

Innovations in Thinking and Learning

Roger Martin – Words of Wisdom – An Integrative Approach to Life

STUDENT: As students, we would like to have advice from you. Like, any advice as teenagers? What should we approach, and how should we approach it?

ROGER: Most of my advice would be sort of integrative in nature. So I would love to see you be both impatient and patient, right? So -- okay -- so I want you to be patient about advancing your careers, because a good career takes a long time to build. It doesn't happen overnight. You will get some journalism skills and you'll get some engineering skills, and you'll get better and better. And you have to be patient to let that develop, and not get frustrated with, I could be farther, faster, to too great an extent. But it's good to be impatient too, to say, I do want to push hard. I want to think about how much more I could be doing. Could I be learning better and faster, and the like?

You need to integrate across those. Don't suppress your desires to be impatient, but also reinforce your need to, from time to time, be patient. Because I think the people who have a high goal, and they want to get somewhere in their chosen field that have that sense of impatience, along with they let things develop. They let things come to them. I think they do better than the ones that are on either extreme. They're too patient, so they don't have enough drive, or they're impatient and they flip around to many things.