

# Thriving in Chaos

BY MARSHA PETRIE SUE

Tired of the endless stream of negativity, stress, and confusion created by chaos? I don't care if you're talking about the economy, job, boss, colleague or anything else in your environment. Thriving in chaos is a decision not to get sucked into a negative spiral. The choice is personal responsibility. Here are 10 considerations that a vital to thriving in chaos:

1. **Communication.** Paraphrase to clarify what you hear. Never try to read between the lines or guess a person's intent. Ask questions and continue to delve into the topic. Make your conversations less about you and more about them.
2. **Flexibility.** You have to be ready at a moment's notice to shift your thinking and stay open to change. Continue to grow your skills, ask for additional assignments, question everything, and be prepared. Example: Do you have the mindset that if your job was eliminated, you could move on and find another job? If you do, congratulations, you are a flexible thinker.
3. **Empowerment.** Empower yourself and dump the entitlement attitude. Nobody owes you anything, either at work or at home. You do owe it to yourself to be accountable for every choice and every outcome.
4. **Responsiveness.** Learn to respond quickly to changes in your legal organization and the work you do there. Reacting is simply knee-jerking, while responding involves using learned skills, helping you to make decisions more quickly. Don't waste time and energy complaining.
5. **Learning.** Support and promote lifelong learning. Train yourself to be a learner by using downloads, books on tape, and other resources. Read diverse resources and listen to news from a variety of media outlets. Engage your work group in educational activities.
6. **Innovate.** Find different and better ways to solve problems. Learn how to be more creative by visiting your local library or searching the Internet to find books and other resources on innovation and how to stimulate creativity in the workplace.
7. **Cutting Back.** Always look for ways to reduce spending, such as trimming travel expenses and entertainment costs. If you don't know much about your organization's financials, ask. You may learn something that enables you to brainstorm a solution that makes your firm more profitable.
8. **Energy.** Stay enthusiastic and forward-thinking. Make the work environment fun and exciting. Allow negative discussion, but learn how to respond with, "What is the worst thing that can happen?"
9. **Accountability.** Be a role model for others by taking responsibility for every decision you make. Know that you always have three choices: take it, leave it, or change it. And challenge yourself by asking, "So, what's the plan?"
10. **Goals.** Understand your personal goals and those of your legal organization. You will not be able to thrive in chaos if you have no idea where you are going. Find a system that works for you and stay on track. It is your job! ✨



**Marsha Petrie Sue** is a speaker and executive coach who espouses proven tactics for managing people who create pandemonium at work and in your personal life. To receive a copy of *Quick Tips for Communication Excellence* via e-mail, contact her at [Marsha@MarshaPetrieSue.com](mailto:Marsha@MarshaPetrieSue.com).

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