

Ten mistakes leaders often make

Adapted from *Leadership for Dummies*, Marshall Loeb, 1999

1. FAILING TO LEARN FROM MISTAKES

Admit mistakes; don't fall into the "I can't disappoint the people who trusted me" syndrome. Take responsibility and don't blame others, or justify and make excuses.

2. FAILING TO BE FLEXIBLE

A good leader has to be flexible. Situations change; anything can change. A leader will be ineffective if they can't modify plans and adapt projects when needed.

3. FAILING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PAST

While it's not good to be stuck in "we've always done it that way" mode, the past does point the way to the future and there were reasons for those methods. Don't erase it or discount it just because it's the past.

4. COMMANDING INSTEAD OF LEADING

People will count on you for guidance, but also for motivation and recognition. You can't push people to believe in, and work toward goals; guiding, leading and inspiring people will get them to participate in the work.

5. FAILING TO LISTEN

Never estimate the importance of listening to all the voices, not just the ones that agree with you.

6. THINKING OF HIS/HER OWN NEEDS FIRST

Leadership is not a mantle of privilege. Learn modesty. You can accomplish more if you don't care to get the credit.

7. THINKING LEADERSHIP IS FOREVER

When your term is over, know how to exit gracefully.

8. FAILING TO TEACH

Groups succeed because their combined knowledge and skill sets can be more effective than as individuals. Learning, teaching and mentoring is an integral part of what PTA does.

9. FAILING TO HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR

Leadership is stewardship. You assume a set of responsibilities but your name is not carved in stone. If you can't laugh

10. SEEING THINGS ONLY IN BLACK AND WHITE

The world exists in a myriad of colors and subtle shades. The leaders who can see the different shades and solve problems without causing confrontation, is the leader who ultimately succeeds.

