

Glenn Loury: An Independent Mind

Woodson Principles Applied

The Woodson Principles were developed from 40 years of experience working with effective grassroots groups that have transformed struggling neighborhoods and empowered the people within them.

Here is a list of Bob Woodson's 10 Principles:

Competence	Innovation
Integrity	Inspiration
Transparency	Agency
Resilience	Access
Witness	Grace

Which Woodson Principles does the story of Glenn Loury exemplify? Did Loury fail to employ any of the Woodson Principles that would have been beneficial? Here are some possibilities for discussion:

Competence

People who are actually experiencing a problem are the first ones you should look to for a solution. Someone who lives in or near problem areas often has more useful ideas than someone who has just studied a situation from far off.

Transparency

Good leaders are willing to talk about the challenges they faced on the way to success. They aren't too proud to admit their struggles so that others can trust them and learn to believe in themselves.

Witness

The best people to help others through hard times are people who have been in similar circumstances. Knowing someone else who has achieved what you are working for can give you the confidence to believe you can do it, too! For example, those who are in recovery from an addiction are living proof that recovery is possible.

Agency

No one should be made to feel worthless as a condition for receiving help. It doesn't help to do everything for someone; it is better to let them work for and earn what they achieve. Never do more for them than they are willing to do for themselves. A person should be given the opportunity to give in return for what they receive.

Access

Make it easy for everyone who needs help to get it. Support small, positive change. Help people make the most of the opportunities presented to them.