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The “Perfect” Team Player

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is a progress, and working together is a success” ~ Henry Ford. In school, at work, or even in sports, you’re going to have to work in a team. Within that team, you’ll have others that are different from you in many different ways and you’ll hope and pray that you’ll be able to work well with them. Everyone must be a good team player or else, you are not going to get anywhere. Now, is there such thing as a “perfect” team player? Absolutely not. However, someone can embody some great qualities that can make them a great team player, such as: being committed, positivity, being encouraging and helpful, being reliable and honest, and understanding the overall goal.

When working in a team environment, everyone must be committed in doing so. You wanting to be a part of a team is the starting point. You have to be committed in wanting to succeed as a team. If one person isn’t all in, that person is most likely going to get left out. They aren’t going to vibe well with the other team members (especially if that person is only thinking about themselves). If no one is committed in doing whatever is needed to be a team, then you’re not going to be a team.

Positivity goes a long way. It’s a good characteristic for being a good team player. With being positive, you can boost your teammates happiness (overall energy), creativity, encourage and motivate them to be more productive and engaging in whatever needs to be done. If you’re negative about everything, then that can create a bad vibe within the group and cause many issues (such as arguments). As a result, it can cause everyone to decide in not wanting to work together (or just with you) and it can redirect your focus onto the conflicts rather than the overall goal.

Speaking of encouragement, everyone should want to encourage everyone within a team somehow, right? You’ll probably see all of your teammates working really hard on their part and that can encourage you to do the same. If you see that one of your teammates is feeling down or feels as if they aren’t doing enough for the group, encourage and reassure them that they are doing great. It doesn’t hurt to help your teammates as well. That’s what it’s all about. Teamwork! Working together. If you see that your teammate is struggling with something, don’t hesitate to give them a hand. If not, that can cause a delay in getting things done.

The people that you’re working with have to be able to rely on you to do what you need to do or what you said you were going to do for the team. In addition to that, they have to be able

to trust you as well. If you don't do your part, then your teammates can't depend on you for anything. As a result, that's going to put extra work on others. Honesty and trust are a big thing as well. You should feel comfortable with being honest with your teammates and communicate with them about whatever is on your mind. If something bad occurs on your part, tell them. That way, if you don't know how to solve or fix the issue, your team can have a chance to be there for you and help you out. If you and your teammates don't like each other's ideas, express that to each other, but in a respectful manner. Simple.

Finally, everyone in the team has to understand the overall goal that needs to be achieved. That's a must. That's the reason for why you all are in a team in the first place. If there isn't a common understanding amongst everyone, then everyone isn't going to be on the same page. As a result, there isn't a goal to focus on. There's no point in being a team. Everyone is going to have different goals embedded in their mind and end up doing what they want to do for themselves. For their own benefit. Progress isn't going to happen in that type of setting, especially in a team setting. Every single person has to not only understand their individual roles, but the overall goal and the reasoning for that goal and how everyone's role plays a major part.

With that being said, there are many qualities that can make someone a great team player. You have to want to work in a team and actually want to work together. Do it for the right reasons. You should be able to learn from your team. If you're someone who only thinks about themselves, then you're not meant to be in a team. You can't be apart of a team if your overall goal is to benefit yourself.