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## **Do all great leaders need to be extroverts?**

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The first thought that pops into your mind when you think of a good leader is someone who is outgoing. The public thinks that an outgoing candidate is great at communicating and has confidence to make decisions. On the other hand, people think of an introvert as someone who keeps to themselves and is too scared to speak in front of large crowds.

First off, what is the difference between introverts and extroverts? Introverts need time alone to recharge. Being in large crowds for long amounts of time drain their energy. So the stereotypical introvert is seen as a bookworm who never goes out to have fun. Extroverts thrive in big crowds and gain energy from being around others. The limelight is what they crave. The stereotypical extrovert is seen as jock who everyone loves and is often spotted at party scenes.

In history, key figures that identify as introverts, such as Nelson Mandela, Bill Clinton, Barack Obama, and Bill Gates have shown the public that introverts can work just as well in leadership positions as extroverts can. Being a great leader has more to do than making decisions and taking charge. A great leader needs to know what needs to be done in order to get the job done, whether or not it requires an outgoing act. They need to be able to tell the right time to make decisions as well. Great leaders also know when they need help to consult their advisors. People want to feel like they are in the leader's shoes.

Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, has built a multi billion dollar company. He explains that introverts such as himself can thrive just as well as extroverts in leadership positions. When he was asked how he succeeded in position extroverts dominate in he explains, "I think introverts can do quite well. If you're clever you can learn to get the benefits of being an introvert, which might be, say, being willing to go off for a few days and think about a tough problem, read everything you can, push yourself very hard to think out on the edge of that area."

Our culture is dominated by people who speak out and up in the workplace. Introverts lack of attention seeking qualities leads people to believe they are uninterested. But in a world that is becoming so fast paced, companies need leaders who are thoughtful and can take a step back to focus on the best options.

Bottom line, whether an extrovert or introvert, as long as a leader knows what is the best decision to make for their team then it does not matter if they are an introvert or an extrovert. Both personality types have traits that make them great leaders. Leadership does not depend on one's personality, but it does affect the leadership approach. Extroverted leaders are most comfortable in social situations, which means they make immediate connections with colleagues. They also tend to make decisions quickly. Introverted leaders are more likely to listen to feedback and build off of it. Colleagues are also more likely to form strong loyalties with introverted leaders.