

Open Your Mind, Open Your Opportunities

How to grow a bigger brain in 10 easy steps, Part 10

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As I was preparing to write this final installment in the series of 10 ways to grow a bigger brain, I happened to attend my daughter's college graduation. Cornell University President David Skorton included these words in his [address](#):

“Be open to new opportunities and experiences—as carefully as you've prepared for your future, life is improvisation. You may think of yourself as a future lawyer, poet, physician, writer, entrepreneur, research scientist, architect, farmer, social activist—and carefully prepared yourself for that role—but be alert for unexpected opportunities that may come your way.”

Many a brilliant innovation can be easily sidetracked or blocked simply because a person shuts himself off to new ideas or opportunities.

So, although college graduation may be a distant memory for most of us, the basic principle remains true. Use all your senses - every day. Listen, look, and experience as you build your business.

Skorton also emphasized the importance of service. Whether you are helping a colleague in need, welcoming new relationships and alliances, or investing time and resources in serving a special cause, opening up your heart and your handshake to the rest of your community can result in great things - personally and professionally.

I was both humbled and encouraged as I listened to the stories of and spent time with 2010 graduates. We adults have much to learn from the next generation.

Commencement should not just be for people wearing robes and mortarboards. Start each day with an open mind, prepared to face your business with a recharged brain and open mind. (And, if you need a little inspiration, just look back on your yearbook and remember what it used to feel like to have seemingly unlimited possibilities!)

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