

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

Take this quiz to see if you have the right mindset for action.

BY NEAL WHITTEN, PMP, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

As leaders, we face new adventures each and every day. Before we venture into the project jungle, let's measure our readiness by answering some true-or-false statements.

While at work, your main focus should be on what's best for your own career. *False.* Do what's best for the business and it will ultimately benefit your career.

Never allow one event or experience to dampen your dreams. *True.* There will be obstacles and there may be failures, but you must continually move forward.

Focus predominately on your strengths. *True.* However, you should understand and address your weaknesses, too.

Most problems aren't nearly as monumental as they first appear. *True.* Once understood, most issues are far less ominous.

You should try to solve every problem before you complain. *False.* Zero in on those issues that affect your commitments and your domain of responsibility.

You're not a victim unless you choose to be. *True.* Although no one has absolute control over the outcome of events, you have far more influence than many people choose to believe.

Don't make a commitment unless you can achieve it. *True.* You are accountable for making good on your promises.

It's more important to do what's best for the business than to be liked. *True.* It's always about the business. However, when you demonstrate integrity in making the right business decisions, you're also likely to gain the respect and affection of those around you.

Your boss doesn't define your job. *True.* Although your supervisor may ultimately approve your assigned duties, you can take the initiative and negotiate your responsibilities.

You should keep your views to yourself when they run counter to those of your boss. *False.* Constructively and discreetly share your opinion. Your value increases when your interest, honesty and passion are apparent.

Actions speak louder than intentions. *True.* Good intentions aren't what get the job done.

As project managers, many people depend on us directly or indirectly, and we are ultimately accountable for what happens on our watch. Yet most people doubt themselves and hesitate to be the great leader that lies within them. Are you ready to be the best? **PM**

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Taking things personally at work is harmful. *True.* It damages your effectiveness, business judgment and relationships with co-workers.

It's always a good idea to take on additional opportunities. *False.* First, make sure you're performing your primary responsibilities well.

People who make the most mistakes accomplish the least. *False.* The more you achieve, the more mistakes you have likely made.

Bad news should immediately be communicated to your boss. *False.* In most cases, due diligence should be performed first. Once the importance and urgency of the problem is understood, share the news your boss needs to know.