

LEVELS OF DELEGATION

Excerpt from: <http://www.businessballs.com/delegation.htm>



These examples of different delegation levels progressively offer, encourage and enable more delegated freedom. Level 1 is the lowest level of delegated freedom (basically none). Level 10 is the highest level typically (and rarely) found in organisations.

1 “Wait to be told.” or “Do exactly what I say.” or “Follow these instructions precisely.”

This is instruction. There is no delegated freedom at all.

2 “Look into this and tell me the situation. I’ll decide.”

This is asking for investigation and analysis but no recommendation. The person delegating retains responsibility for assessing options prior to decision

3 “Look into this and tell me the situation. We’ll decide together.”

This has a subtle important difference to the above. This level of delegation encourages and enables the analysis and decision to be a shared process, which can be very helpful in coaching and development.

4 “Tell me the situation and what help you need from me in assessing and handling it. Then we’ll decide.”

This opens the possibility of greater freedom for analysis and decision-making, subject to both people agreeing this is appropriate. Again, this level is helpful in growing and defining coaching and development relationships.

5 “Give me your analysis of the situation (reasons, options, pros/cons) and recommendation. I’ll decide if you can go ahead.”

Asks for analysis and recommendation, but you will check the thinking before deciding.

6 “Decide and let me know your decision, and wait for my go-ahead before proceeding.”

The other person is trusted to assess the situation and options and is probably competent enough to decide and implement too, but for reasons of task importance, or competence, or perhaps externally changing factors, the boss prefers to keep control of timing. This level of delegation can be frustrating for people if used too often or for too long, and in any event the reason for keeping people waiting, after they’ve inevitably invested time and effort, needs to be explained.

7 “Decide and let me know your decision, then go ahead unless I say not to.”

Now the other person begins to control the action. The subtle increase in responsibility saves time. The default is now positive rather than negative. This is a very liberating change in delegated freedom, and incidentally one that can also be used very effectively when seeking responsibility from above or elsewhere in an organisation, especially one which is strangled by indecision and bureaucracy.

8 “Decide and take action - let me know what you did (and what happened).”

This delegation level, as with each increase up the scale, saves even more time. This level of delegation also enables a degree of follow-up by the manager as to the effectiveness of the delegated responsibility, which is necessary when people are being managed from a greater distance, or more ‘hands-off’. The level also allows and invites positive feedback by the manager, which is helpful in coaching and development of course.

9 “Decide and take action. You need not check back with me.”

The most freedom that you can give to another person when you still need to retain responsibility for the activity. A high level of confidence is necessary, and you would normally assess the quality of the activity after the event according to overall results, potentially weeks or months later. Feedback and review remain helpful and important, although the relationship is more likely one of mentoring, rather than coaching per se.

10 “Decide where action needs to be taken and manage the situation accordingly. It’s your area of responsibility now.”

The most freedom that you can give to the other person, and not generally used without formal change of a person’s job role. It’s the delegation of a strategic responsibility. This gives the other person responsibility for defining what changes projects, tasks, analysis and decisions are necessary for the management of a particular area of responsibility, as well as the task or project or change itself, and how the initiative or change is to be implemented and measured, etc. This amounts to delegating part of your job - not just a task or project. You’d use this utmost level of delegation (for example) when developing a successor, or as part of an intentional and agreed plan to devolve some of your job accountability in a formal sense.

Assess Your Delegation Skills

http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMM_60.htm

Project Management Tools

www.basecamp.com

www.zoho.com

www.google.com/apps

www.huddle.com

Track Your Time

MyHours

SlimTimer

Toggl

RescueTime

Quickbooks (and other accounting software)

Books

- *If You Want It Done Right, You Don't Have to Do It Yourself!: The Power of Effective Delegation* by Donna M. Genett
- *Own The Forest, Delegate The Trees* by Barbara V. Pratt
- *Managing The Professional Service Firm* by David H. Maister
- *Time Management In an Instant: 60 Ways to Make the Most of Your Day (In an Instant)* by Karen Leland

Websites

- *Time Management Tools*: http://www.mindtools.com/pages/main/newMN_HTE.htm
- *Tips for Effective Delegation*: <http://sbinformation.about.com/od/businessmanagemen1/a/Effective-Delegation-Tips.htm>
- *Daily Work Journals*: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/daily-work-journal-TC030006006.aspx>
- *Activity Log*: <http://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/worksheets/ActivityLog.pdf>
- *What do delegate*: <http://www.inc.com/guides/2010/04/how-to-delegate-properly.html>

EXAMPLES: What can a small business owner delegate? *Just about anything that you can put a system or process behind!*

Bookkeeping

Monthly newsletters

Updating materials

Website updates

Social Media maintenance

Accounting tasks

General research

Recurring communications (email campaigns)

Marketing "lifecycle" tasks.

Administrative Tasks

Copywriting

Data entry

Recurring client-related maintenance

Confirming scheduled appointments

- *Tasks closely related to the work people are already doing*
- *Tasks with clearly defined procedures and end results*
- *Repetitive tasks that fit into the normal work flow*
- *Tasks that enable employees/teammembers to develop themselves*
- *Routine and necessary tasks including detail work and info gathering*
- *Work where others are more qualified, such as proofing, research, and specialized technical work.*

