

Uncommon Sense

Providing Clarity, Promoting Intelligence

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Dear David,

I hope this finds you well. The weather is getting a bit cooler, but the issues of the day remain red-hot, as this edition of *Uncommon Sense* proves. Take a read and you will learn about the pros and cons of seminars, how the notion of Trump Derangement Syndrome is affecting the body politic in adverse ways (courtesy of a guest editorial by Mollie Hemingway), and some musings from me on some sensitive emotional matters we often face.

OK, let's get started.

Ara Norwood



Self-Development

Training Programs and Seminars

When we think of education and learning, the first setting that often pops into our minds is a school. For most adults, that would usually be a college or a university. However, for many adults, continual learning and skill development can take place in some sort of training program, or a seminar (or, what some refer to as a workshop.)

The basic idea behind such things is students (often called "participants") meet in a classroom setting and an instructor (often called a "facilitator") leads some sort of learning program. The program often is accompanied by PowerPoint slides, flip charts, workbooks, and may involve lecture (or, if short, what I term "lecturette"), games, readings, writing exercises, small-group and large-group discussions, simulations, role plays, and other types of activities to stimulate learning.

There are many organizations out there that offer public training seminars, and there are many individual practitioners who put on such programs -- my entire professional career has had me doing precisely such events. Lots of organizations also create their own home-grown programs, using departments such as Training & Development, Learning & Development, Talent Development, Organizational Development, or some similar moniker to run such programs.

Like all things in life, there are many training programs and seminars that are conducted that are of poor quality, and quite a few that are of very high quality. The depth of the content can vary considerably, and the skills of the facilitator can run the gamut from boring and incompetent to engaging and sophisticated. As

Tom Hanks famously said while playing the character Forrest Gump, "Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get." The same holds true for most seminars.



Having said that, I strongly recommend the regular attendance at such workshops. The bad ones, of course, won't attract you to return in the future. But the polished ones that bring real value will not only have a positive impact on your quest for life-long learning, but will also draw you back in again in the future, whether it was due to the organization that hosted it, or the content, or the quality of the facilitator.

Attend seminars at least annually and always look for the gold. What were the most valuable things learned at that program? What did you learn that you need to start doing, or stop doing? What did you learn that you may already be doing but could be doing it better?

Implementing what you learn at a seminar will keep you ahead of the curve, prevent you from becoming stale, and will maintain a sharpness in your capabilities which will enable you to remain a valued contributor to those you serve.

The Elephant in the Room

Guest Editorial: Trump Derangement Is Destroying Political Analysis by Mollie Hemingway

The last four years of political punditry and analysis have been objectively wretched. Regardless of your feelings about the present political moment, precisely no one can defend the quality of the analysis that dominates the airwaves and pages of our corporate media.

They told us throughout the 2016 campaign that the notion of Donald Trump winning the presidency was a joke. The mockery increased as election day drew near. From the *Washington Post*: "[Donald Trump's chances of winning are approaching zero.](#)"



At 10:20 P.M. on election night, the *New York Times* assured us that "[Hillary Clinton has an 85% chance of winning.](#)" They gave Hillary a 95 percent chance of winning Michigan, a 93 percent chance of winning Wisconsin, and an 89 percent chance of winning Pennsylvania. They declared, in other words, that the probability of Trump winning all three of those states, which he did, was 0.04 percent.

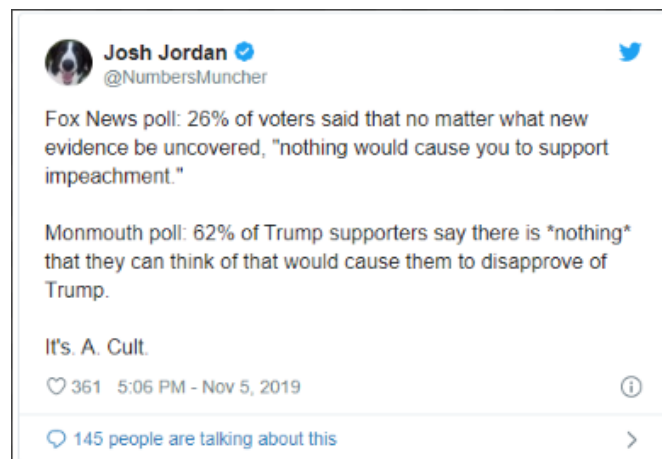
Their numerical confidence colored their reporting throughout the campaign in ways that materially supported their political cohorts, chiefly Hillary Clinton. Then they responded to their humiliating failure to understand the electorate by rolling into a series of delusional conspiracy theories they claimed explained his victory.

While failing to understand the country you're paid big bucks to understand is humiliating, admitting their failure would have been a better alternative to the spiral of Trump Derangement that grips many of our media and continues to make their political analysis a sad joke.

