

## WORK ETHIC – LESSON 5 “THE HUMBLE ENTRANCE”

### CAPITAL HIGH SCHOOL WELDING AND MACHINING-JIM WEBER

**Introduction**-When it comes to welding, machining, and engineering, we are not all gifted with the same set of talents and skills. Some are naturally talented, some are not, some have to work very hard to be good at their trade, for some it comes easier than others. When you get out of your training program and get into the workforce, you are going to meet up with some very talented and highly skilled people. Many of these folks will be masters of their trade. They will be very good at what they do and have learned their trade through many years of hard work and dedication. You would be very wise to have a humble attitude concerning your abilities, skills, and knowledge around these people and all of your fellow coworkers. I call this the “The Humble Entrance”. One of the biggest mistakes you could make as an entry level welder, machinist, or engineer is to come across as a cocky, arrogant, “know it all. I guarantee you will regret this if you make this mistake. No matter how good your training program is, you still know very little of what it actually takes to do this work in the real world of industry.

Having a humble entrance into the workforce will pay off on many levels. One day.....after many mistakes.....and lots of training.....and lots of dedication.....and lots of hard work.....and lots of experience.....you will be the one with the great skills and knowledge in your trade . And when you get to this level.....staying humble may be hard to do. Recognition from peers, from the industry, these things can build up our perception of ourselves to unhealthy levels.

However, if you get to this level and remain truly humble.....what a great mark and testimony on your life in manufacturing. Those who get very good in the trades know that there is always more to learn, there is always something that can be improved, and there are other people who have equally good skills.

A humble entrance is very wise.....and a humble exit is even better!

Answer the following questions.

- 1.) Define the word “Humility”.
- 2.) Describe a time in your life when you were humbled. A situation where you “got it handed to you”. How did it make you feel? Why were you cocky about the situation?
- 3.) In what areas of society do we see arrogant attitudes?
- 4.) In your opinion, what is the difference between being “cocky” verse confident?
- 5.) Describe an area of your life where you have appropriate confidence.
- 6.) If you do not have a “humble entrance” into the manufacturing/construction workforce, what could it cost you?

- 7.) Name and describe one of your heroes. What makes this person your hero? What are the traits of this person? Is humility a mark on their life?
- 8.) As you assess your welding and machining skills at this point in your life, what specific things are you gaining confidence in? Be very specific.
- 9.) Scenario-You are a master machinist and/or a master welder of 25 years. You work for a very good company and you have been asked to mentor and train a new employee.....a rookie.....an apprentice.....a greenhorn.....a kid who is wet behind the ears. What would you be looking for in that new employee?
- 10.) Listen to the song "Humble and Kind" by Tim Mcgraw. What was your favorite line and why? (Try finding a song about humility, its very hard!)
- 11.) What did you think about Pat Tillman after learning about him?

#### Internet Links-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awzNHuGqoMc> Humble and Kind –Tim McGraw

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat\\_Tillman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pat_Tillman) - Pat Tillman story