

WORK ETHIC – LESSON 6

“Dropping the Ball”

CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL WELDING AND MACHINING-JIM WEBER

INTRODUCTION- People are counting on you and you are meant to be counted upon. Right now and in the future! Having to be dependable and responsible to in your life is a good thing. Let's face it, one of the worst things that can be said about a person is that they are not dependable.....they cannot be counted upon. Ouch! It should hurt if that's what people think of you because of their experience with you. If this is the case, it's time to change things and live up to your responsibilities. It's time to become the dependable person you were meant to be. Thinking its someone else's job to take care of “business” is wrong. “Dropping the Ball” in life is not acceptable and is not justifiable. Period!!!! And it is certainly not acceptable in the workplace. Drop the ball regularly in the welding and machining environment and your employment will be very short lived.

This is a longer than average work ethic lesson so you will have 2 weeks to complete this assignment. I want well thought out answers.

- 1.) Define the words “Dependability” and “Responsibility”.
- 2.) Why is being dependable so important in the following areas of life and what is the result if you are not dependable in these areas?
 - A. As a Father or Mother
 - B. As true friend.
 - C. As a husband or wife.
 - D. As a family member.
 - E. As a son or daughter.
- 3.) Think a way someone could “drop the ball” at work in a manufacturing/machining/welding/engineering business. Describe the situation you thought of and how would it affect the company? Think of the ripple effects.
- 4.) Describe a time in life when you “dropped the ball”. A time when YOU were the one who blew it when it came to being dependable and responsible. A time when you really let someone down. I want the gory details!
- 5.) How did the situation from question 4 make you feel?
- 6.) Describe a time in life when someone else “dropped the ball on you and describe how it made you feel. Describe what it did to the relationship.

- 7.) You need to understand that your work matters greatly. People don't come to a machining business to get mediocre work done. They come because they need the precision of what only machining can offer. People don't come to welding businesses to have mediocre welds done. They come because they need a weld done right. Now is a good time to ask yourself if you are really willing to do what it takes..... day in and day out..... to do the work that these careers demand. Doctors use the term "practicing medicine". Nobody uses the terms "practicing machining or welding". There are not too many jobs where you have to be 100% 100% of the time. Failed welds don't cut it. X-rays don't lie. Failed parts don't work. CMMs don't lie. You are getting paid to do it right every time. SOOOOOOOOOO.....Do you think you have what it takes to be dependable and responsible as a welder, machinist, or engineer? Explain your answer either way.
- 8.) Give 4 detailed benefits of being a dependable and responsible person?

Edgefactor Movie-Chilean Mine Rescue- If you are not familiar with Edgefactor, I would highly suggest looking at this resource for help with your manufacturing program. This resource has the best media available regarding fantastic stories from the manufacturing world. These resources are as good as you will find. Contact Toni Neary of Edgefactor via email for more information about membership. tneary@edgefactor.com Edgefactor is a major supporter and partner of the HTEC program.

<http://www.edgefactor.com/>

Watch the Chilean Mine Rescue Movie-

- 9.) Put yourself in the position guys in the manufacturing business trying to save the miners. What do you think was going through the minds? Give lots of detail here.
- 10.) These machinist and engineers had "regular" lives when they learned of the trapped miners. What were some things the guys might have had to "give up" in their personal lives in order to save the lives of the miners?