

“Project You”

In our jobs, most of us are involved in projects at one time or another. By their very definition, projects are endeavors that have a specific, defined outcome, a defined completion date, and are often transforming by their very nature.

So today, I'm recommending that each of us undertake a project – “Project You.”

I doubt there are many of us out there who couldn't make ourselves into a better individual. I suspect many of us are looking for an opportunity to start.

Consider this your opportunity.

Most of the time, people get into a rut – and the habits we accumulate while we're in that rut tend to keep us there. We rarely take the time for introspection, re-invention, evaluation – in other words, just like in our jobs, we spend so many time juggling the day-to-day demands of life, we rarely have the time to make major changes, especially ones that may affect the very nature of our business.

So it is in life – just like our jobs, we usually attempt change in spits and spurts – rarely do we take the time to redefine our life, and then set up a project management to bring those changes to pass.

I believe that some of the greatest people in history have used a systematic learning endeavor – in other words, a project – to change their lives. Benjamin Franklin was famously known for trying new things in a systematic way – working at acquiring a talent, and then spending time building up his skills until he actively perfected his skill set.

If we were going to try and learn a new skill, most of us will hover around that skill – we will look at it a bit, perhaps gain a rudimentary ability in the skill set. But the difference between merely acquiring a skill, and mastery of that skill is a difference based on repetition, reflection, and re-invention. As we become better at doing a particular skill, we learn there is much more to learn.

So it is in life – as we become better people, and develop a better life, we learn that we have only scratched the surface – we never really see our next mountaintop destination until we have ascended to the summit of a lower mountain.

Our lives should be a matter of continual improvement. We should actively work to become better and better, day to day, week to week, year to year. So many of

us choose an ending point – when we graduate from high school, college or graduate work, for example (some people may choose an ending point upon graduation from the third grade – but they're most likely not reading this).

One of the better ways to get ourselves off that “ending point” is to choose a project management approach to building ourselves up. As in any project, it involves a definable goal, a project completion date, and a transformation.

You've done projects before, I suspect. It's time for you (and me) to start using projects to make ourselves better – in fact, better than we can now comprehend. By choosing to make ourselves into a personal project, we have chosen a path that leads upward to greater opportunities, greater happiness, and more wonderful contributions to our own lives, the lives of those we love, and society at large.

It's time to use our abilities in order to make ourselves the people we are capable of becoming.

It's time to start our project.

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