

THE 4 TRAITS ALL STRATEGIC THINKERS SHARE

Strategic thinkers are not born, they're made.

Strategic thinking is a skill like any other, and one that is highly valued by recruiters and executives. It is a key element of good

leadership and can be inspiring and motivating. Strategic thinking is a skill anyone can choose to learn and develop - if you want to.

If you want to get ahead and be seen as top talent, here are four qualities of strategic thinkers you'll want to cultivate.



Finding the Future Faster®

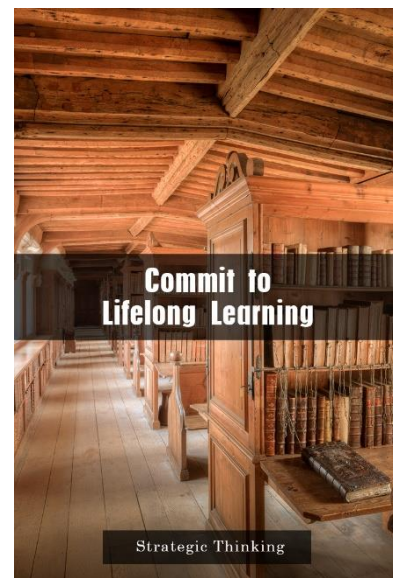


Article

1. Strategic Thinkers Never Stop Learning

One fundamental quality of strategic thinkers is curiosity. They always ask why or why not. They see possibilities everywhere and are always on the lookout for new information.

Strategic leaders are committed to learning from as many sources as possible. It's about listening and learning from others, reading, and getting as much as possible from events like networking and conferences.



2. Strategic Thinkers Ask for Advice

People who are highly-skilled strategic thinkers never fall into the trap of believing they know it all. They understand that there's a whole world of experience and data out there to draw from. So, they seek advice from others, they ask questions, and they test ideas. They look out for constructive criticism, to make sure their product or service is as robust as possible before it's unleashed on the world.

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3. Strategic Thinkers Are Risk Takers

Successful people know that a certain amount of risk is necessary to get anywhere in this world. Innovation, problem-solving, and excellence require a certain level of confidence, chutzpah even, that risks failure. And strategic thinkers are okay with that. They accept that failure is part of the deal and offers an opportunity to refine and perfect.

4. Strategic Thinkers Stay Focused.

Whatever else is going on, strategic thinkers never take their eye off the ball. They stay focused on the key objective of their project and business. Whether the company is an investment multinational, a one-person entrepreneur, or a not-for-profit, the strategic leader stays true to the primary purpose of the organization.

They know that if you lose your line of sight to the business' central vision, that you're no longer being strategic.

Strategic thinking combines an ability to plan for the future, adapt to changing environments and circumstances, and deal with challenges. All organizations need strategic thinkers, and you are in a position to become a powerful strategic thinker and an influential leader.

Joel Barker's STRATEGIC EXPLORATION TOOLS

Finding the Future Faster® Learning

Strategic Thinking

Seek and Observe

Strategic Thinking

STRATEGIC Thinking

7 TIPS TO HELP YOU THINK MORE STRATEGICALLY

- SCHEDULE TIME FOR TRAINING**
The right time for training is when you have the most energy. For most people, that's in the morning. So, schedule your training time for the morning. You'll be more alert and focused, and you'll be able to learn more effectively.
- REMOVE OBSTACLES AND STAYING BLOCKS**
Before you start your training, make sure you have a quiet, comfortable place to sit. Remove any distractions, such as your phone, and make sure you have all the materials you need.
- CHALLENGE YOUR CURRENT BELIEFS & MINDSET**
All the things you've learned in school, on the job, and in life are based on assumptions. Challenge your assumptions and beliefs. Ask yourself, "What if I'm wrong?" and "What if there's a better way?"
- COMMIT TO LIFELONG LEARNING**
A commitment to lifelong learning is a powerful strategy for success. It means you're always looking for new ways to improve yourself and your organization.
- COMMIT TO REGULAR, BREVIT PRACTICE**
If you have a problem, the chances are good you'll have a solution. But if you don't practice, you won't be able to find it. Practice regularly, and you'll be able to solve any problem that comes your way.
- DON'T BLAME IT ON THE HARD THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO**
It's easy to blame your lack of success on the hard things you have to do. But the truth is, you're not practicing enough. Practice regularly, and you'll be able to overcome any challenge.
- REWARD YOURSELF WITH GREAT CHANGES**
If you succeed in solving a problem, reward yourself. Celebrate your success, and you'll be more motivated to solve other problems.

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