

September DiaLOG Reflection Question

To be an effective leader, you need to know your strengths. What skills and knowledge do you bring to the table?

Anderson

I see my strengths as.....

- I'm very organized. Helps me to manage many tasks simultaneously.
- I'm a team player. I'm able to work with many different types of people and get them to work together.
- Personable. I'm sincerely interested in others and what they have to offer and also what they hope to accomplish.
- Good listener. Open to new ideas and new approaches.
- Respectful of diverse opinions and backgrounds--everyone has something to offer.
- Motivated and hardworking to see projects from beginning to completion.

Baumgartner

Here are what I believe to be my strengths and knowledge.

Goal setting and planning - Setting goals and developing a plan to achieve them

1. Honesty and Integrity - I can not tell a lie
2. Listening - I believe others can confide in me
3. I know how to manage a successful project
4. I know how to delegate
5. I know how to apply information technology to solve problems

Berger

1. Self awareness
2. Integrity
3. Proactive
4. Listen well
5. Creative
6. Organized
7. Reflective

Boegli

- 1) I'm filled with energy and enthusiasm when I'm aligned with my passions.
- 2) I know how to instinctively instill humor in many settings- to make people more comfortable
- 3) I have ideas to share with others
- 4) I love to smile and people always seem to smile back! :)
- 5) I'm a good reflective listener
- 6) I'm a strong public speaker and presenter- I love an audience.
- 7) I can motivate people to action with good plans and ideas
- 8) I know how to teach dance classes
- 9) I know how to write effectively - I like to write poems too.
- 10) I love problem solving with other people, it's like solving a mystery to me
- 11) I say "thank you" many times a day
- 12) I know what I'm not good at and often find other people to fill in those gaps

Bradley

The skills and knowledge that I bring to the table are:

1. Customer focused - ensure customer satisfaction; deal with service failures and prioritize customer needs.
2. Conflict Management - ability to use a win-win approach to resolve controversy and stay objective and fair when dealing with sensitive situations.
3. Commitment to Task - ability to take responsibility for actions and outcomes and persist despite obstacles; demonstrate dependability in difficult circumstances and show a sense of urgency about getting results.
4. Integrity- Able to be tactful, maintains confidences, and foster/support an ethical work environment; handle all situations honestly.
5. Respecting Diversity- Able to adapt behavior to others' styles; interact with people who have different values, cultures or backgrounds; optimize the benefits of having a diverse workforce.

Brewer

- Research and organizational skills
- Strong desire to learn and to share ideas and knowledge
- Ability to contribute to the setting of goals and to the identification and implementation of steps (objectives and activities) that will forward them. (I experience this as a creative and enjoyable process.)
- Enthusiasm for projects that I or the group in which I am involved identify as beneficial for ourselves or others
- Sense of humor--like to mingle in some play and laughter while working hard for an outcome, no matter how important the work and outcome are

Busker

Leadership skills and knowledge:

I can understand a mission, set goals, and work on steps needed to reach goals.

I am creative.

I think logically.

I enjoy research and learning and organizing.

I know about managing non-profits.

I want to make the world a better place.

Carroll

Davis

- 1) Understand the meaning of "consensus" and its importance/place for reaching the best decision.
- 2) Work well under pressure – controlled or uncontrolled.
- 3) Able to relate with people personally and professionally and take a personal interest in their lives.
- 4) Analytical/Constructive thinker.
- 5) Able to break projects into digestible pieces, develop, and communicate a plan of attack.
- 6) Strong communication skills (inc. listening).
- 7) Do not take constructive criticism or recommendations for change personally.

- 8) Learn from my mistakes.
- 9) Understand the concept of, and project "cause and effect". How does this decision or action (cause) influence or impact these people, situation, results, etc. (effect)?
- 10) Desire to learn and try new things.

Grahn

In response to this month's "diaLOG," and hopefully not sounding too much like a commercial for your's truly, I'd have to say that one of the most important strengths I bring to the table is a passion for learning and growing. This comes along with a healthy dose of self-study, including working really hard at understanding what my weaknesses are and trying to address those issues. Some other specific strengths include:

Enthusiasm -- Not one to get marginally involved in something once committed.

A wide vision -- What can I say, I like to think BIG but also enjoy the process and the details. Tend to focus on the root of the problem as opposed to nursing the symptoms. Sometimes this can be a weakness.

Abstract thinking -- I like to tackle problems from a variety of different angles, sometimes rather obtusely.

Creativity -- Whether it's carving a sculpture, writing a letter or a computer program, collaborating with others, solving a business problem or just having fun, I have a great passion for the creative process.

Technical skills -- Strong computer skills include database development and web development skills with an ability to explain technical matters to non-technical people in a way that they can understand.

Collaboration Skills -- Brainstorming is one of my favorite pastimes. There's nothing that satisfies quite like bouncing ideas back and forth with a group of enthusiastic people except perhaps seeing those ideas come to fruition.

