

Play Your Role for All It's Worth!

Communication has the power to solve problems or to manufacture them - just watch the news! We have real issues - the presidential election coming up, economic and finance breakdowns, a military occupation in a hostile region, the climate crisis and predictions about food and water shortages - and we have gossip, gossip and more gossip - and then there are people on cell phones. In short, we are inundated with talk!

With all this noise, where do I begin looking for a tip? I think I'll look close to home. April 23 is Shakespeare's birthday and he said, "All the world's a stage and all the men and women merely players." Something happened recently that reminded me of this.



Last week, I was identified, along with a handful of other teachers, as being "fabulous beyond belief!" Wow! After coming back down to earth, I thought - whether it's true or not is beside the point - let's pretend it is, I'll interview myself to find out what makes me tick in the classroom and maybe something useful will come out of it. Plus it's a heckuva lot more manageable than world news and media hype.

So that's what I did. Playing the role of a "fabulous beyond belief" teacher, I interviewed myself and sought to uncover my basic underlying motivation and how this motivation gets expressed in the classroom. After some analysis, I realized that my basic motivation is TO BE THE BEST I CAN BE. Then how this gets expressed is through these 7 habits -

1. **Be accountable** - I'm clear about my purpose and committed to giving my students and clients what they are there for.
2. **Do what works** - Let go of what doesn't work and keep a watchful eye on my ego. This keeps me learning and growing.
3. **Go for it** - Have a burning desire, hold nothing back and keep generating possibility. As Winston Churchill said, "Never, never, never, never give up."
4. **Practice what I preach** - Be the message and model what I teach.
5. **Be related** - Be respectful, fun and create enlivening experiences that accelerate learning. Listen. Provide opportunities for others to express themselves and share their brilliance.
6. **Establish trust** - Be non-judgmental, patient, trustworthy and trusting. Provide a space where students feel safe to take chances. Admit and clean up my mistakes.
7. **Stand in the future fulfilled** - Act As If success is already a done deal.

Now It's Your Turn

It was freeing to pretend to be "fabulous beyond belief" and do this exercise - rather than being seriously identified with the label. Now it's your turn -

- Take a look at the roles you're outstanding in
- Apply the "fabulous" label
- Interview yourself david
- Discover what makes you tick in those roles
- What is your basic motivation?
- What are the different ways this motivation gets expressed?

It's enlightening, you can apply what you learn with intention and even teach it to others.

Perhaps if we apply our "fabulous" strengths to national and world issues, we'll even solve problems and turn the noise down at the same time. I'd love to hear what you learn from your interview. And remember what else Shakespeare said, "To thine own self be true."

More power to you!

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