



Leadership
 East Palo Alto Unit 472
 American Legion Auxiliary
 Department of California

Lou Thompson, Chairman
 January 2008



Mentoring

Thank Your Mentor Day :: January 24, 2008

Can you match these famous mentor pairs?	
<u>Obi-Wan Kenobi</u>	<u>Anthony Hopkins</u>
<u>Socrates</u>	<u>Luke Skywalker</u>
<u>Plato</u>	<u>Aristotle</u>
<u>Jon Corzine</u>	<u>Martin Luther King, Jr.</u>
<u>Sir Laurence Olivier</u>	<u>Plato</u>
<u>Henry Kissinger</u>	<u>Robin</u>
<u>Benjamin Mays</u>	<u>Barack Obama</u>
<u>Batman</u>	<u>Dr Watson</u>
<u>Yoda</u>	<u>Anakin Skywalker</u>
<u>Sherlock Holmes</u>	<u>Alexander Haig</u>

History

The original Mentor is a character in Homer's epic poem The Odyssey. When Odysseus, King of Ithaca went to fight in the Trojan War, he entrusted the care of his kingdom to Mentor. Mentor served as the teacher and overseer of Odysseus' son, Telemachus.

Definition

The Merriam-Webster WWWebster Dictionary defines a mentor as "a trusted counselor or guide." For their Mentor/Protégé Program, the Anesthesiology Department of Cleveland's MetroHealth System defines mentor as "a wise, loyal advisor or coach."

Application

A mentor is an individual, usually older, always more experienced, who helps and guides another individual's development. This guidance is not done for personal gain.



Ways to Honor Your Mentor

Get, get, getting . . .

- Write a Tribute
- Send a Card
- "Pass it on"
- Find Your Mentor

Give, give, giving . . .



Have you often thought about someone who encouraged you, gave you confidence, or just pointed you in the right direction, but regret never having said "thank you?" Here's your chance to remember them by writing about how they made a difference in your life. What lessons—or words—of lasting value did they impart to you? Are there particular events or moments in your life that you recall in connection with your mentor?



The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

by Stephen R. Covey

- 1. Be Proactive.** Here, Covey emphasizes the original sense of the term "reactive" as coined by Victor Frankl. You can either be proactive or reactive when it comes to how you act about certain things. Being "proactive" means taking responsibility for everything in life. When you're reactive, you blame other people and circumstances for obstacles or problems. Initiative, and taking action will then follow. Covey shows how man is different from other animals in that he has self-consciousness. He has the ability to detach himself and observe his own self, think about his thoughts. He goes on to say how this attribute enables him. It gives him the power not to be affected by his circumstances. Covey talks about 'Stimulus and Response'. Between Stimulus and Response, we have the power of free will to choose our response.
- 2. Begin with the End In Mind.** This chapter is about setting long-term goals based on "true-north principles." Covey recommends to formulate a "personal vision statement" to document one's perception of one's own vision in life. He sees visualization as an important tool to develop this. He also deals with organizational vision statements, which he claims to be more effective if developed and supported by all members of an organization, rather than being prescribed.
- 3. Put First Things First.** Here, Covey describes a framework for prioritizing work that is aimed at short-term goals, at the expense of tasks that appear not to be urgent, but are in fact very important. Delegation is presented as an important part of time management. Successful delegation, according to Covey, focuses on results and benchmarks that are to be agreed in advance, rather than on prescribing detailed work plans.
- 4. Think Win/Win** describes an attitude whereby mutually beneficial solutions are sought, that satisfy the needs of oneself, or, in the case of a conflict, both parties involved.
- 5. Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood.** Covey warns that giving out advice before having empathetically understood a person and their situation will likely result in that advice being rejected. Thoroughly reading out your own autobiography will decrease the chance of establishing a working communication.
- 6. Synergize** describes a way of working in teams. Apply effective problem solving. Apply collaborative decision making. Value differences. Build on divergent strengths. Leverage creative collaboration. Embrace and leverage innovation. It is put forth that, when this is pursued as a habit, the result of the teamwork will exceed the sum of what each of the members could have achieved on their own. "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."
- 7. Sharpen the saw** focuses on balanced self-satisfaction. Regaining what Covey calls "production capability" by engaging in carefully selected recreational activities.