



What Do Today's Leading Innovators Think Are The Qualities That Makes Someone Creative Or Innovative?

When over one hundred high-level innovation professionals in many of today's leading companies were asked the question, "Think of someone you know who is creative or innovative. Now, list the qualities this person embodies that makes him or her creative/innovative" they responded with hundreds of answers a wide array of categories, including Curiosity/Learning/Knowledge, Working with Others, Skills/Attitude and Behavior.

Interestingly, some responses were contradictory, for example, "Egotistic" vs. "Humble" or "Inclusive" vs. "Independent," "Works alone," vs. "Engages others" and even "Quick thinker" vs. "Reflective."

Curiosity/Learning/Knowledge:

Innovative leaders identify innovative people as being inquisitive, "Always seeking a better way," "Asking questions," "Well informed," "Consumes a lot of information," "Committed to intellectual purity," "Captures endless ideas on endless topics," and "Deep knowledge of field." Their learning can come from experience, including "Encourages learning from failure" and "Learns from the past."

Innovators also explore solutions from multiple places and disciplines, "Chooses topics that don't sound like it will work," "Explores culturally relevant trends," and "External scanner."

Their knowledge extends into multiple dimensions, including "Financial savvy," "Has different life experiences" and "Has strong core to today's time."

Skills/Attitude:

According to the group, Innovators "Can innovate on anything" and demonstrate a multitude of skills, including "Nonlinear," "Entrepreneurial," "Appreciating nuances," "Futurist," "Brilliant," "Insightful," and "Out of the box thinker." Attitudinally, Innovators are quite diverse, being "Iconoclastic," "Fearless," "Innocent," with "Enthusiasm," and a "'Just do it' attitude" and "Enjoy the game of 'fight fight when hope's out of sight.'" And Innovators are also good communicators: "Articulate" "Story-teller," "Captures real humor, emotion," are "Engaging" "Interesting to talk to," and an "Influencer," and have a "Willingness to speak her mind."

Behavior:

Innovators personify drive and ambition, "Indefatigable spirit, Tenacity in pursuit," "Ambitious," "Determination" and "Bold" with a "Fighter mentality."

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They blaze new trails, “Ignores the rules,” “Courage to do something different,” “Machiavellian,” “Create results that others believe to be impossible,” “Doesn’t settle for simple,” “Doesn’t take things at face value,” “Adventurous” and “Doesn’t believe in the word ‘no.’”

And they’re unusual, “A little crazy” “Childlike” “Ironic,” “Odd,” “Off-center,” “Funny” and “Unapologetically eccentric.”

Innovators also demonstrate a certain level of commitment to make a difference or caring, “Do things that matter to the world; and because of this eventually they or their company may benefit” have a “Deep desire to cause change/improvement” and have “Developed innovative solutions to divergent social issues and injustices.”

Working with Others:

Innovators describe Innovator’s relationship with others in a wide variety of ways, from “Doesn’t care what people think” to “Compassionate/empathetic.”

Innovators are often “Independent,” “Misunderstood by others” and “Not concerned with how others see him.” Yet they can also “Feel others’ pain” are “Convincing,” “Fun” and “Friendly” They’re “Able to identify people’s talents,” with a “Belief in self and power of others,” are people who “Can lead and be led” and a “Networker to ensure success,” but can also be described as “Hates authority.” And an Innovator “Accepts feedback” yet they’re “Fearless of being shot down.”

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