

enthusiasm:

expressing joy in each task as I give it my best effort

get excited!

Enthusiasm *n* 1: the state of being inspired or animated 2: strong excitement or feeling 3: enlivening or exulting influence.

Enthusiasm is the positive outlook and excitement that a person would have for a task. Enthusiasm is not optimistic in the sense of overlooking problems; it is optimistic in the sense of looking for the best possible outcome and directing one's energy to capitalize on that problem.

In a project great or small, enthusiasm recognizes potential and applies abundant energy toward its successful completion. Enthusiasm causes people to want the best, seek the best, and give their best.

At the same time, enthusiasm doesn't allow unpleasant circumstances to control one's attitude, but dwells on the good in each situation. Though a job may be complicated, tedious, time-consuming, or strenuous, enthusiastic people maintain a positive attitude by looking beyond the difficulties to see the ultimate outcome.

When a person enjoys a particular job and sees its importance, enthusiasm comes quite naturally. The more menial tasks, however, often seem less interesting, exciting, or meaningful. People must see the full impact of their actions and treat every job as important. After all, one never knows what little task might lead to even greater opportunities.

When leaders speak with enthusiasm, it creates vision and excitement for their listeners. It gives the strength to complete one more assignment or take another step.

Enthusiasm inspires and motivates. It is contagious and spreads from person to person as quickly as bees fly from flower to flower.

enthusiasm vs. apathy

Enthusiasm is:

- Being an energy-giver.
 - Smiling.
- Treating every job as important.
- Putting my whole heart into what I do.
- Not being discouraged by failure.

strive for the best!



To be successful, people must strive for excellence and not settle for poor, half-hearted effort. Such a commitment requires going the "extra mile" to complete assignments or projects and do them well.

Winston Churchill said it best, "Never, never, never give up!" Human tendency is to become discouraged when met with failure. Enthusiasm, however, looks beyond failure to less obvious benefits and lessons.

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From the executive director:

Now is a great time to set personal goals for the coming year that will help develop good character. Pick one or two character qualities that you would like to develop. Finding yourself behind in payments? Pick thriftiness. Get bent out of shape whenever there is change? Pick flexibility. Always late wherever you go? Pick punctuality. Put the character quality you wish to enhance somewhere you will see it often. Or you may just want to

focus on our word of the month each month. When personal daily decisions are based on right principles, we experience rewards in better relationships, less conflict and personal success. I hope you have a wonderful year!

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We thank the Valentine & Zimmerman law offices for sponsoring the word of the month for January, Enthusiasm.

Also, be sure to look at the new feature on the back of the posters distributed by the Topeka Capital Journal.



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Good character is the key to success!