

## **The Six Skills for Success**

By: Lisa Harvey Roach, PMP

A recent article in the Forbes Advisor listed the essential skills for project managers. Here are the top six. See if you agree.

### **Hard Skills**

Hard skills were identified as those skills you can gain from formal training or on-the-job experiences in project management. The top three were:

1. Risk Management
2. Cost Management
3. Reading and Writing

Now were you surprised by “reading and writing?” I was. Of course, reading comprehension and clear writing are key, I was just surprised to see them on the list. But since it is, I can encourage you to participate in “National Speak in Complete Sentences Day.” Yes, there is such a day, and it is observed annually on **May 31st**. Try texting in complete sentences on that day. No using ASAP, LOL, or YOLO (because you do!)

### **Soft Skills**

Soft skills were defined as innate strengths critical to your success in a project management role. The top three were:

1. Leadership
2. Communication
3. Time Management

I took exception to the use of innate which is defined as inborn; natural, because you certainly can learn how to be a better leader and more effective communicator by emulating others, reading books, being mentored, and attending Toastmasters meetings! I will admit, learning to manage your time can be a little more challenging. Some people seem to be born procrastinators. Do you know any? Are you one?

While I can live with the term soft skills, I know many who can't. Essential skills or people skills is probably a better term to describe these needed assets. Perhaps someone can start a movement!

The bottom line is there are many skills needed to be an effective project manager. To stay relevant and in demand, it is crucial that you acknowledge your strengths and weaknesses and get the training you need. I am always here to help. TTYL (Talk to you later!)

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