

## **Top 10 Behaviors of a Global Citizen**

Developing Behavioral Versatility to Thrive as a Global Citizen

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The purpose of this article is to help you develop behavioral versatility to thrive as a global citizen. Developing behavioral versatility is adopting personal behavior outside one's comfort zone to thrive in an increasingly diverse and global community.

We live in an increasingly diverse global community. We may not speak the languages of all our neighbors. We can communicate and convey friendship and respect through our versatile behaviors.

Advances in Communication technology, the internet of things and transportation technology are making it possible for our world to become a small village. People of different nationalities, cultures, languages and beliefs now live together, work together, do business together. Successful people are those who have versatility and fluency of behaving in such a way they can relate to people with different backgrounds. The ten behaviors listed and described here help you achieve behavioral versatility.

### **Background**

Insanity is doing the same thing over and over expecting different outcomes. (Albert Einstein)

Why is developing behavioral versatility important?

- Nowadays, people live all over the world.
- Transportation and telecommunications are making it possible for people of different backgrounds to live and work together.
- There is a need for a common currency of standard of behavior.

### **# 10 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen**

Be curious and learn about other cultures other than your own. By being curious about other cultures that are different from yours, you will learn from others and realize what you have in common with other cultures. This also reduces ethnic tensions and contributes to regional & world peace

### **#9 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen**

Befriend a person with a different faith, culture and political views. This will give you an opportunity to look at understand people in general and improve to solve your common problems differently.

### **#8 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen**

Try foods that you have not tried before. Some foods worth trying include: Mexican, Thai, Mediterranean, Brazilian, Korean, Indian, Cuban, etc. You will realize there are foods that are as yummy and may even be healthier than what you are used to eating. While you are at it, enjoy the music of others.

Earlier this year, my data scientist friend and super genius Dr, Behailu Bekera introduced me to the Sidama New Year known as “*Fitche Chambalala*” and invited me to the new year celebration in Silver Spring, MD, I thoroughly enjoyed the “*Bursame*” meal, how delicious! I also enjoyed the Sidama music and dance, I feel like my life is richer as a result of this experience.

### **#7 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen**

Try to use some of your vacation time going to destinations that are different from visiting and staying with family and friends. This may include experiencing outdoors and nature. This experience will give you some relaxing vacation options.

What If you do not have the luxury to afford an out of town vacation/ what activities can you do as a family?

- Plan ahead to save money and get good rates. Last minute vacations are always more costly
- Travel with another like minded family and share cost.
- Enjoy local free and outdoor concerts as family. Plan to attend instead of dropping by last minute
- Plan all day cookouts at beautiful local parks

### **#6 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen**

What does it mean to have meaningful conversation? When you get together for social events, have light and easy conversations. For example, you may share your joyous moments of the day, have a lengthy conversation about your childhood experiences, talk about your pets, talk about silly things that your kids do. Resist the temptation to spend your entire social gathering debating about politics.

What does it mean to have meaningful conversation?

- know the person - history of a name; who is a favorite family member and why?
- Try to probe and learn about a person's profession- likes? Thought Leaders? Unique
- Hobby - what hobby? What they enjoy? how?

### **#5 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen.**

If you hear someone express an opinion that you do not agree with, ask several "why" and "how" questions. Resist the temptation to start debating. Such debates seldom lead to better understanding. Asking curious and non-judgmental question lead to a better understanding and mutual respect.

What can one do to open one's mind to appreciate differing opinions?

\* Speak for yourself - tell personal story

- \* Be original - based on your life purpose
- \* Be curious about a shocking opinion of others
- \* Apply some critical thinking
- \* Point out what you like and agree with first

#### **# 4 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen.**

Give advice when you are asked to do so. Help is appreciated when it is sought. Resist the temptation to give advice without being granted permission.

What are the negative effects of unsolicited advice have on the receiver?

- With a little probing, your advise may be golden
- In western culture, this is down right offensive and rude
- Prompts defensiveness - starts arguments
- Lose credibility

#### **# 3 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen.**

When discussing organizations and people, demonstrate balance and fairness by pointing out their strengths/virtues and what needs improvement. No organization including yours is all bad or all perfect.

#### **# 2 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen.**

When you invite guests over it is okay to show hospitality and generosity without pushing them to overeat. Resist the temptation to pressure Your guests to overeat or overdrink. Remember, overeating can lead to overweight and unhealthy outcomes.

#### **# 1 behavior that will add versatility to thrive as a global citizen.**

When you make a mistake, accept responsibility and say "sorry, I made a mistake of the mind and not of the heart". Mistakes are a necessary step toward growth and improvement. This leads to forgiving yourself and being forgiven by others.

What does this look like in a family, a workplace or social setting?

Family- suppose wife cooks and husband washes dishes. One evening, husband is too busy to wash dishes. Husband apologizes for not fulfilling duty and thanks wife for doing double duty.

Work Place- One day, you report out on behalf of your team and You fail to acknowledge the most valuable

colleague. Later on you apologize to your colleague.

Social Setting - In a social setting, you realize that you dominate the conversation. You apologize and allow others to speak.

In conclusion, Now that we talked about goal setting and behaviors that add to versatility to thrive as a global citizen. how can we make sure we're not just running for the future but we are also mindful to live in the present?

80% of your effort must be focused on the present and in here. Why?

- You are more more productive
- You are healthier
- You get along better
- You are safer

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