Tuning the Instruments: Influencing Change

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Conflicts of Interest

• There is nothing to disclose; no conflicts of interest nor funding support.

• Information and statistical references located in the reference slide
The most important moment in a concert...

• When the oboist plays the frequency 440 Hz

• All participating instruments being in-tune with each other is essential for a successful performance

• 1600s: orchestras were primarily strings with a few oboes. The oboe timbre (tone) is easier to hear and the pitch is more consistent and stable than the gut stringed instruments

• The oboist has the greatest ability to fluctuate in pitch without adjusting the instrument. Instead the oboist can quickly adapt their pitch by instantaneously changing embouchure instantaneously.
Influencing Change in a Project Management Session?

• Successful Project Management almost always requires significant change.

• Significant change almost always requires effective influencing skills.

• Effective influencing skills are almost always required for successful project management.

• Influencing skills serve as the foundation for the project management “orchestra”.

Tuning and influence

• An oboist tuning an orchestra is influencing the group to perform in “concert” with each other.

• Influencing a group to perform in concert with each other is the subject of this talk.
What we will learn

• Clarify measurable results
• Identify vital behaviors
• Diagnose why change seems impossible
• Examine sources of influence
• Recognize solutions based on these sources of influence
• Put everything together
Practical Exercise: Influencing a Change
Practical Exercise: Making a Change

What’s the problem?

• If you had a magic wand, list three things you wish you could change about your practice group or site which are persistent and resistant.

1.

2.

3.
We Stink at Influence

• 85% of corporate changes fail.

• 2 out of 3 criminals are re-arrested within three years.

• 2 years after heart by-pass surgery to save their lives 90% of patients are back to old behaviors
We have the unrealistic expectation that people will change when...

- 85% of corporate changes fail.
- 2 out of 3 criminals are re-arrested within three years.
- 2 years after heart by-pass surgery to save their lives 90% of patients are back to old behaviors.
We have the unrealistic expectation that people will change when...

- 85% of corporate changes fail.
  - **The change required is simple**
- 2 out of 3 criminals are re-arrested within three years.
  - **Everyone knows the consequences**
- 2 years after heart by-pass surgery to save their lives 90% of patients are back to old behaviors
  - **The consequences for not changing are enormous**
## Persuasion vs. Influence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persuasion</th>
<th>Influence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Term</td>
<td>Long Term, deeply entrenched</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often involves getting someone to say yes or no</td>
<td>Getting support is often just the starting point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involves getting verbal agreement or support</td>
<td>Involves many people and many interlocked behaviors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Requires changing minds, hearts, and actions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Review your three wishes, do they require persuasion or influence?

Put a “P” next to the items requiring persuasion and an “I” next to the items requiring influence.

If you do not have an “I” think of one right now and write it down.
Harness this ability

• Problem:
  • One of the most important capacities we possess is our ability to influence behavior. Yet most of us don’t have a careful way of thinking about our influence challenges.

• Solution:
  • Understand and apply the most scholarly, proven, and powerful approach to exerting influence – the ability to change our own behavior or the behavior of others.
The Model

1. Determine what do you want to achieve.

2. Determine what behaviors will lead to the greatest amount of meaningful change.

3. Determine how you will motivate and that change.
Three Big Mistakes

1. Fuzzy, uncompelling goals:
   - They begin with a vague sense of what they’ll achieve:
     - Empower our employees
     - Help inner city kids
     - Build the team

2. Infrequent or no measures:
   - Even when you have a clear result in mind (Develop a culture of candid communication), unsuccessful individuals rarely develop credible measures to match against intentions.
Three Big Mistakes

1. Fuzzy, uncompelling goals:
   - They begin with a vague sense of what they’ll achieve:
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2. Infrequent or no measures:
   - Even when you have a clear result in mind (Develop a culture of candid communication), unsuccessful individuals rarely develop credible measures to match against intentions.

3. Bad measures:
   - Even when we take measurements, people who fail often drive the wrong behavior by measuring the wrong variable
Clarify Measurable Results

• Problem:
  • Our motivation and ability to change depend on a clear, compelling, and measurable result.

