

Preface

“I finally found a title that truly describes what I am qualified to write a book about!”

Peter R. Garber

Late one night on a flight returning home from a business trip, I was working on an early draft of this book. Engrossed in the project, I didn't notice that the gentleman sitting next to me was looking over my shoulder at my laptop computer as I wrote. It had been a long flight, and I suppose he had already read the airline magazine and in-flight gift catalog and had nothing better to look at.

“What are you writing?” he asked.

“A book about bosses and working relationships,” I replied.

“What's the title?” he asked.

100 Ways to Get on the Wrong Side of Your Boss

I told him I was still trying to find just the right title.

“Maybe you ought to call it *How to Be a Suck-Up*,” he suggested.

I thought a lot about his suggestion in the weeks that followed. *Is that what this book is really all about?* I wondered. I finally came to the conclusion that there may indeed be some degree of “sucking up” involved in getting along with your boss. But is that really all that bad?

The conversation on the plane also got me thinking about a different way of treating the subject. While perhaps *How to Be a Suck-Up* was not exactly the title I was searching for, the stranger’s suggestion made it clear to me that readers might enjoy and appreciate a more humorous approach to this topic. I realized that by presenting the wrong ways to build a stronger working relationship with your boss, the right ways might be understood better by contrast.

There are, in fact, many ways *not* to be successful in maintaining a positive and productive relationship with your boss. *100 Ways to Get on the Wrong Side of Your Boss* was written to illustrate these mistakes to help you avoid making them in the future. Each of the 100 ways also explains how you can turn potential negatives in your working relationships into positives. So much of being successful is learning how to prevent failure. By gaining a better understanding of what can negatively affect your personal interactions at work, you can learn to build a stronger, more productive relationship with your boss.

100 Ways to Get on the Wrong Side of Your Boss was designed to help you develop a variety of approaches and plans

for achieving this worthwhile goal of a better working relationship with your boss. Many of the strategies it presents can also be used to improve communications with your coworkers, as the underlying principles apply to people at all levels of an organization. For example, some of the suggestions involve extending the same courtesies to your boss that you would to anyone else. Just because someone is your boss does not mean you should treat him or her worse than you would other people. To the contrary, shouldn't you grant your boss equal or even greater consideration? Somehow, the concept of offering your boss these same common courtesies often gets lost in the supervisor-subordinate relationship for a variety of reasons.

The word "boss" conjures up many images for anybody that has ever worked for one. For many, the phrase "getting along with the boss" may sound like an oxymoron. By their very nature, bosses are supposedly on the company's side, and their sole purpose may seem to be extracting as much work as humanly possible from those who report to them. For many employees, the title of Boss can be appropriately substituted for other names such as Tyrant, Ogre, Task Master, Attila the Hun or a variety of other more descriptive terms!

This, of course, is not the image you should have of your boss. Instead, you need to think of both of you as being on the same team. In many ways, you and your boss share the same goals and objectives. You need to look for ways in which you can support one another to make each of you more successful at work. By building a better working relationship with your boss, you strengthen both of your roles and positions in the organization.

100 Ways to Get on the Wrong Side of Your Boss

Without this cooperative alliance with your boss, your success on the job can be seriously compromised, yet building such a relationship can be a difficult goal to accomplish. Getting along with people at work is not always easy, and sometimes you have to work very hard at it. There are so many ways in which your relationship with your boss can be affected. Today's work environment brings with it many potential conflicts due to the ever-increasing pressures to remain competitive. In the midst of all this stress, maintaining a positive working relationship with your boss can become one of your greatest challenges at work, and efforts to enhance this association may have to begin with you. If you depend on someone else to initiate this process, it may never happen.

100 Ways to Get on the Wrong Side of Your Boss is an invaluable tool for anyone who wants to begin this important process of strengthening relationships in the workplace. Each person's working relationship with the boss is different, just as each person wants different aspects of that relationship to change. This book provides you with a wide variety of ideas to enhance all your dealings with your boss. Even if you already get along well with your boss, this book can show you ways to improve this rapport. Customize these 100 ways as you choose to best fit your own situation. I hope that these ideas will inspire you to develop methods of your own to get along better with your boss and your coworkers.

Good luck, and may you and your boss work together better than ever to support one another and meet your shared goals for success in the future.