

A Note From Andrew

JUST DO IT

Just Do It! This phrase has become a common rallying cry for teams trying to build momentum. But exactly how do we translate words into action? How do we create opportunity?



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My first response is teamwork. Opportunity and action are not created in a vacuum or in one person's head. They are created by inspired groups of people collaborating to solve problems and create opportunities. The critical characteristics of these situations are a strong vision, diversity of thought, and open-minded conversation.

▶ Teams need a coalescing vision. They need a clear and inspiring goal. This is the primary role of the team leader. To be clear, the leader does not need to be the senior person. Rather, it needs to be the person responsible for the outcome. They need to be able to marshal a team to execute against the plan. Countless times in NHG, I am not the project leader. I participate, deliver, and contribute, but do not lead. Other times, I set the agenda and encourage teams. Business is chaotic. Leadership needs to respond with flexibility.

Once a vision has been defined, teams need to reflect a diversity of experiences. Age, area of expertise, societal experience, skillsets. Teams must contain a thoughtful mix of these attributes. Like bread needs yeast to rise, teams need diversity to thrive. A team with broad perspective creates more interesting and robust solutions and opportunities.

Finally, team members need to share all ideas without fear of rejection or ridicule. All thoughts need to be considered and honored. In my experience, great ideas are not restricted to the most experienced or tenured person. Often the best ideas come from the newest and most flexible team members. We need to accept and incorporate all perspectives.

Rolling these concepts into one theme, an opportunity both personal and corporate – is created by individuals who are not afraid to share responsibility, who seek input from all corners, and who can inspire a free flow of ideas. This article's picture reflects just these concepts. These six folks came together with little axe throwing experience and took the win. They set a vision, shared ideas, lent support, and hit some bullseyes!

Open your mind, share your thoughts, and get out of the way!

Andrew