

LEADERSHIP ATTRIBUTES:

SELF-KNOWLEDGE

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One of the hardest actions that can be attempted, according to the Milesians, the first school of Greek philosophy, is that of **seeking self-knowledge**. It is rather unfortunate for leaders, but it is impossible to be a truly effective leader without first having a concept of your knowledge, leadership style, strength and weaknesses.

Having the right knowledge (especially technical) can make or break your ability to lead in any situation. Almost every realm of possible activity requires the mastery of a specific language, or set of terminology which is necessary in order to communicate effectively and solve problems with others in your field. In addition, just living in the Information Age requires a certain technical knowledge which includes familiarity with contemporary computer systems and applications. Assess your knowledge in these fields, if you are lacking in any one these you will find that numerous resources are available to bring you up to date.

It is important to know your strengths and weaknesses so you will not attempt to take on responsibilities, tasks or positions that aren't complemented by your current skill set. If you're just a mediocre speaker, don't volunteer to speak on behalf of the organization. Instead you might want to write for the newsletter or help with publicity for an upcoming campaign.

The more you know yourself, your knowledge, your skills, your strengths and your weaknesses, and the more you work toward your knowledge and skills, augmenting your strengths, and eliminating your weaknesses, **the better leader you can become!**