effective leader, and to inspire others to be disciplined as well.



- People will judge your capacity to lead by the amount of discipline you display at work.
- Demonstrate discipline at work by always meeting deadlines, keeping appointments, and ending meetings on time.

# Take on more projects



- A great way to develop your leadership skills is to take on more responsibility.
- You don't have to take on more than you can handle, but you do need to do more than simply what's covered in your job description if you want to grow.

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 Stepping out of your comfort zone is the only way you will learn anything new and doing so will get you noticed by executives as someone who takes initiative.

#### Learn to follow



- A true leader has no problem yielding control to another person when appropriate.
- You should not feel threatened when someone disagrees with you, questions your thinking, or puts forth ideas of their own.
- Keep an open mind and give merit where merit is due. It won't always be easy, but if you learn to value and respect others on your team, they'll be more likely to step up to the plate for you.

### **Develop situational awareness**

- A mark of a good leader is someone who can see the bigger picture and anticipate problems before they occur.
- This is a valuable skill to have when handling complex projects with tight deadlines.
- This ability also helps you recognize opportunities
   that others overlook, which will certainly earn you recognition.



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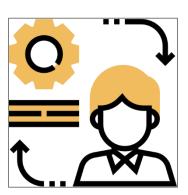
#### **Inspire Teammates**



- Being a leader means you are part of a team, and as a leader you should be able to motivate and inspire those you work with to collaborate as best, they can.
- When a team member needs encouragement or guidance, offer it.
- Sometimes, all a person needs are someone to listen and be sympathetic.

### **Keep learning**

- The best path to becoming a good leader is to always keep learning new things.
- It keeps your mind sharp, and your skills fresh.
- New challenges that may come your way, which is always a good thing in a leader.



#### **Empower your teammates**



- No one is the best at everything, and the sooner you realize that the sooner you can learn to be a good leader.
- Delegating tasks to others not only frees you up for things you do well, but it also empowers other people on your team.

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# Be a discerning listener

- An important trait of a good leader is someone who listens to suggestions, ideas, and feedback from other people, and build on them.
- Good listeners know that communication is not only about words, but picking up on non-verbal cues, such as eye contact and body language.



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