

THE LAW OF THE LID

Leadership Ability Determines a Person's Level of Effectiveness

I often open my leadership conferences by explaining the Law of the Lid because it helps people understand the value of leadership. If you can get a handle on this law, you will see the incredible impact of leadership on every aspect of life. So here it is: leadership ability is the lid that determines a person's level of effectiveness. The lower an individual's ability to lead, the lower the lid on his potential. The higher the individual's ability to lead, the higher the lid on his potential. Your leadership ability – for better or for worse – always determines your effectiveness and the potential impact of your organization.

I believe the success is within the reach of just about everyone. But I also believe that personal success without leadership ability brings only limited effectiveness. Without leadership ability, a person's impact is only a fraction of what it could be with good leadership. The higher you want to climb, the more you need leadership. The greater the impact you want to make, the greater your influence needs to be. Whatever you will accomplish is restricted by your ability to lead others.

Applying *The Law of the Lid* to Your Life:

1. List some of your major goals. Try to focus on significant objectives – things that will require a year or longer of your time. List a minimum of five, but no more than ten. Now identify which ones will require the participation or cooperation of other people. For these activities, your leadership ability will greatly impact your effectiveness.
2. Ask others to rate your leadership. Talk to your boss, your spouse, two colleagues (at your level), and three people you lead. Ask each of them to rate you on a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high) in each of the following areas:
 - People skills
 - Planning and strategic thinking
 - Vision
 - Results

Personal and organizational effectiveness is proportionate to the strength of leadership.

"While no one is expected to leap tall buildings in a single bound, our aspiring heroes will be tested on their courage, integrity, self-sacrifice, compassion and resourcefulness - the stuff of all true superheroes."

Stan Lee

"The most dangerous poison is the feeling of achievement. The antidote is to every evening think what can be done better tomorrow."

Ingvar Kamprad

"Begin at once to live, and count each separate day as a separate life."

Roman Statesman