



Acceptance

We achieve acceptance of or in a situation when a need or requirement is adequately satisfied. To achieve acceptance, Forward Thinkers must do three things; live in the present, recognize talent and achieve tolerance.

First, Forward Thinkers accept the present moment, the way things are in here and now. Second, they value the resources and talents of others who are in the process of transforming into Forward Thinkers. Finally, Forward Thinkers realize that when they make small changes in their level of tolerance, they appreciate the benefits of the diverse environment around them.

Present Moment

Forward Thinkers focus on the present moment. It is important to note that both the past and future are important, but not nearly as important as the moment they are in right now. We know that the past holds many lessons for us and opportunities to change the future. We also know that it is important to have an eye to the future to scope out change and shifts that may impact performance. However, the only thing we can control is the present.

So how do you know if you are fully present in the current moment? Many Forward Thinkers identify this experience of "being in the present" as a sharpening of colors, sounds and textures. Other Forward Thinkers experience being in the present moment as having a laser focus on their current objectives and goals.

Do you ever find yourself day dreaming about the future or rewinding in your head the things you did yesterday? Where does this get you? If anything, it puts what you need to achieve today further and further behind.

So, how do you go about developing a competency to stay in the present? First, strive to understand what you cannot change and work towards those things that you can change. Second, accept "what is." Know that there are certain things that you cannot change, because it is part of a larger whole or system, but be knowledgeable about how to work with the larger system to effect organizational change and personal change as well. How will you know when you have accomplished living in the present moment? You will have a renewed sense of passion for what you do and you personally will have a greater presence.

Talent

Forward Thinkers value the resources around them. They know talent when they see it, partially because they are focused on the present moment and can identify with others who are also focused on the present moment. They realize that diversity undoubtedly creates strategies to challenge competition, break into new markets and create new products. Most importantly, however, it is the understanding that differences do matter and can be a catalyst for change.

As a Forward Thinker, you want to be able to not just recognize talent but surround yourself with it. To do this, you first have to identify what constitutes talent in your situation. We all work in different environments and have different needs.

Second, you have to know what it is that you do well and where you could use help. This is probably the most critical part. Most people are promoted based on their performance, not on their collaboration and team work. However, when they get into the role of management, all of a sudden they are asked to delegate and manage a group of people. The steps that Forward Thinkers take to surround themselves with talent are indeed simple, but many people fail at it because they are not focused on the present moment.

Tolerance

Finally and most importantly, Forward Thinkers know that criticism and intolerance create an environment of instability, and instability is a critical component for failure. To achieve success, Forward Thinkers focus on that which is positive and open themselves up to the positive experience of others. When all said and done, Forward Thinkers know that diversity brings richness to not just their work world, but also to the communities in which they live.

As Forward Thinkers we understand the value of compassion for others and now have learned of the importance of acceptance. These two critical factors play a key role in a Forward Thinker's ability to collaborate.

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