

 Leadership Checklist

## COURAGE

To strengthen your courage, start with an honest assessment of the situations, relationships, and events in your life and leadership that you avoid or are hesitant to address.

**I. Identify a situation you are avoiding that seems risky or clouded by indecision and doubt.** *(Examples could be an antagonistic coworker, a rocky relationship, a career change, or an important strategic decision.)*

**A.** Write it down here:

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**B.** List the reasons you are avoiding it.

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**C.** List three possible actions you could take to address the situation. Beside each, describe possible negative and positive consequences.

ACTION

CONSEQUENCE

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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**D.** Now take yourself out of the equation. Without thinking about your fears, circle the action that would serve the greater good of those involved in and affected by the probable outcomes. Pick the one that you know is the right choice.



**E.** In contemplating the above situation, what do you need to learn, what skills do you need to acquire, and what resources do you need to gain the confidence necessary to take the desired action?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Be proactive, get prepared, gather your resources, and seek advice.**

**III. Commit to taking action by (date) \_\_\_\_\_.**

Return to this exercise as you continue to grow and confront fear after fear. It will help to strengthen your capacity for courageous decision making. Fear in and of itself is not the problem; it's your reluctance to admit vulnerability and try to rise above it that impedes breakthroughs in courage. The reward for courage is the self-confidence you develop by facing your fears and leading others forward into an uncertain future.

Be confident in decisions made at personal risk in service to the big picture. There may be bumps, bruises, and setbacks. You might not see benefits for a long time. But leaders' courageous actions define their greatness.