

Woodward, Orrin, and Chris Brady. *Launching a Leadership Revolution: Mastering the Five Levels of Influence*.

Although we may not be able to see it happen or to clearly know that it is happening, at some time in our lives, and often than we know, we are all called to lead in some capacity. Leadership skills are vital in the business world, the community, the church, and the home. While some individuals seem to have natural leadership abilities or aptitude, leadership skills are learned and developed.

With lots of historical examples, the authors develop a unique 5-step plan for creating and maintaining strong leadership. The plan is based on "Five Levels of Influence."

At the most basic level, leaders must be learners. Leaders are readers. A leader must be able to learn from anyone anywhere anytime. Leaders are not selective learners; leaders are readers. Leaders are listeners. Leaders are observers. Leaders cannot stay the learning level forever, but everyone who had learned to lead and has developed leadership skills has begun by learning. While effective leaders develop beyond the learning level, they never leave it. Leaders are life-long learners.

Leaders usually learn first how and what to do. Leaders begin by performing. This is not bad, it is essential to leadership. Leaders must be examples, models, and mentors. In what they do, leaders learn to persevere. They learn that success comes through failure. They come to understand the tasks at hand.

Perhaps it goes without saying, but one of the tasks of leaders is to lead. Leading is misunderstood. The authors maintain that leading means extending your ability by expanding your team. Many people designated as leaders never get around to leading. Leaders who actually lead are rare, a breath of fresh air. But revolutionary leadership does more.

Leaders must grow so that they are developing leaders. This is essential: leaders must learn to trust their people. Leaders must empower their followers. Revolutionary leadership invests in people.

The last level of influence the authors outline is that revolutionary leaders develop leaders who develop leaders. Thus, a leadership legacy is created. The organization never lacks for leaders. Leaders who learn this lesson and develop this skill replace themselves.