

10 GUIDELINES FOR MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS

CULTIVATE AN OPEN MINDSET. Closed-mindedness often stems from a lack of exposure to diverse ideas, fear of change, or a comfort in existing beliefs.

PURSUE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES. Seek sources that offer varying viewpoints, rather than those that reinforce your existing opinions.

ENCOURAGE CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE. Challenge your opinions. When you silence opposing views, or avoid debate, you limit your perspective.

ACQUIRE FIRSTHAND INFORMATION. Rely on original sources or risk spreading inaccurate or distorted information.

VERIFY YOUR SOURCES. Assess if the information is rigorous, honest, and objective. Evaluate the source's qualifications, expertise, and track record for accuracy and integrity. Additionally, cross-check the information with multiple sources to ensure its validity.

PURSUE UNBIASED COMMUNICATION. Determine if the messenger has any personal bias or a vested interest in the outcome.

DISTINGUISH BETWEEN OPINION AND FACT. As former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan eloquently said, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts."

BRAINSTORM POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES. Evaluate evidence, explore options, and consider every perspective rather than favoring one.

THINK OUT OF THE BOX. Admit you might not always be right. Explore "what if" scenarios and develop contingency plans in case you're wrong.

MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS. Trust your instincts — truth is not a popularity contest.

Excerpted from *Values to Live By: Know What Matters Most and Let It Be Your Guide*.

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