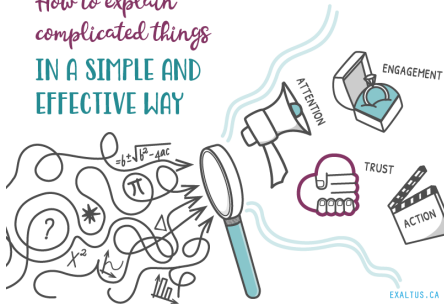


6 TRAITS *that* DISTINGUISH GREAT *from* GOOD

How to explain
complicated things
IN A SIMPLE AND
EFFECTIVE WAY



1. THEY CLARIFY THE COMPLEX

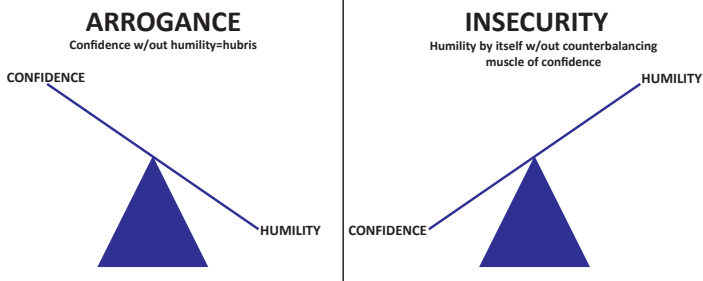
"They can communicate very clearly and succinctly—usually with short words and short sentences—and even on complex issues. They've developed the skills necessary to really get to the heart of things."

2. THEY EMBRACE NEW THINKING



"They resist distilling their work into just one thing! Excellent leaders see nuances, contradictions, possibilities for error, counter-trends, and opposing views. In short, they listen, include many viewpoints, learn from critics, and remain aware that trends could shift quickly. And then they are better armed when they act quickly and decisively."

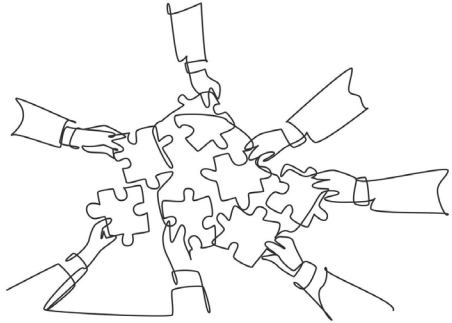
3. THEY BALANCE CONFIDENCE AND HUMILITY



"Great leaders have the ability to act decisively and with confidence to inspire their team while simultaneously displaying a humility that respects and encourages their team's best efforts. They're great learners that view successful outcomes as both achieving specific objectives and improving their organization's ability to deal with its next wave of challenges."

4. THEY UNITE EMPLOYEES AROUND A MISSION

"Effective leaders communicate the organization's objective function—what are we trying to accomplish, what's the definition of victory, how should we measure our success—constantly and broadly within their institution. That ensures alignment and allows them to delegate responsibility for designing and implementing plans to achieve those ends to the maximum degree possible."



5. THEY SET HIGH STANDARDS

"The answer to this question has proven to be relatively timeless in spite of all of the more recent pronouncements. The classic Handbook of Leadership has defined the effective leader as someone 'who sets high standards and expresses caring.'

Virtually all written since this articulation has proven to be a variation on this theme."



6. THEY AVOID DISTRACTIONS

"THEY FOCUS!"

The best leaders never stop learning - from others, as well as their own successes and failures. Great leaders admit when they are wrong without losing confidence. Not only do they teach and work on developing their staff they also seek additional education and personal development. Best leader see what is happening , what will happening to address what is now happing and what will happing by making it not happing , slow it for happing and make new things for it not happing .



Although I don't disagree with the individual ideas of the article, it seems like a very Western-centric view of leadership. For example, the idea that a good leader, " can communicate very clearly and succinctly—usually with short words and short sentences" comes from a very linear culture. I've often sat in cross-cultural situations thinking, "where is this guy going with this, he's just rambling." Then after 20 minutes I realized he had just created a more beautiful picture of the whole situation than any concise sentence could ever do.