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INSPIRE

Has anyone ever inspired you to change your life in a meaningful way that made you healthier, happier, or more fulfilled?

If so, you have a good understanding of the difference positive inspiration can make in a person's life.

Inspiration is powerful, but it's actually not so easy to harness it to help you in your quest for success.

Knowing more about the issue will help you avoid needlessly torpedoing people of good faith and will help you avoid being singled out as disruptive.

If you want to be a positive influence who can inspire your loved ones to become better versions of themselves, please consider the following tips:

1. Care: if you can't show someone you really care, do you think you can inspire them?

The answer is a resounding « No »

Show that you care, for example, with a simple « how are you today? » Without forgetting that small gestures of kindness go a long way.





- 2. Be enthusiastic: reflect your enthusiasm for the people you are in contact with every day, and I am sure that your sincere smiles, your positive energy, and your attention to them will be increased tenfold.
- 3. *Gain trust:* if someone you know and love tells you a secret, it stays between you and them. Trust takes a long time to develop, but it can vanish overnight.

So don't get involved in workplace gossip or unnecessary drama on social media. Keep your distance and comment only to influence positively.

This way, people will find that they can interact with you and will not hesitate to talk to you and even support you.

If it's not positive, don't say it: it's easy to criticize people, but that doesn't mean it's the right thing to do.

- 4. *Think it over:* how do you react if someone insults your intelligence, makes fun of your outfit, or criticizes your performance?
 - Whether the criticism is true or not, I bet you get angry. No one likes to be criticized, so if you don't have anything positive to say, don't.
- 5. Value people: little compliments have a way of brightening up any day, no matter what melancholy shadows may be hanging over your head. You have surely noticed in the past, when you gave a small compliment to someone, their face would light up.
- 6. Hang in there: It's easy to let the stresses of life shake our foundation of inner strength as human beings, but if you want to inspire those around you, learn to hold your own against the odds.
 - Stand firm if you want to show the people around you that even the worst circumstances can be overcome with positive thinking, continuous improvement, and a never-desperate attitude.
- 7. Admit your flaws: while it's important not to flinch when life throws a curveball at us, it's equally important to recognize the fact that we are all human beings and therefore all of us are inherently flawed.

We all have at least one obvious weakness. So accept your flaws to humanize yourself, so that people can understand you more deeply.

Show me a person who claims to be beyond reproach, and I'll show you a liar.

- 8. *Do active listening:* Anyone can hear the words that others say, but few people can actively listen and understand those words to fully grasp their meaning.
 - Make eye contact if someone is talking to you about a particular situation or problem, then following the information received and analyzed, ask follow-up questions to show them that you care about what he's going through.





- 9. Be ambitious: aim high and never give up if you want to inspire people so they too can achieve whatever they set out to do.
- 10. *Provide constructive criticism:* first, constructive criticism should only be given if requested. Also, if it isn't positive, don't say it.
 - If you criticize someone for their flaws without any rational input being communicated to them, you're just going to upset them. Provide constructive criticism.
- 11. *Treat everyone equally:* we are all equal human beings, regardless of gender, race, religion, political affiliation, or any other factor.

Love and care for people without regard to those irrelevant factors which have no influence on the quality of a person.

Treat others as they wish to be treated, regardless of their background to inspire trust.

- 12. Walk confidently: keep your head up and eyes forward so you can say; « Hello » or « how are you? » to everyone you meet. Walk with a friendly gait that reflects confidence.
- 13. *Keep Calm:* how people react to insults or criticism speaks volumes about their ability to inspire others.

If you respond to hate with more hate, how are you better than the person who triggered the confrontation?

No matter how inappropriate or harsh an insult was, it's best to stay calm, because getting upset, won't make you feel better, and it certainly won't inspire the people around you.

Ignore insults as if they didn't happen, and those who witness your unwavering nature may be inspired to do the same.

If it is a serious insult, keep calm. There will always be a good time to try to discuss it or bring in a referee to put the situation into perspective.

- 14. Share your inspirations: what are the books that have influenced you, the most? What are the sources of inspiration that guide the most important decisions of your life? How did you become the happy, healthy, positive person you are today?
 - Share the influences that shaped you, so others can benefit too.
- 15. Acknowledge the contributions of others: no matter how great you are, you are only one person, so make sure other people have contributed to your success or not, before praising it.
 - Acknowledge contributions publicly, if possible, to show people you're humble and thoughtful enough to give credit where it's due.
- 16. Keep your promises: if you've volunteered for a social cause or job or been invited to a movie, you should keep your word, even if other factors influence you not to keep your word.





It's easy to let go of our responsibilities when a better opportunity presents itself, but it's an infallible way to destroy the trust you've worked hard to get, so be wise to keep your word no matter what.

17. Stay true to yourself: many of us have a variety of Me's « Moi » that emerge depending on the social situation at home, work, and friends that all require a different song and dance. This is what I call the « Moi » experience of Miss Piggy, the Muppet character.

For example, setting up a different scenario for each group of people you meet is very exhausting and definitely not a good way to inspire people around.

Embrace your true « Moi. » People will understand where you come from and will accept you more without you having to develop scenarios of circumstances, without forgetting the excuses you will have to make, when you are exposed.

18. Explore other possibilities: Anyone who thinks they have all the answers is kidding themselves, so don't hesitate to question your beliefs regularly. You always have to keep in mind that there is always another side to a coin.

Talk to people who think differently from you to find out what motivates them. Chances are you won't change your mind if you truly believe something with confidence.

However, it is important to explore other possibilities that could validate or invalidate your strategy.

This discussion should reinforce your point of view or open your eyes to an angle that you have overlooked.

Additionally, you will also develop trust in people who think differently than you, who otherwise might have been afraid to approach you.

- 19. Don't go overboard: if you win an argument, there's no need to brag about it. « I told you so » will make you look arrogant and rightly discourage people from approaching you about important situations.
- 20. Leave people free to act: Don't just give people step-by-step advice, but rather give them the freedom to figure it out for themselves. Nobody likes micromanagers!

If asked for help, provide a rough instruction to get a person moving in the right direction, but intentionally leave something to the imagination so they have the freedom to fill in the blanks.

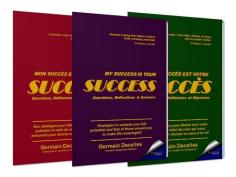
When a person discovers that they are able to figure things out on their own, they discover that they are more powerful than they ever thought possible. She or he will understand where she or he comes from and because of this, she or he will understand you better.

Here we all need to remember « Stay true to yourself: many of us have a variety of Me's « Moi » that emerge depending on the social situation at home, work, and friends that all require a different song and dance. This is what I call the « Moi » experience of Miss Piggy, the Muppet character. »





Find out more about how to « Facilitate positive exchanges » with *My Success Is Your Success*. The book through questions, quotes and reflections provides the necessary elements to explore all about motivation so to shape your success and help those around you do the same. Remember that success is all about team efforts!



This 404-page book, available in French and English, is the fruit of forty years of experience acquired with local and international organizations and companies and during consultancy, change management, transition, and marketing services. For more information and to consult the flipbook, go to: www.webtechpublishing.com.

About the Author

In addition to writing, Germain Decelles acts as Change Management Strategist. He has over 40 years of business and consultation experience with local and international markets, including sectors such as retail trade, distribution, information technology and communications, transportation, manufacturing, financial services, and government organizations.

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