

Many people perceive leadership qualities to be a function of how assertive or dominant a person is (how “alpha” they are) or high of an IQ they may have, when in reality, this is far from the case. Leadership is the ability to make yourself heard and to make your judgment resonate with all who follow you. The mark of a leader is the power to overcome obstacles and navigate followers through the toughest circumstances, while still being able to accept blame and take accountability when their decisions fail on them. Leaders are complex and emotional human beings that are not in any way different mentally or physically from other normal people, but they do have certain distinctive features that separate them and elevate them to great heights in their professional lives that are forged by unique experiences early on in their lives.

The term “leader” is not confined to one type, but can exist in a variety of forms. Some leaders are extremely cutthroat, willing to risk principles of ethicality and morals and go to any extent possible for increased market competence or financial gain. Other leaders are extremely calculating, using cold hard numbers to guide decisions within the workplace, while lacking the empathy to be able to properly interact with others. The leaders that are often highly empathetic and glue teams together with cooperation and collaboration tend to be bad at making hard decisions and tend to defer to team needs instead of thinking for themselves. Many leaders often think for themselves, and ignore constitutionally recognized ways of organization and collaboration, operating to their own ends, making them highly independent operators but bad with teams. All the mentioned leadership types, although successful in their own ways, have some faults in their design and may lead to workplace instability. Leaders who have these traits are great with managerial roles, but tend not think as visionaries and pioneers.

A rare breed of leaders demonstrate characteristics that embody some of the greatest transformation to existing corporate and team structures. These leaders do not simply act in the interest of short term gain for themselves, but operate as mediums to execute the changes they want to make in the workplace and in the future of the team/company. Some leaders are strategists, who make sweeping changes and revolutionize the way the workplace operates, effectively securing a long term future for a failing organization. Yet others reinvent their companies, forever changing the image of the company and etching its name forever.

