

# 5 MYTHS

## THAT INHIBIT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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Leadership is **NOT** a mystical  
quality only a few people possess.




In fact, **99.999%** of people  
demonstrate some capacity to lead.





There are **FIVE MYTHS** that  
prevent people from realizing  
their leadership potential.





# #1

## THE TALENT MYTH

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If you search far and wide, you'll find people with the talent you're looking for already built in. No training required.

# TRUTH:

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Leadership is not a talent that you have or you don't. It's an observable and learnable set of skills and abilities.



# #2

## THE POSITION MYTH

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When you have a position at the top,  
you're automatically a leader.

If you don't have a title of  
authority, you are not.

# TRUTH:

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Leading is about the actions you take, not the position you hold. It's about the values that guide your decisions, the visions you have for yourself and others, the challenges you pursue, and the people you engage.



# #3

## THE STRENGTHS MYTH

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Take on *only* tasks in which you are strong. In areas where you don't have natural talent, you or the organization should assign those tasks to other people.

# TRUTH:

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You can't do your best without searching for new experiences, making mistakes, and learning from them. Challenge is an important stimulus for leadership and learning.



# #4

## **THE SELF-RELIANCE MYTH**

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Leaders have to be independent and autonomous and never express doubts about their abilities. They can never appear in need of support or assistance.

# TRUTH:

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The best leaders know they can't do it alone. They know they need the support, engagement, and commitment of others.

# #5

## THE IT-COMES-NATURALLY MYTH

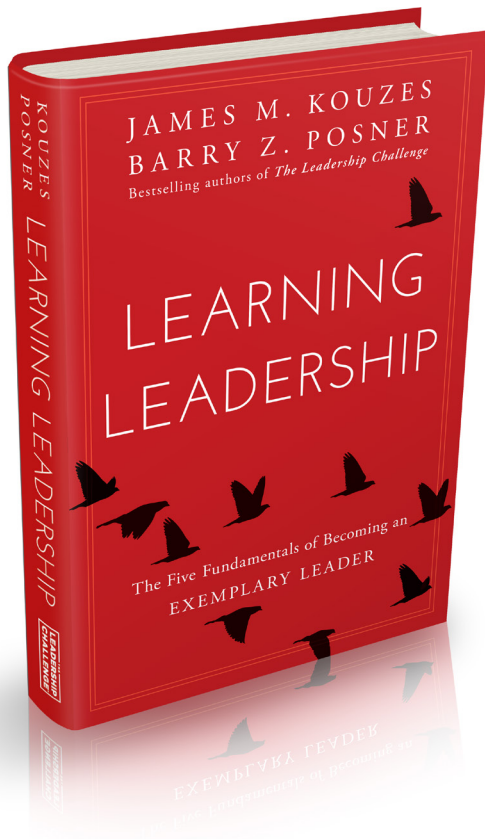
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Leadership comes naturally to those who are the best at leading, and people admire those who make it seem easy and attribute that ease to natural ability.

# TRUTH:

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The best leaders become the best  
because *they work hard at it*  
and practice.



Becoming an exemplary leader requires a commitment to continuous learning and deliberate practice.

Learn more about the five fundamentals of becoming a better leader.

<http://bit.ly/LearnLeadership>