

## **“Closing the Leadership Gap”**

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"Closing the leadership gap between men and women is one of the central challenges of this century," says David Gergen, director of Harvard University's Center for Public Leadership. "To have so many talented women and so few women leaders is just wrong." Research suggests women don't have problems developing effective leadership styles. Rather they struggle to claim the authority to lead. Should you, as a woman, wish to assume a leadership role, you may want to follow these steps:

1. Assess your strengths and weaknesses to know your self better. Cherish your uniqueness. Then simply be your true self.
2. Speak up. Speak out. Give voice to your ideas. Be heard. Be persistent but not strident.
3. Have the courage to fail. Failure can lead to an efficient learning curve because failures motivate and are rarely repeated.
4. Bet on yourself. Be willing to tackle tough tasks.
5. After setting higher goals, sharpen your skills. Gain confidence.
6. Respect diversity. Be open to other viewpoints. Listen to others.
7. Create a team. Build networks. Include; don't exclude.
8. Learn to deal with visibility. Americans are notorious for making judgments based upon surface appearances. Help others to see inside you.
9. Broaden your interests, and seek balance in your life.
10. Accept that every mistake you make as a woman will be magnified. Simply acknowledge that missteps are inevitable. Accept that we are all flawed human beings; then simply move on.