Logical/analytical thought process -- Capable of breaking issues down, identifying cause/effect relationships, assessing needs, etc. A weakness might be a tendency to over-analyze at times.

Communication skills-- Some experience in speaking with small groups and fairly adept at preparing written communications.

Flexible -- Open to new ideas and willing to examine previously-held convictions in the face of new information. Always looking for a new way of looking at things and open to the possibilities that haven't surfaced yet.

Experimental -- Open to trying new things to see what doors open up. I have a bad case of the "What if we tried this?" syndrome. Not afraid to go out on a limb (even with lots of experience with broken limbs).

Sense of humor -- Can't remember a single joke but always looking for the irony in things.

Other things I feel are important and qualify as assets include the ability to listen with an open mind and to take a walk in the other person's shoes. I value integrity, honesty, humility, and commitment as well as any opportunity to have fun or to help others succeed.

Jacobson

I believe my strengths are:

1. Willingness to listen
2. Provide guidance to others (help them help themselves)
3. Make decisions, stick by them.
4. Willing to continue to educate myself and share ideas with others.
5. Coordinate group efforts
6. Willing to get involved and make things happen.

Jenson

1. I am a “team player”. I believe that together a group can accomplish far more than any individual.
2. Very analytical, sometimes to a fault.
3. Never stop trying. If you get knocked down you should always get back up.
4. You can never have enough good communication.
5. My solution is not always the best solution to a problem. I am very open to other ideas.
6. Education is very important in all aspects of life. How can you make a good decision unless you know all the angles?
7. Positive attitude.

Johnson

1. I would like to think I am a caring person. I am a true BLUE person. However, this trait can also be a bit difficult to work with.
 2. Compassionate. I think the two go hand in hand.
 3. Can be enthusiastic. Can become energized by understanding the goal and moving towards it.
 4. Have desire to help others succeed.
 5. Communication skills can be good. (one on one works best, but, small groups can also be achieved from time to time)
- Am a good listener from time to time.

Kallembach

- (1) analytical and organized
- (2) hard working and motivated
- (3) respectful of other people's opinion and ideas
- (4) good listener
- (5) like to learn new things

Kline

1. a positive and enthusiastic attitude
2. I'm a fair person
3. I check my ego at the door
4. I love to listen
5. None of these things mean anything without heart and compassion. Two traits I have developed working with Seniors

McNeil

Mouchon

1. Humble – I know that I can always learn more and improve.
2. Sincere – I don't have any hope when playing poker, but I am very genuine.
3. Analytical – I make mental connections and think critically.
4. Caring – I like to make personal connections and be helpful.
5. Adaptable – I can find ways to accept and work with certain things as they are, and locate and change the things which can be changed.
6. I know about racial-ethnic diversity, issues of poverty/working poor, and ecological frameworks of human development.
7. I know Spanish.
8. I know how to do research – both book/web and community-based.

Mouchon

As we share our strengths (that was an uneasy experience for me!) and read the first portion of the Covey book, I am reminded of a short story from a child development seminar on building character for children.

Native American Wisdom

An elder Cherokee American Indian was teaching his grandchild about life. He said to his grandchild:

“A fight is going on inside of me...and it is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves...”

One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other wolf stands for honor, joy, peace, love, hope, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

The same fight is going on inside of you and inside of every other human being too.”

After thinking about it for a minute or two, the grandchild asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?”

The old man leaned toward his grandchild and whispered: “The one you feed.”

Myers

Purdy

The skills and knowledge that I bring to the table is the ability to understand situations from many perspectives. Another way of looking at this is that I have a strength which is also a weakness, I am a “jack of many trades and master of none”.

Roth

My skills and knowledge to bring to the "table" include:

- My ability to follow through on projects, ideas, etc.
- Organization and time management skills.

- A team player attitude, including knowing when to lead and when to follow. I always feel the need to include everyone--I don't like to see a person "on the outside" of a group activity.
- I am not afraid of trial and error to solve problems. I enjoy a challenge!
- I love to teach others new things.

Smith

- Effective listener
- I am responsible for my own attitude and that affects others attitudes
- I am open, honest and trustworthy
- I try to be an agent of change and embrace change when it it presented to me
- I lead by example

Starck

Thompson

Wood

- I have a positive attitude that promotes enthusiasm in group activities.
- I am able to delegate tasks effectively which helps to accomplish many tasks in a short amount of time.
- I am humble and honest. Never afraid to admit I made a mistake and then learn from it.
- I have an open mind an do not judge others. I believe that every individual has something great to offer.
- I give praise where praise is due. I think that positive reinforcement works best with others. They will respect you for it and be more apt to follow your lead.

Anton Wright

- Good research skills
- Good customer service skills
- Ability to see a plan through to completion
- Willingness to make mistakes
- Ability to find humor in most everything