PROFESSIONALISM

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Professionalism does not only mean dressing smartly at work, or doing a good job, nor does it mean only having advanced degrees or other certifications, framed and hung on the office wall. Professionalism embraces all of those mentioned above. But, it also includes much more.

Professionalism includes craft, rational judgment and courteous behavior that is expected from a person who is trained to do a job well.

Professionalism encompasses several different attributes such as 1) professionals have worked to master specialized knowledge they need to succeed in their fields and keep this knowledge up-to-date to deliver the best work possible; 2) Professionals are reliable and focus on finding solutions; 3) Professionals exhibit honesty and integrity, people who would do the right thing, even when it means taking a harder route. True professionals are humble, ask for help when needed and willing to learn from others; 4) Professionals hold themselves accountable for their thoughts, words, and actions, especially when they've made mistakes; 5) Professionals stay calm under pressure; 6) Professionals are polished and dress appropriately for the situation making them exude an air of confidence, and they gain respect for this.

Now that you have a clear understanding of what it takes to be a professional, do you feel that you are demonstrating these characteristics to the people around you? You may likely already showing some of them, but you may find yourself lacking in others. You can always try to concentrate on improving each of those given qualities to be able to develop your professionalism. Direct your attention on one trait at a time, so you don't get overpowered.
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