

WORKPLACE CIVILITY: BUILDING TRUST

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What is Trust?

Trust is assured reliance or confidence on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something

Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary 11th Edition, 2006





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Trust is Foundational







Trust vs Mistrust

Avoid RESULTS: Status and Ego

Avoid ACCOUNTABILITY: Low Standards

Lack of COMMITMENT: Ambiguity

Fear of CONFLICT: Artificial Harmony

Absence of TRUST: Invulnerability





Trust and Civility

- Trust is a moral philosophy
- Civility is the etiquette of trust

PM Forni, Choosing Civility: The Twenty Five Rules of Considerate Conduct





Trust and Workplace Civility

- Importance of Trustworthy Behaviors
 - Fostering of positive rather than negative experiences
 - Enables personal growth of all individuals in the relationship (self and others)
 - Enhances alignment of goals and work (individual and institutional)





Elements of Trustworthy Behavior

- Pay attention—active listening
 - Acknowledgement of others: "You matter to me"
 - Mutual respect: personal dignity reciprocated
 - Ask the clarifying question: interest in and understanding of message
- "Disregard and proceed" (Forni)
 - Common in workplace
 - Devalues work and messaging of others
 - Promotes self





Elements of Trustworthy Behavior

Speak kindly

- Make sure that you need to speak
- Speak at unhurried pace with moderate tone
- Ask the clarifying question: avoids misunderstanding
- Speak with honesty and transparency
- It is OK to be angry but be respectful/civil at same time





Elements of Trustworthy Behavior

- Be willing to apologize
 - Consideration that you might not know all and/or that you might be wrong
 - Works to repair relational damage
 - Be thoughtful and clear
 - Be earnest
 - Be sincere
 - Avoid excuses





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