

14 Basic Traits of Effective Leadership

1. **Bearing** – determining how one is seen by those who would influence.
2. **Courage** – moral courage is a fundamental requirement of all effective leaders.
3. **Decisiveness** – not to be confused with inflexibility, decisiveness drives consistency.
4. **Dependability** – leaders must be dependable all of the time.
5. **Endurance** – staying with one who is struggling, taking the long view for the greater good.
6. **Enthusiasm** – the need to infuse energy when one exudes energy.
7. **Initiative** – thinking critically and creatively.
8. **Integrity** – the test of respect.
9. **Judgment** – basing leaders' decisions on all available facts.
10. **Sense of justice** – do not appear arbitrary, partial or unfair.
11. **Knowledge** – commitment to build an effective knowledge base.
12. **Loyalty** – cannot be built but must be freely offered by those who are led.
13. **Tact** – the ability to communicate effectively using excellent “people skills”.
14. **Unselfish** – properly preparing self and being available.