

How to become more competent

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If you’re trying to succeed at something and/or move up in the world, you have to be a competent person in your role. You must be someone who knows their stuff, can communicate it, plan it, and do it in such a way that others know that you know how and why.

My nephew, Joey Molisani Jr., always aspired to be a fantasy football consultant and to have his own show. This year, he stopped talking about it and did something about it. He and another aspiring fantasy football adviser, Jason LeFrois, decided to create a live, streaming fantasy football show of their own to give advice and tips to fantasy football players around the country. Their continued work and effort in this role will undoubtedly increase their level of competence and reputation as viable fantasy football advisers as they do their weekly research and communicate their advice to a wide ranging audience. They’re helping many clients win fantasy football leagues through effective drafts and weekly game management.

When Vince Lombardi took over as head coach of the Green Bay Packers in 1958, there were critics who questioned his competence until they witnessed him in action. Pat Summerall, the team’s place kicker, recalls his first observation

of Lombardi on the first day of practice:

“The guy had such an obvious and complete command of what he was saying, and he had everything down to how long the first step ought to be, how deep the guards ought to pull, and, you know, everything like that. It was Lombardi...he knew every part of the machine, what the ends were supposed to do, what blocks the tackles and guards ought to call. Just complete command of what he was teaching, and everyone knew it.” Lombardi’s competence and leadership propelled the Green Bay Packers to five world champion titles!

These two examples illustrate that anyone can take steps forward to improve their competence. Sometimes you can gain competence by doing (like Joey and Jason) and other times by leading with competence (like Lombardi). Both paths become necessary at times if you want to be all you can truly be.

To improve your competence, do the following:

1) *Get your head in the game.* If you’ve been mentally or emotionally detached from your work, it’s time reengage. First rededicate yourself to your job. Determine to give it an appropriate amount of your undivided attention. Second, figure out why you have detached. Do you need new challenges? Are you in conflict with

your boss or coworkers? Are you in a dead-end job? Identify the source of the problem and create a plan to resolve it.

2) *Redefine the standard.* If you’re not performing at a consistently high level, reexamine your standards. Are you shooting too low? Do you cut corners? If so, hit your mental reset button and outline more demanding expectations for yourself.

3) *Find three ways to improve.* Nobody keeps improving without being intentional about it. Do a little research to find three things you can do to improve your professional skills. Then dedicate the time and money to follow through on them. If you work for a company, you have nothing to lose by asking your boss to fund your attendance to a seminar or trade show that can improve your level of competence, which in turn, benefits the company.

4) *Know “how” and “why.”* The person who knows “how” will always have a job, and the person who knows “why” will probably be the boss!

The competent person and boss will always win in the end. Even when there are bumps in the road or unavoidable craters, competency will figure it out and make adjustments. So be confident and be competent and your career will take off!

~ The End ~