

10 Ways

To Make SURE

You're NOT Mediocre



No one wants to be **mediocre**, and most people want to be seen as the absolute opposite – a **valuable asset to the team**.

Similarly, those looking for new hires want *only* the very best, hard-working, dedicated, employees. So, how do you make sure you're one of the treasured team members?

Here are 10 ways to make sure you are seen as one of the very best:

Keep Learning.

A strong indicator that someone will avoid the pitfall of becoming mediocre is the degree to which they remain engaged in their own learning. Those who simply **stop** reading, attending educational events, listening to learning programs, asking questions, tinkering, or being an apprentice, will become mediocre. As the late [Jim Rohn](#) famously said, "You don't get paid by the hour. You get paid for the value you put into the hour. The more valuable you become, the more money you make." Not only do you make more money, but you get to keep learning and expanding your capabilities.

Self-awareness.

Another way you can avoid becoming mediocre is by learning about yourself. The better you understand your motivational hot buttons, the greater your chances are the land opportunities to do work that is meaningful to you. When the work is meaningful *to you*, you'll naturally put more effort in, and produce better results. You also get the benefit of discovering why some people irritate you, while others leave you feeling inspired. As a result you can intentionally create more time for the inspiring ones, less for the [toxic ones](#), and end up with more energy at the end of the day. As my friend Jamison says, "Find something you don't dare to hit the snooze alarm for because you can't wait to go and tackle it!"

Contribution mindset.

Not surprisingly, those who look for ways to contribute, rather than compete with their colleagues, wind up being looked to for leadership. Meanwhile, the competitive bunch scurries like crazy to get to the next rung in the ladder. Just like everyone else, they seek to lead by title, rather than actions. As a result, they wind up being mediocre.

Advocate.

Another way to avoid becoming mediocre is to learn about the ambitions of your colleagues and leadership team. Once you uncover some of their goals, find ways to help them reach success, whether it's through sending web links, making introductions, or helping them complete a project. My late mentor, Zig

Ziglar, had it right with, “You can have anything in life you want, if you’ll just help enough other people get what they want.” Want to stand out? Stand up and help them succeed.

Say “Yes.”

Another hallmark of those who avoid mediocrity is their willingness to do what it takes to gain experiences, even if it’s not their job, or they’re not being paid. Saying, “Yes” increases the number of experiences you get to have, and taking the time to reflect on those experiences (see Self-awareness, above) gives you a better understanding of where to spend more time and energy.

Celebrate.

While the mediocre simply say, “Next,” the ones who avoid mediocrity focus on celebrating, both success and failure. They’re the ones who point out the valuable lessons learned from failures, and take the time tip their glass in celebration of both small and large successes. They acknowledge and celebrate everyone around them, and always look for ways create more opportunities for more success.

Honor your word.

Making unfulfilled promises lands many in the mediocre camp. While emergencies happen, unexpected traffic gets in the way, and life simply happens, the ones who avoid mediocrity simply don’t use excuses. When they say they will do something, you can consider it done, ahead of schedule in fact. If they make a promise, and something happens, preventing them fulfilling on their promise, they communicate and reset their promise.

Smile.

Being overly negative and judgmental is a sure promise into the land of mediocrity. A sure sign of someone who will always avoid mediocrity is positive energy, which is often accompanied by a smile. Recognizing that their energy is highly contagious, they check it at the door before entering. Their smile acts like a magnet to positive outcomes, and people can’t help but want to be around them.

Notice what’s needed.

Rather than wait for someone to ask for help, the one’s who avoid the land of mediocrity, notice what’s needed and jump in to help. They are the type of people who actively listen for a need to appear, and seek ways to find a solution. Often, they know what you need, and have it done, before you do.

Listen.

In a similar way, mediocre people fail to hear what's expected of them. Meanwhile, the ones who avoid becoming mediocre have enough self-awareness (see Self-Awareness, above) to realize the importance of practicing the art of listening. They are constantly asking questions and making sure they understand what they heard.

Here's a quick tip on strengthening your listening skills: Let the person talking complete their thought, and then repeat what you heard them say. Don't parrot – that's annoying, and inauthentic. After you repeat, check to make sure you got it right, and then ask if there's more. Finish by saying, "What makes sense about what you're saying is ____."

Join The Conversation: What are some of the characteristics you've seen in those who are considered exceptional? How do they keep from becoming mediocre?

