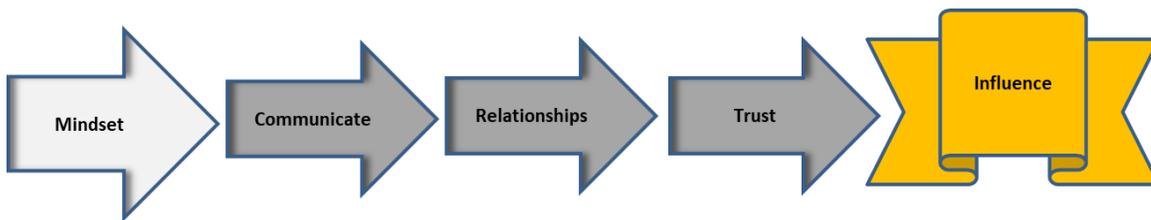


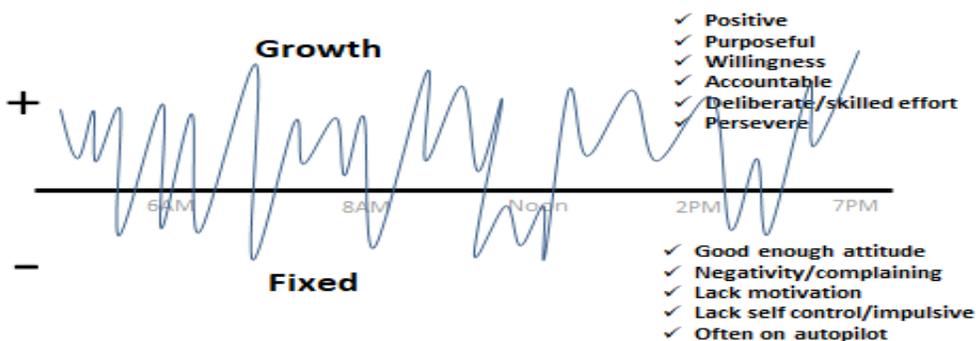
Leadership Is Influence - By Jack Slavinski

There are many competencies that work their way into how we lead, but leadership at its core, is all about influence and how effective each of us do just that in our respective roles and positions. Being our best starts with being clear on our role and purpose and why we do what we do as educators or business people. The most effective influence occurs when there is high trust at a team and individual level. Trust can only build over time through our relationships, competency and character. When we spend quality time with others we gain trust. When we demonstrate our competence, through our behaviors and actions, we gain trust. As we reveal our character, we also gain trust. We each build up or reduce our trust bank interaction by interaction. All these factor into a leaders ability to influence in any capacity-as a coach, a teacher or in business. We can often find ways to compensate for shortfalls in competency and relationships, but character trait gaps is the most difficult one, is it not?

An effective leader has a mindset that understands the importance of mastering their impacts, adapting situationally, through these systematic interrelationships and places constant focus on them and their development. None of us are complete and must admit and commit that we can always improve in what we do.



We Must Manage Our Mindset & Grit



What do you do to maximize your influence? What skills and behaviors are most important? How do you deal with constructive conflict, leveraging your trust and to maximize commitment? How do you ensure that your mindset is consistently focused on a positive growth orientation? How do you ensure this with your student athletes?

Leadership Competencies

As mentioned, there are many diverse competencies (and opinions) of what it takes to successfully lead in today's competitive athletic environment and world. In fact, depending upon who you ask, there are upwards of 70 distinct and varied competencies, traits and behaviors describing such. Leadership is not simple and application of the competencies varies by person and situation. What's important is that we all understand our strengths and opportunity areas. That way we leverage our strengths, build upon them and address areas where we know we must get better in

our roles as athletic directors, coaches and teachers. We must also help our student athletes understand their strengths and opportunity areas, so they build upon on and build up the other. We must prepare them for what they will face after high school.

A short list of the competencies are: communication, influence, decision making, conflict management, emotional management, courage, vision, developing others, awareness, adaptability, team building, dealing with adversity, relationship management, others.

Which competencies do you feel are most important to the situations faced in your programs? How do you teach these competencies to our student athletes? Are any of these competencies selection criteria for coaches?

Leadership Character

Character strengths are the positive parts of your personality that impact how you think, feel and behave and are the keys to you being your best self. Depending upon how you look at this and who you ask, there are upwards of 100 various kinds of character traits.

When applied effectively, they are beneficial both to you and society as a whole. They are different than your other strengths, such as your unique skills, talents, interests and resources, because character strengths reflect the "real" you — who you are at your core. As mentioned, character is a key element of gaining and maintaining trust. When we lose trust in someone's character, it's very difficult to gain that back.

Character is a matter of choice and deciding what kind of person do I want to be or become. The world around us frequently tests our student athlete's character. You might have heard the phrase, "above all things, guard your character". Easy to make a statement about that, those "statements" don't always have strong teeth.

The following is a short list of valued character traits: Perseverance, hope, judgement, giving (selfless), trustworthy, curious, humble, humor, learning, brave, team player, leader, self-regulated, resilient, gratitude, fairness, zest, others.

Which character traits you view are core strengths? How do you ensure that you stay true to your character beliefs and values when they are tested so that you make good choices? How do you teach character and decision making to our student athletes? How does a coach's character determine their ability to teach critical life skills to student athletes? How do we help our student athletes make smart character choices on and off the field?

If you are interested further information, discussing the above and/or actual development training sessions regarding any of the above topics, please contact Jack Slavinski.

Email: Slavinskijack@gmail.com

704-936-6703

