



# Advice for Trump: Stop being yourself

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As we begin another tempestuous year in the ongoing American Experiment, I thought I would provide our commander-in-chief with a little constructive criticism. So, Mr. President, please pay attention.

With respect to the stock market, listen up. Stability is what we need, not chaos. Yes, you obviously pride yourself on keeping everything in a constant state of flux, but this tends to make investors very nervous. Stop blaming the Fed and acting like someone whose financial expertise is limited to fleeing business partners and filing for bankruptcy.

About the intelligence thing: I know you think you're the smartest businessman in any given room you happen to be in, but in reality that's only true when you are alone in the bathroom doing your business. There are lots of people out there who know more than you; next year many of them will be starting high school. Listen to your advisors.

Oh, and you should probably rethink the whole "sucking up to dictators" approach to foreign policy. The postwar world many of our grandparents fought to establish has held up pretty well for the past 74 years. Google it sometime. Incidentally, you are never going to win the Peace Prize. Ever.

Here's a big one. When you are wrong about something, admit it, apologize for it, and do your best not to do it again. Try it sometime; you might be surprised at how it adds to, rather than detracts from, your credibility and respect.

Finally, you really need to update your negotiation strategy. "I'm going to take my ball and go home if I don't get my way" may have worked when you were seven, but most folks have figured this one out. And besides, that tactic only works if the people you are negotiating with don't have any balls.

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