

9 Non-Threatening Leadership Strategies for Woman

In this fast-paced business world, female leaders need to make sure they're not perceived as pushy, aggressive or competent. One way to do that is to alter your leadership style to account for the (sometimes) fragile male ego.

Should men accept powerful women and not feel threatened by them? Yes. Is that asking too much? IS IT? Sorry I didn't mean to get aggressive there. Anyhoo, here are 9 non-threatening leadership strategies for women.

#1 SETTING A DEADLINE

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"THREATENING"

This has to be done
by Monday



NON-THREATENING

What do you think
about getting this
done by Monday?



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When setting a deadline, ask your coworker what he *thinks* of doing something, instead of just asking him to get it done. This makes him feel less like you're telling them what to do and more like you care about his opinions.

#2 SHARING YOUR IDEAS

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#2 SHARING YOUR IDEAS

"THREATENING"

I have an idea...



NON-THREATENING

I'm just thinking out loud here...



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When sharing your ideas, overconfidence is a killer. You don't want your male coworkers to think you're getting all uppity. Instead, downplay your ideas as just "thinking out loud," "throwing something out there," or sharing something "dumb," "random," or "crazy."

#3 EMAILING A REQUEST

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#3 EMAILING A REQUEST

"THREATENING"



NON-THREATENING



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Pepper your emails with exclamation marks and emojis so you don't come across as too clear or direct. Your lack of efficient communication will make you seem more approachable.

#4 SOMEONE STEALS YOUR IDEA

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#4 SOMEONE STEALS YOUR IDEA

"THREATENING"

Yes that's exactly
what I just said



NON-THREATENING

Thank you for
articulating that so
clearly



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If a male coworker steals your idea in a meeting, thank him for it. Give him kudos for how he explained your idea so clearly. And let's face it, no one might've ever heard it if he hadn't repeated it.

#5 HEARING A SEXIST COMMENT

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#5 HEARING A SEXIST COMMENT

"THREATENING"

That's not appropriate and I don't appreciate it.



NON-THREATENING

awkward laugh



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When you hear a sexist comment, the awkward laugh is key. Practice your awkward laugh at home, with your friends and family, and in the mirror. Make sure you sound truly delighted even as your soul is dying inside.

#6 WHEN YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT THAT

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#6 WHEN YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT

"THREATENING"

I'm the one that taught you this 6 months ago



NON-THREATENING

I'd love to hear you explain it to me again



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Men love explaining things. But when he's explaining something and you already know that, it might be tempting to say "I already know that." Instead, have him explain it to you over and over again. It will make him feel useful and will give you some time to think about out how to avoid him in the future.

#7 IF YOU SEE A MISTAKE

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#7 IF YOU SEE A MISTAKE

"THREATENING"

These numbers are wrong



NON-THREATENING

I'm sorry, are these numbers right?
I'm not 100% sure,
I hate numbers



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Pointing out a mistake is always risky so it's important to always apologize for noticing the mistake and then make sure that no one thinks you're too sure about it. People will appreciate your "hey what do I know?!" sensibilities.

#8 COLLABORATING

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#8 COLLABORATING

"THREATENING"

Type normally



NON-THREATENING

Type using only one finger



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When collaborating with a man, type using only one finger. Skill and speed are very off-putting.

#9 WHEN YOU DISAGREE

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#9 WHEN YOU DISAGREE

"THREATENING"

That strategy
won't solve our
problem

Yes
it will



NON-THREATENING

That strategy
won't solve our
problem

Oh ok



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When all else fails, wear a mustache so everyone sees you as more man-like. This will cancel out any need to change your leadership style. In fact, you may even get a quick promotion!