

Stanford eCorner What Turns People into Jerks? 30-05-2007

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Sutton talks about several important factors that turn people into jerks. He describes how being around many aggressive people will transform a person into a jerk. He also explains how pressure is a key contributor in building jerk behavior.



Transcript

And this is one main idea of the back aside.. So there's something in psychology called the person situation debate, a probably like introduction to psychology and were subjected the person situation debate.. And if you look at most behaviors including a more aggressive behavior, it looks to me that like about 20% of the action is some personality and characters took an 80% of the situation you're in.. So to me the two main things that turn people into assholes are one being around aggressive people.. So if you're, it's a contagious disease.. There's a literature on emotional contagion.. This is back to build as years point.. If you're around a bunch of jerks, the odds are you're going to become one and started acting like one.. And then the other thing is I think that when many of us are under pressure.. You know, time pressure, criticisms whatever that I think that it tends to come out..

One thing I would also say with all due to respect to Silicon Valley and tech company norms, this probably in these industries anyone I've ever seen.. Medicine likely worst but not many are worst...