



# POWER CHOICES® May 2006



## Power Choice #5 – Initiative

Are **you** having trouble moving forward in your business?  
Do **you** have a process in place to jumpstart you life?  
Are **you** challenged with accomplishing important goals and dreams?

**Interested?  
Please continue!**

**Visualize** you have mastered behaviors that foster initiative! That you, as Wayne Dyer would say, "**respond with ability**" rather than ruminate your way through life!

- **Visualize** what it would mean to **YOU** if *initiating* action causes you to ask forgiveness for stepping on toes and hitting targets **rather than** asking permission!
- **Visualize** what it would mean to **YOU** if *initiating* action in Dr. Wayne Dye's words helps you to "**respond with ability!**"
- **Visualize** what it would mean to **YOU** if *initiating* action **moves you closer** to your dreams!

We are interested in helping **YOU** build **YOUR** capacity to **initiate** action and to discover tools that will help you realize life-changing results leading to a focused purpose, improved health, financial independence, social responsiveness, enhanced ethical behaviors, expanded mental capabilities, amazing career performance and nurturing family relationships.

We invite you our websites (see below) to subscribe to **Power Choices®** and we hope that you choose initiating action for a positive life!

**"Success comes from taking the initiative and following up...persisting..."**  
Tony Robbins

### An Energizing Read!

#### 1001 Ways to Take Initiative at Work

Bob Nelson



**"It takes more than capital to swing business. You've got to have the A. I. D. degree to get by - Advertising, Initiative, and Dynamics."**  
Isaac Asimov

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## Inspire Initiative!

Laura R. Novakowski

**"Be brave. Take risks. Nothing  
can substitute experience."**

Paulo Coelho

**How many times have you talked yourself – and perhaps others – out of success? Do you have colleagues, friends, mentors that help you in plan, discuss, collaborate, gain consensus and review all the obstacles? OR... Do you have colleagues, friends or mentors that inspire you to, in Paulo Coelho's words, "Be brave. Take risks."?**

Webster's definition for *inspiration* is the "arousal of the mind to special, unusual activity or creativity" and for *initiative* is the "readiness to embark on bold new ventures." As I connect these two words, I am struck by the synergy that it elicits for me. I become mentally aroused to special creativity as I embark on bold new adventures.

Over my life, I have been somewhat of a dreamer. I can see the glass as overflowing, not just "half full." I have been called a "Pollyanna" and "too idealistic." Fortunately, I can be pretty obtuse to other's comments. I deliberately take them as compliments. This has served me well because it certainly takes a great deal of *inspired initiative* no matter what anyone else thinks of my dreams.

### ***A Story...***

At the age of 23, a young woman shared with her family her **dream** to join the Peace Corp. Her family's reaction at the time was not very supportive. She didn't go, instead, she chose to pursue another degree. Still, she harbored her secret dream. She volunteered for literacy and other community education programs. She even traveled to Mexico and participated in an enculturization experience for six weeks.

Year after year, every step of the way this young woman decided to build her skills and her education to support her dream for making the world a better place. Without any family support (for they still were strongly opposed to her joining the Peace Corp mostly out of love and concern for her safety), she continued her quest.

Despite strong family resistance and objections, this courageous young woman continued to take risks and fulfill the requirements. This individual taught me a valuable lesson. Her inspiration was from her heart because she wanted to make the world a better place. While holding down a fulltime day job and teaching parttime at night, quietly and methodically she met requirement after requirement.

In a very few months, this young woman will be fulfilling her dream and serving in Africa as a member of the Peace Corp. I know what this cost her in terms of risk of disappointing and upsetting her family because she is my daughter. Now, I realize that her dreams are **her** dreams and I am tremendously proud of the initiative and inspiration that it has taken and will take for the next few years as she experiences living and working in Africa. My daughter continues to inspire me to "**Be brave**" and "**Take risks.**"

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## Initiative – For To Be, Is Up to Me

Leanne Hoagland-Smith

**“The important thing is to  
concentrate upon what you can do –  
by yourself, upon your own initiative.**

Harry Browne

What makes someone take the risk and become an entrepreneur? Why would any individual leave a comfortable life and risk his or her savings on a dream? What makes an individual willing to do the impossible? Why would someone risk national failure by performing in front of millions of people hoping for that exclusive recording contract?

After working with numerous entrepreneurs, executives and small business owners, I have discovered one characteristic that they have in common – **initiative**. They consistently use initiative to overcome the obstacles of life. And what is even more important, these individuals have infused initiative into their own interpersonal skill sets. They truly understand that **“Whatever is to be, is up to me.”**

Initiative begins in our early childhood. As children, we are curious about our environment and take every opportunity to explore and feel the world around us. Tapping into that childhood curiosity generates the foundation for initiative action capacity.

Unfortunately, initiative due to constraints of society as well as every day conditioning, can be permanently damaged. We quickly learn not to “push the envelope” and to “draw outside” the lines.” Taking initiative presents issues for others because they may not know how to respond or the outcomes may not be **their** “right answer.” Even as adults, **initiative** continues to present challenges because we want to “fit in” and don’t want to be recognized as the “geek” or the “nut” who is always doing something different.

Overcoming inertia or the obstacles of life requires the ability to take the initiative, to take a chance, to risk failure. Learning how to rebound from unsuccessful initiatives is just as important as learning how to take the initiative. Even though initiative is innate within us, we must continually feed the flame and keep the candle burning brightly so that we can unleash the incredible potential within us.

Developing initiative begins by first looking into your own beliefs and identifying where your strengths lie. *If you believe that you lack initiative, then you must begin to inspire yourself to believe differently!* Initiative comes from within your own beliefs of who you are and what you can do to change your life or the lives of others.

Today’s world demands individuals who can take the initiative by working in an environment of freedom and can recognize and encourage the initiative within others. Just imagine the possibilities for your own business or for your own life, if you, your employees or your family embraced each day with the thought of **“How can I make this the best day ever?”**

Now is the time to take the initiative and as Captain Picard so famously said: “Make it So!”

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On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being **extraordinary**, score your **initiative capacity** in the following:

How is my **taking initiative capacity** for achieving my life's purpose? \_\_\_\_

How is my **taking initiative capacity** for achieving balanced physical health and well-being? \_\_\_\_

How is my **taking initiative capacity** for dynamic mental growth and development? \_\_\_\_

How is my **taking initiative capacity** for building strong a family and friendships? \_\_\_\_

How is my **taking initiative capacity** for building a better community? \_\_\_\_

How is my **taking initiative capacity** for improving my financial growth potential? \_\_\_\_

How is my **taking initiative capacity** creating a successful career, profession or business? \_\_\_\_

How is my **taking initiative capacity** for showing and sharing my ethics and values? \_\_\_\_

How is my **taking initiative capacity** for change? \_\_\_\_

Evaluating your **taking initiative capacity** will help you to clarify what is important and continue to set the stage for an exciting year. The next step is to start a **Power Choice**® goal achievement system in an area that will help you to achieve an **extraordinary goal**.

If **you** want to discover some exciting tools and techniques to enhance your **taking initiative capacity** for success and help you to **double your performance** in the next 6 months please call:

**"Success depends in a very large measure upon individual initiative and exertion, and cannot be achieved except by a dint of hard work."**  
Anna Pavlova



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