

How to best cope with a difficult manager



It certainly isn't easy to cope with a difficult manager. When these uncomfortable run-ins occur frequently, it generally makes the situation even worse.

Examine the Situation

Sometimes, it can be difficult to admit our own faults. Before you decide your manager is being hard on you, think back to your past interactions. Is your manager really being difficult or simply pushing you to do everything that your work requirements dictate?

Find Out Why They're Difficult

If you decide that the problems between the two of you does stem from your boss, you need to find out why he or she is acting this way. Otherwise it will probably very hard to shift your relationship with them.

Put yourself in your boss's shoes and imagine how you would feel if you were dealing with the same situation. It may give you some insight on why your boss is giving you a hard time.

Consult with Your Co-Workers

Your co-workers may be able to tell you a bit more about why your manager acts a certain way, especially if you are relatively new to the workplace. Ask them if they notice the behavior, and if it's typical of your manager or something that person has only been doing recently.

Not only can your co-workers give you some information that may help you understand your boss's motivations, they may also be willing to help you stand up to the manager if things get out of hand.

Stay on Top of Your Work

If you and your manager aren't getting along, it's best not to give them a reason to doubt your performance. Don't let their negative attitude put a damper on your work performance. Redouble your efforts and get as much work done as you can. This way, when they interact with you, they have nothing to focus on except your exceptional performance.

In addition, make sure that you always arrive to work on time. Try not to take longer than the time allotted for breaks or for lunch. Showing up late and taking extended lunches gives your manager an excuse to be critical of you.

Think about Moving On

It can be hard to realize your full potential at work when dealing with a difficult manager or boss. You won't excel at a job with manager difficulties attached as much as you would working for a boss that you respect and that respects you in return. If you can't get your manager to change his or her behavior, it may be best to move on to a different job or a different position within the company you're currently associated with.

Don't let a strained relationship with your manager force you to quit your job without trying all of the suggestions mentioned above, though. Remember, just because someone is in a managerial position, doesn't give that person the right to be spiteful and mean.

Fill in the blank

1. Examine the ____
Job/situation
2. Stay on top of your ____
Boss/work
3. Think about moving ____
On/right