• Solution:
  • Do not waste a moment on HOW to create change until you have clarified exactly what you want, why you want it, and when you want it.
Draft Rewrite

• Rewrite one of your wishes in a form that is:
  
  • **Specific and Measurable:** Objectively achieved [What]
Draft Rewrite

• Rewrite one of your wishes in a form that is:

  • **Specific and Measurable:** Objectively achieved [What]
  
  • **What you Really Want:** The achievement/outcome [Why]
  
  • **Time Bound:** A completion date [When]

We are assuming these are relevant “wishes”
Finding Vital Behaviors

• Problem:
  • The goal of influence is to change behavior. Yet most influencers have no idea what behaviors they are trying to change.

• Solution:
  • Focus on and change a few vital behaviors – the smallest number of high-leverage actions that lead toward the result you want.

Tools for how to do this will be covered
How many of you have ever worked on a project that you knew was going to fail from the start?

How many are currently working on a project you know is going to fail?

It’s not just us!

Less than 9% of corporate projects are completed on time and on budget.
Strategy

1. Insist on Vital Behaviors
2. Identify Crucial Moments
3. Study Positive Deviance
1. Insist on Vital Behaviors

Behaviors are:
• Actions

• Not Results or Qualities

Vital Behaviors are:
• Observable, Audible, Repeatable

• Measurable actions that lead to measurable results

• Example:
• Do 30 min. of cardio daily
2. Identify Crucial Moments

A fork in the road – big decision

A change in personnel, facility, software, or process

• What is a time that a right behavior led to a result you wanted?

• What is the relationship between crucial moments and vital behaviors?

  • When: Crucial moments tell you when it is time to act.
  • What: Vital behaviors tell you what to do and how.
Examples of Crucial Moments Missed

1. Fact-free planning – planning without all of the stakeholders

2. Leaders pretend to involve others

3. Leaders propose an impossible plan

4. Team members face conflicting priorities
Study Positive Deviance

• A Positive Deviant:
  • Those who succeed where others fail

• Observe the behaviors leading to these differences

• Replicate it

• Rapidly, positively reinforce

• Remember there can be many causes to a problem

  ...Diagnose BEFORE prescribing
Diagnose Barriers and Solutions

We too often look for only one cause to a problem...
Diagnose Barriers and Solutions

We too often look for only one cause to a problem...

...therefore we look for a simple solution.

The TRUTH: Unfortunately, most quick fixes don’t work because the problem isn’t fed by a single cause—it’s fed by a conspiracy of causes.
Diagnose Barriers and Solutions

The TRUTH: Problems are fed by a conspiracy of causes.

• There is rarely one cause
• There is a conspiracy
• You cannot influence persistent and resistant behavior until you know the forces driving it
• You must diagnose before you can prescribe.
Common influencing mistake:

• Assuming that people do things for only one reason, it is more complex than that of course...
• For the wish you selected earlier and change you want to enact:
• List sources of problems and barriers; everything that would holds back a solution:

HOMEWORK
We are Now Ready to Discover the Secret of Influence-Tuning
People DO things for two reasons

1. They want to

2. They can
People DON’T do things for two reasons

1. They don’t want to

2. They can’t
Why people behave the way they do?

1. **Motivation** (they want to / don’t want to)
   - Is it worth it?

2. **Ability** (they can / cannot)
   - Am I able?
Three Forces Affect Motivation and Ability:

• Personal
  • From the Individual — you.

• Social
  • From Society — the people around you

• Structural
  • From the Environment — your surroundings (nonhuman factors such as compensation systems, space, and technology).

Using this information, we have six sources to examine when trying to uncover the causes of an influence problem you are confronting.
A grid of 6 reasons we do what we do:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Motivation (Worth it?)</th>
<th>Ability (Able to?)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal</strong></td>
<td>Personal Motivation</td>
<td>Personal Ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong></td>
<td>Social Motivation</td>
<td>Social Ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Structural</strong></td>
<td>Environmental Motivation</td>
<td>Environmental Ability</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your Change

On your worksheet track probable source categories that are barriers or problems stopping a solution.

HOMEWORK
Your Change

On your worksheet track probable source categories that are barriers or problems stopping a solution.

Tips:

• As you decide on sources first determine if your change barrier, the causes of a solution not being reached or a change not happening, is due to motivation or ability or a combination.

