

Student Activities JOURNAL

LEADERSHIP BRILLIANCE

By Jon Vroman

I was asked the question....

“If today were my last day on Earth and I could share 500 words of BRILLIANCE with the world, what are the important things I’d want to pass along to others?”

This is the powerful and thought provoking question, which an incredible woman by the name of Gail Goodwin, founder of INSPIREMETODAY.COM, asked me during a recent interview.

As student advisors and leaders, one may argue that one of your (many) great responsibilities would be to ask powerful questions that inspire your students to think differently. I personally believe the best questions to ask others are not those you want answers to, but the ones THEY want answers to.

In a moment, I’ll share with you “My Brilliance” (as my friend Gail calls it) which answered the question stated above. Perhaps for you it’s simply a quick reminder of some things you already know, or maybe there it can spark a new feeling, thought or belief; either way, I hope it enhances your life in some small way.

If today were my last day on Earth and I could share 500 words of brilliance with the world, the important things I’d want to pass along to others would be...

1. Be a strategic architect for the environment of your life; nothing will impact your future more than the information you consume and people you associate with.
2. Relationships are THE key to happiness; choose your friends carefully
3. Find peace in forgiveness; both in yourself and others
4. Learn to express compassion while holding yourself and others to high standards
5. Ask yourself and others quality questions and listen intently
6. Having extraordinary relationships is more often about becoming the right person than finding the right person
7. Learn how to meet other people’s needs without neglecting your own
8. Do not shrink yourself in order to please others – live fully
9. Refuse to get wrapped up in drama and negativity; we see what we seek in ourselves and others.
10. Get fascinated not frustrated; curious not critical
11. Value the wisdom of others while following your heart
12. Develop a reputation for giving. Do nice things for people anonymously who can’t repay you, however, remember that giving to yourself IS essential in giving to others
13. You were born to contribute and share your gifts with the world
14. Be an ambassador and force for all that is good
15. Take care of your body; it takes care of you
16. Laugh and smile so that your face hurts
17. Connect with nature and do something physical each day
18. Keep things in perspective and live in gratitude
19. Travel the world and explore other ways of living – find joy in the adventure
20. Believe in yourself and others
21. Life has contradictions; there can be two right answers
22. Be where you are
23. Feed yourself positive information daily
24. Make a list of your values and read them often
25. Trust your heart, intuition and instincts – they are your best life guides; they are pure
26. Your mind is powerful beyond measure – use it responsibly
27. For your birthday, remember that you ARE the present, and to BE present
28. You don’t have to know the future to be certain about the present
29. Finding your voice is the key to personal growth, and helping others find theirs is the key to paying it forward
30. You cannot not matter
31. There are no failures; just moments of discovery
32. Spend less than you earn. Strike a healthy balance between investing in experiences today and saving for memories of tomorrow
33. Personal growth doesn’t have to mean discovering something new about yourself, but can simply mean remembering what’s great about yourself
34. Choose meaning carefully; it will be cause of your rise or demise
35. Make a list of all the things you want to do, experience, feel, share, have and give in your lifetime – put it somewhere you’ll see it often
36. Constantly challenge yourself and others to create fulfilling, dynamic and authentic lives
37. Record your life with words, pictures, video, art and memories
38. Live life in the front row – see FrontRowFoundation.org

- MY CHALLENGE FOR YOU -

“If today were your last day as an Advisor/Director/Leader, and you could share 500 words of brilliance that would be read by every student and leader for generations to come, what important things would you want to pass along to them?”

Your thoughts can be about anything you feel is important. They can be about life, leadership, success, giving back, relationships, education, teamwork or anything else you feel would be the most valuable information you can share.

PS. After you write YOUR brilliance, I’d love to read it. If you’re into sharing – send it to jon@jonvroman.com



Jon Vroman is widely recognized as the Co-Founder of the Front Row Foundation. For the past decade, he has traveled the US and Canada speaking on topics of student leadership, engagement, personal growth and social responsibility. Videos available at www.MyFrontRowLife.com

