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Actions Steps— The Building Blocks of Success

It's a fascinating yet sometimes frustrating experience to sit in a committee or board meeting and compare the typical idea discussion, evaluation, and application process used between highly successful individuals and those that flounder.

One key to success may be found in the number and quality of actions steps an individual proposes and completes.

Good action steps arise from a:

- Desire to improve
- Willingness to experiment and learn from experience
- Bias for doing it now
- Commitment to results
- Competent analysis of the context
- Passion for excellence, for doing it right
- Grasp of the system involved
- Solid confidence in a better future (optimism)

Good action steps have the right:

- Scope
- Complexity
- Focus
- Accountability

The number one characteristic of a good action step is its suitability for moderately-rapid completion. The most perfectly constructed and thought-out action step is of no consequence if it never comes to fruition. What's more, completing a series of related action steps is a precursor to great success. Therefore, creating a step with the right scope of action is crucial.

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If a step is trivial, it will seem unimportant and become buried under the crush of the rush to deal with daily emergencies. If the scope is too large, the action step will be put off under the perception that it will take too much time or effort to complete. Success is a numbers game, the more actions you try the more likely you will hit upon the right solution for a particular problem. It's in having the courage and persistence to create and take the Action Steps that will ultimately build the success you desire.

*~John H, (Jack) Shrawder, Exec. Director
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