• You may need to investigate, talk to stakeholders, look at it from as many angles and points of view as possible.
## Sources of Problems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>Ability (Able to?)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Self]</td>
<td>I don’t like...</td>
<td>I can’t...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>That’s not fun for me...</td>
<td>I never learned that...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I don’t enjoy...</td>
<td>I keep trying, but I can’t figure it out...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong></td>
<td><strong>Poor behavior rewarded</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lack of support</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Others]</td>
<td>The boss told me to do this...</td>
<td>He/she did not get me the material...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I’m doing exactly what my co-workers are doing...</td>
<td>They were not around so I did the best I could...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental</strong></td>
<td><strong>Environmental disincentivizing</strong></td>
<td><strong>Environmental barriers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Non-Human]</td>
<td>That won’t affect my end of year evaluation...</td>
<td>My computer issues slow me down...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I never share the credit, it would affect my raise and chance for promotion...</td>
<td>I can’t get anything done with our confusing purchasing procedure...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Sources of Problems - Mirror Sources of Solutions

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Motivation (Worth it?)</th>
<th>Ability (Able to?)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal</strong></td>
<td><strong>Worth it?</strong></td>
<td><strong>Can I do it?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Self]</td>
<td>Dislike/Enjoy</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sense of who they are</td>
<td>Skill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meaning</td>
<td>Strengths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong></td>
<td><strong>Motivation from colleagues</strong></td>
<td><strong>Help from colleagues</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Others]</td>
<td>Encourage right behavior</td>
<td>Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discourage wrong</td>
<td>Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental</strong></td>
<td><strong>Environmental inspiration</strong></td>
<td><strong>Environment helps success</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Non-Human]</td>
<td>Reward (Carrots)</td>
<td>Environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cost (Sticks)</td>
<td>Procedure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Solution Sets based on Influence Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Motivation (Worth it?)</th>
<th>Ability (Able to?)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal</strong></td>
<td>Do they want to engage in the behavior?</td>
<td>Do they have the right skills and strengths to do the right thing?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Make the undesirable, desirable</strong></td>
<td><strong>Helping them surpass their limits</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Social</strong></td>
<td>Are other people encouraging and/or discouraging behaviors</td>
<td>Do others provide the help, information, and resources required at particular times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Harness Peer Pressure</strong></td>
<td><strong>Find strength in numbers</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environment</strong></td>
<td>Are systems rewarding the right behavior and discouraging ineffective actions?</td>
<td>Are there systems that help people make progress toward right behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Design rewards and demand accountability</strong></td>
<td><strong>Change the environment</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Additional Tips for Social Barriers

• For Social Motivation (habits influenced by others and culture change)
  • Be the first to behave a new way
  • Enlist the power of those who motivate
    • Opinion leaders
    • Formal leaders
    • Know who are the actors, what are the actions?
  • Seek the support of those who enable (brainstorm)
    • Know who enables, what are the actions?
Additional Tips for Social Barriers

• For both Social Motivation and Ability know your Opinion Leaders:
  1. Innovators (go-getters)
  2. Early adopters (respected influencers)
  3. Early majority (they wait for #2)
  4. Late majority (slowly after 2 and 3)
  5. Laggards (slowest adopters)
Putting it Together

• Draw from all of the influence strategies
• We often choose the wrong result, identify the wrong vital behaviors, complete a simplistic diagnosis, and then look for a magical one-part solution.
• Use all six sources to motivate and enable vital behaviors toward clear results that really matter.
• Common mistakes:
  • Not using all potential sources of influence
  • Not tying strategies to vital behaviors
  • Jumping from addressing one behavior to another and losing focus
For the wishes you listed:

• Record which strategies you will use to help drive the vital behaviors you came up with.

• Follow up with others using this methods and check to see how each of you are doing.
Wrap-Up: Influence based on the 6 categories

- Participants being in-tune with each other is essential for success.

- Create a timbre (message tone) that is easy to hear and consistent and stable.

- Quickly adapt your pitch to unexpected changes.
References

• Peck, S., *The Road Less Traveled*, 1978
• Steele F., *Physical Settings and Organizational Development*, 1973