

September 06: We Don't Need Permission for Anything

"We don't need permission for anything." -- *The Sex Pistols*

In preparing for a recent presentation to the Delaware chapter of Americorps volunteers (you all rock by the way!) I went looking for a quote from a source whose 'off the beaten path' nature might speak to them. And judging by the responses, it spoke loud and clear.

Then I started thinking about issues my clients and associates are facing, and the word 'permission' surfaced enough times to discount any (apparent) randomness. Could it be that the rallying cry of rebellious testosterone might need to be delivered throughout the halls of professional America? After some pleasurable reflection, it seems that all of us, to varying degrees, might benefit from a little rumination compliments of the genesis of punk rock.

Life can be insanely funny when viewed through the bifocals of permission. You are born, and (for good reasons though there are limits here) are taught to ask permission for most things. "Daddy, can I go online with your laptop right now?" As you age, the number of constraints continually ebbs until you reach college, whose universal and fundamental brand promise is to transform you from a rule-bounded adolescent into a "creative, independent thinker".

You then graduate into the workforce where, with rare exception, the notion of independent thought can quickly get you fired. You must succumb to processes whose mind-numbing abilities are exceeded only by narcotic painkillers. And no surprise, most of these processes revolve around the notion of permission.

From Human Resources to Operations to Marketing to Finance, if it doesn't have the requisite signatures, reviews, re-reviews, committee input, and back-up documentation, permission will not be granted to change that light bulb in your head that has been operating at its lowest of three settings for the past x years. This is why books with a dribble of wisdom with titles such as "First, Break All the Rules" become best-sellers, innovation is so highly sought after, and why true leaders are described as "renegades" or even better, "pariahs" of the system.

But there is a deeper, more human element to this permission syndrome. Time and again, the crux of people's issues is needing permission -- from whom it is never clear -- to try something new, leave their rotten spouses, or simply live on their terms. Maybe that need for direction and guidance you kicked and screamed against in your formative years has never left, or perhaps returns in

situations where the questions reach scales of complexity and magnitude that are beyond your scope of experience.

Regardless of reason, should this permission question ever tickle, tease, taunt or downright threaten you, simply ask yourself "Who *do* I need permission from to call up that potential client, broach that uncomfortable topic, or explore the world of possibilities that only my impassioned bulb (at whatever wattage) can illuminate?" No surprise here -- the grantor is **you**.

Latest Offerings

Using a similar version of **The Five Ps** as in our [Leadership Development and Team Optimization](#) seminars, we recently rolled out a seminar geared for arguably the most important function in business - [Selling With Passion](#). Please contact [Ashley Chiampo](#) for more details.

Summer is Winding Down - Let's Get Some Passion Flowing at Work!

If you'd like to benefit like organizations such as **Microsoft, Yahoo, and Oracle** and experience the power of my presentation of *Passion at Work*, please let me know.

And of course, if you are interested in learning more about using The Five Ps in a personal context, please visit our [Passion Professionals](#).

Apologies to those who were wondering when the next release was coming out. Keep your eyes peeled for more coming soon!

My best, Lawler