

decisiveness:

the ability to recognize key factors and finalize difficult decisions

make wise decisions

n 1: the quality or power of settling a dispute, question, doubt, contest event, etc. 2: the ability to conclude or finalize 3: the characteristic of prompt determination.

Decisiveness is the ability to make right decisions and stick with them. After others criticized him for his “snap decision,” General George S. Patton replied, “When a surgeon decides in the course of an operation to change its objective, to splice that artery or cut deeper and remove another organ which he finds infected, he is not making a snap decision but one based on knowledge, experience, and training. So am I.”

Whether you are responsible for an army, a company with 5,000 employees,

a department with 15 workers, a family of 5, or only yourself, you must make decisions as well.

Moral and intellectual preparation are both foundational ingredients for decisiveness. The qualities of a clear conscience, upright character, and thorough knowledge are vital to anyone’s ability to recognize important facts and make a sound decision.

Evaluate each decision for consistency with personal principles and project goals. The right decision is frequently confirmed by its effectiveness, but it is measured by its foundation in character. Once you have accurate information and a clear perspective - make the right choice.

the domino effect



In the familiar “domino effect,” one domino topples over another domino, and on it goes down the line. Similarly, one decision affects the next decision, which affects a result, and on it goes. Your choices one day affect your situation the next. Great achievements result from little efforts: great results proceed from little causes.

No matter where you are or what you do, your decisions and actions also have a “domino effect” on those around you. Live according to character-based principles, and you will make that effect positive.

“Indecision is debilitating. Business is dependent upon action. It cannot go forward by hesitation.”

—Harry A. Hopf

“Ideas won’t keep; something must be done about them.”

—Alfred North Whitehead

“In or out.”

—Mom

decisiveness vs. procrastination

decisiveness is :

- not looking back
- doing what I say
- making the right decision and sticking to it
- looking at things from more than one point of view before making up my mind
- not giving in to peer pressure

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From the executive director

Message from the executive director:

Hopefully the public is finding its way to our website to download the word of the month poster for decisiveness.

We are currently forming a character coalition with members of non-profit groups, businesses or civic organizations that promote good character among its membership, employees or in its youth work.

Contact me if you would be interested in joining such a coalition. There are many programs and resources for character

development. As a coalition, we would be able to share ideas and discuss the effectiveness of character education materials and programs. Character programs address many problems such as disrespect, student violence, dishonesty, failure in school and can reverse declining graduation rates. Working together can mean stronger families, safer streets, productive businesses and caring citizens.

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Looking for the
word of the month?

Find it at:

www.topekacityofcharacter.org

TCOC Staff

Cindy Patton, Executive
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Good character is the key to success!