

Your Leadership Superpowers By Ann Golden Eglé, MCC July 2017

Every leader that I've worked with or studied has a 'superpower' that makes them stand out from the rest. You feel inspired and motivated simply being in their presence.

A leader can no longer stand on their title or history alone to be highly effective. They require that certain something that makes people value and want to follow their direction.

My experience is that most leaders don't realize they have this 'superpower.' As it comes so naturally and easily to them, they undervalue it while overvaluing their deficits.

For example, client David relates to people in a way that builds immediate trust; Megan sees through people to immediately asses their motivation; Bill is brilliant but doesn't flaunt it; Carla explains scientific strategies in layman terms; Keith has a vision that's contagious.

Please don't overlook the superpowers that you take for granted, both in yourself and in your people. Ask yourself if you have one of these superpowers that make leaders great. Then ponder how you can make the most of it to make your business and the world a better place.

Vision. In a chaotic world, there are those leaders that not only see possibilities for their future, but communicate it so clearly and enthusiastically that you can't help but get on board. If you're often surprised when people don't share your vision, you have this superpower.

Positive Communication. It's a rare leader who has developed the ability to communicate with people at all different levels, in terms that all can understand. Do you notice that people perk up when you approach them and are not distracted? Perhaps they rarely miss your meetings? If so, you have this superpower.

Authenticity. Leaders who are authentic and unafraid of being vulnerable elevate their people. This leader's genuineness draws people closer in, allows others the freedom to be themselves. As creative ideas are more easily explored, motivation and loyalty across the board increases.

Decisiveness. If your superpower is decisiveness, please don't take that for granted. Decisive leaders know what information to gather, who to bring into their decision and in the end, trust their instincts. This encourages others to be decisive and trust their instincts.

Tenacity. Tenacious leaders shine when things look their darkest. Their unstoppable determination, strength, courage, imagination, humor, and ability to persuade others show their true character. Others are inspired by and motivated through this superpower.

Observation. Observation superpower leaders gain valuable insight through slowing down to examine what is really going on with their people, clients, and industry. Oftentimes it's their intuition that tells them something's not quite right. They listen to and act upon this information.

Respect. Leaders with this superpower know that everyone is inspired to be their very best when they feel seen, heard, and respected. In turn, these leaders are highly respected.

I know you identified with one or more of these superpowers. If so, build upon it. Be even more decisive, respectful, and authentic. Help your people to unveil their superpowers. Everyone wins. It is, after all, your job as a leader to constantly bring out the best in yourself and your people.

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