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CHANGE

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Are You the Top Turkey? (Or the Cranberry Sauce?)

UXL, November 2015



There's only one star at the traditional Thanksgiving table: the turkey. The other foods may play important supportive roles—the mashed potatoes and gravy, the dinner rolls, the cranberry sauce—but they don't take center stage. They don't lead the pack.

Believe it or not, aspiring leaders can learn a lot from a Thanksgiving turkey! Here are five lessons we can take away from our favorite holiday bird:

1. Be tender on the inside, but keep a thick skin

Great leaders lead with their hearts as well as their heads. They care about their co-workers; they care about their customers. They take a



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genuine interest in others' well-being and extend a helping hand to those in need. But they're also not pushovers. Despite having tender hearts, great leaders know where to draw a line and stand firm on policies, values, and deadlines.

2. Be 100% natural

Just like with a turkey, if you start adding synthetic attributes to your personality, you'll add toxicity to the workplace. If you aren't acting like your true, genuine self in the workplace, others will notice. It is always best to stick to your values and practice authentic leadership. That means letting your positive attributes shine and acting in a steadfast manner that others can rely on and trust. You'll find that authenticity also helps strengthen your personal brand.

3. Be bold

The turkey isn't afraid to sit at the center of the table. Leadership takes courage and a whole heap of confidence. It means putting yourself out there, despite the possibility that you might make mistakes or others might not agree with you 100% of the time.

4. Foster community

Despite being a big presence, the Thanksgiving turkey makes room for other food at the table. A good leader builds a capable team around her; she fosters an interdependent community by maintaining open lines of communication, showing genuine care for others' well-being, and providing an atmosphere of trust. She also does not micromanage and has enough faith in her team to let them work independently.

5. Be memorable

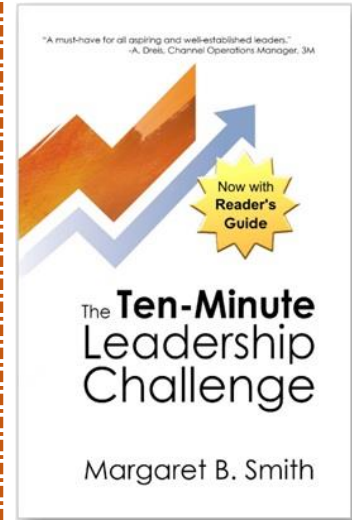
There are a lot of top turkeys out there; what makes you stand out? Is it your zest? Your warm personality? Your ability to bring together a capable, productive team? Find that one thing that sets you apart from the pack and capitalize on it. Reflect upon what makes you *you* and what makes you a great leader. If you need a little guidance on this one, [contact me](#) or a trusted career coach to get you started.

Stop being the cranberry sauce! It's time to step into your leadership and become the top turkey. Let's lay out a plan together. [Send me a message today](#) and let's get your leadership cooking!

Sincerely,



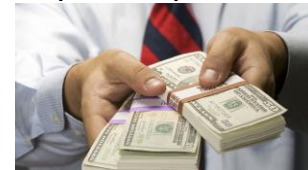
Margaret Smith



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How to Ask For (And Get!) a Raise



If you feel like you've earned a raise, you probably have. So why not ask for it? To effectively ask for and get the raise you want, you need a plan. [Read on...](#)

Who's Left Out On Your Team?



It's a common occurrence. There's that employee or two that just doesn't fit in with the rest. For whatever

Founder, [UXL: Creating Successful Leaders](#)
Author of [The Ten-Minute Leadership Challenge](#)

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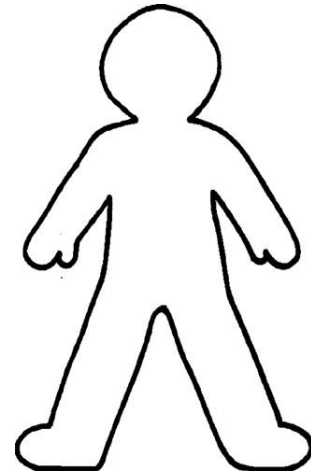
reason, they're left out and THAT can lead to serious negative consequences. [Read on](#) to help solve this troubling (and common) issue.

The Authentic Leader



There are LOTS of attributes that make up an excellent leader, but one of the most important ones is authenticity. How to become an authentic leader? More [HERE](#).

BONUS POST: Anatomy of an Authentic Leader



[A fun post](#) about what an authentic leader "looks like." Enjoy!

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About UXL

UXL's mission is to create leaders, promote positive change, and enable businesses and individuals to transform their dreams into reality.

Margaret Smith is a career coach, speaker, author, licensed Insights Discovery practitioner, and adjunct professor at St. Kate's University with 27 yrs experience as a Senior Leader for 3M.

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