



USE YOUR INITIATIVE YOUR IDEAS ARE WELCOME

Presented by:

Cora-Lee Bezuidenhout



Why is initiative important?

To be successful, it's important to identify problems or opportunities before others and to act promptly. By viewing challenges positively and learning from them, you can build resilience to setbacks and develop leadership skills. Even if something seems scary, challenging yourself is worth it because you'll feel proud of your achievements and ability to overcome obstacles.





What does it mean to nurture initiative?

Nurture – (verb) care for and protect (someone or something) while they are growing; (noun) the action or process of nurturing someone or something.

Initiative – (noun) the ability to assess and initiate things independently; (noun) the power or opportunity to act or take charge before others do.

Nurture Initiative – the process of caring for and providing a safe environment in which someone is empowered to take proactive action/leadership.

Why is taking initiative important?

- Encourages thoughtful problem-solving and innovation
- Builds resilience to challenges and setbacks
- Develops leadership and thoughtful action



What is a safe and caring environment?

Creating a **safe** and **caring** workplace is essential for employees to feel secure, respected and valued.

Empowering employees means allowing them to take ownership of their work and make meaningful contributions to decision-making. Leaders should delegate responsibilities and seek input from their team members to foster a culture of empowerment.

Recognition is also important, and employees should be acknowledged publicly for their hard work and contributions.

Constructive criticism that acknowledges both positive and negative aspects of someone's work is valuable for growth and improvement.

How do I take initiative?

1. Develop a career plan
2. Build self-confidence
3. Spot opportunities and potential improvements
4. Sense-check your ideas
5. Develop persistence
6. Find balance



1. Develop a career plan

Having a clear, long-term career plan can make individuals more proactive.

Understanding your career goals and how they align with your work can help you take initiative.

It's also important to know your job, team, and organization's mission to meet expectations.

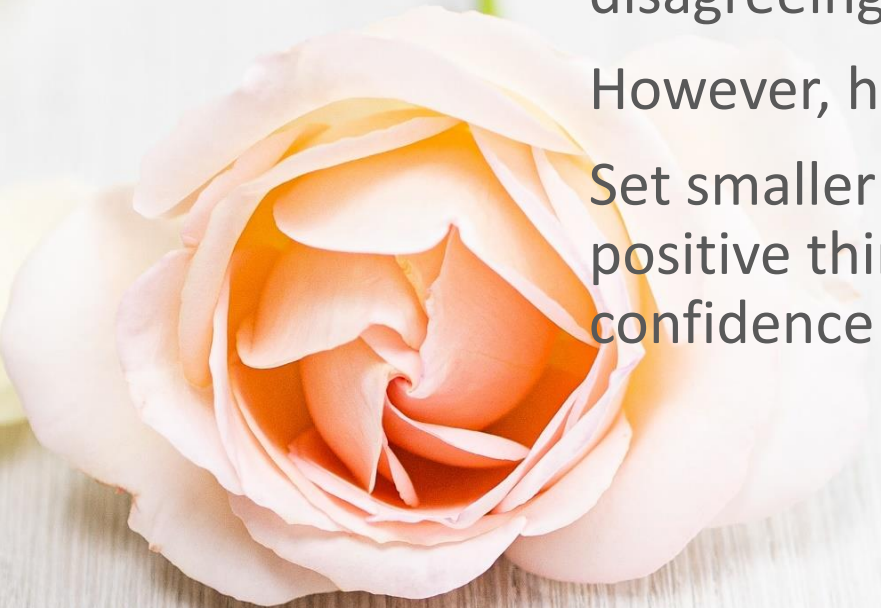
Combine your career objectives with personal goals for direction.

2. Build self-confidence

Taking initiative can be challenging, especially if you are afraid of others disagreeing with you.

However, having confidence in yourself is crucial.

Set smaller goals to achieve quick wins and challenge yourself to do positive things you may be scared to do. This will boost your self-confidence and help you tackle bigger, scarier tasks in the future.



3. Spot opportunities and potential improvements

Individuals who exhibit initiative tend to identify and act on opportunities that may have gone unnoticed by their peers or superiors.

They possess an inquisitive nature regarding their organization and its operations, and they remain receptive to fresh concepts and prospects.

It's imperative to remain vigilant for areas within your workplace that could benefit from enhancement. Consider setting a recurring reminder in your calendar to prompt you to seek out these areas.

Additionally, when issues arise, brainstorm possible solutions to rectify them.



4. Sense-check your ideas

Picture yourself having found a clever method to overcome a bottleneck in your customer service process. However, before presenting it to your boss, take a moment to conduct some research. Consider the potential costs and risks linked to your idea.

Demonstrating initiative is commendable, but to ensure success, it's crucial to thoroughly study and evaluate your proposal. The more effort you put into researching and weighing your options, the greater the likelihood of achieving a positive outcome.



5. Develop persistence

Perseverance is the skill of pushing forward even when faced with obstacles or challenges. Those who take the initiative frequently encounter setbacks and difficulties on their path.

Life is a journey, and it's up to us to make the most of it. You are your own source of encouragement. To persevere, you need to maintain hope and keep trying.

6. Find balance

Although taking initiative is crucial, it's equally vital to exercise wisdom in its implementation.

Achieving balance in life is essential. You should work hard and play hard to make the most of the limited time we have on earth.

Let us support and uplift one another, make peace, and encourage each other wherever we may be. Lend a helping hand whenever possible.