Our low quality of punditry and analysis is on display in the crime-less impeachment that they are currently pushing to mixed success. Democrats and other Resistance members are absolutely on board. The rest of the country? [Not so much.](#)

Coverage of a new poll out from [Monmouth](#) beautifully illustrates how Trump Derangement destroys what should be simple political analysis. The poll was brutal for impeachment fans in the media. Just less than 60 percent of respondents agreed that "people who want Trump out of office should just vote him out next year instead of going through impeachment." Seventy-three percent have little or no trust in the impeachment process. And 60 percent say Democrats are more interested in bringing down Trump than in learning facts.

Here's what much of the Twitterverse pulled out of the poll instead:



The numbers on that question for Democrats, which many in the media completely ignored, are even worse.

Trump approvers (43 percent of respondents) were asked if he could do anything that would make them disapprove of him. Of that group, 62 percent said there's nothing he could do to make them disapprove of his job performance. That's the question media are focusing on to prove how stupid and tribal those Republican voters are.

But Trump disapprovers (51 percent of respondents) were similarly asked if Trump could ever do anything aside from resigning that would make them approve of his

job performance. Guess what: 70 percent of disapprovers said there's nothing he could possibly do to earn their approval of his job performance.

So if one wants to argue that one party is mindlessly tribal, the numbers clearly show that the anti-Trump Resistance is the most mindless and tribal faction in American politics today. And the actions of the Resistance only prove this point, from refusing to accept the election results, to fighting the Electoral College, to fantasizing about ousting Trump via the 25th Amendment, to supporting an unelected and unaccountable resistance in the bureaucracy, to the dangerous and eventually debunked Russia collusion hoax that spawned a damaging special counsel probe, to the most recent incarnation of their multi-year impeachment efforts.

But wouldn't a better analysis merely note that people in political parties tend to support their party's top official and oppose the opposing party's top official? That's actually quite normal. For example, Democrats largely supported President Bill Clinton even after he was caught lying under oath, suborning perjury, obstructing justice in an investigation over sexual assault allegations, and impeached and sanctioned by the U.S. Supreme Court.

How much less surprising, then, is it that Republican voters are standing by President Trump, who hasn't been accused by Congress of breaking any law, let alone committing a high crime or misdemeanor warranting removal from office? Is it surprising that Republican voters support President Trump after he has accomplished much of what they elected him to do and has done so in the face of unprecedented resistance operations and years of false accusations of being a traitor to the United States?

It's not surprising to anyone who has ever followed any era of politics since the U.S. founding. Failure to treat Republican voters or their president as normal is making a mockery of political analysis.

And that, my friends, is the latest elephant in the room.

Mollie Ziegler Hemingway is a senior editor at The Federalist. She is Senior Journalism Fellow at Hillsdale College and a Fox News contributor. Follow her on Twitter at [@mzhemingway](https://twitter.com/mzhemingway)

Check out [my website](#) for tools to help you with your career, your presentations, and other matters.

Shameless Plug

Need Help Preparing For That Next Big Interview?

So you have trouble with job interviews? You get nervous? You feel unprepared? You get psyched out? I understand. And that is why I am pleased to alert you to my eBook: ***Your Interview Roadmap***. At over 12,000 words and with six appendices, this guide book will open your eyes to what really goes on in the world of interviewing from both sides of the table, and will prepare job seekers to hit it out of the park 80% of the time. (OK, more like 90%, but I prefer to be understated.)



If you are interested in purchasing the product, you can [click here](#) to make your purchase. The advice you will glean from this eBook is golden! I would charge you six times the price of the eBook to give you the same advice in person.

If you've done poorly in job interviews in the past, you can turn it around. The answers are there. Take action!

From Ara's Journal

Anger vs. Sadness

Life is fraught with twists and turns, and no one seems exempt from the litany of challenges that life brings. The more I speak with people on a deeper level, the more I am reminded that even persons who seem to lead good lives deal with their share of serious challenges.



In reflecting on the nature of relationships, especially those that come apart and lead to an end of that relationship, a question I have been pondering is, Which of the following two unfortunate situations would I prefer to be faced with:

- A person who is furious with me due to the closing of that chapter?
- Or, a person who is sad, heartbroken, and pleading for things not to end?

Both are tough, painful outcomes. But I think the harder, more difficult outcome is the latter. As much as I don't want to anger anyone, even more do I wish not to

hurt anyone. Granted, anger and sadness are both responses to pain. But I suspect anger dissipates over time, while sadness just drags the human spirit down. Sadness leads to depression. Sadness makes life bitter.

Perhaps, with the passage of time and the deepening of perspective, people can come out of such negative states of mind/heart and begin anew. I'll do what I can to facilitate that. . .

The World of Words

Tantamount

Building Your Power of Expression

Tantamount, n.

Pronunciation: 'tan(t)ə, mount



Meaning: Usually predicative, as in "tantamount to..." This term essentially means something is equivalent to something else. Or, something is virtually the same as something else.

Usage:

- *The resignations were tantamount to an admission of guilt.*
- *Sharing this information with the public is tantamount to detonating a nuclear bomb.*
- *He told me he didn't trust my data, which, coming from him, is tantamount to calling me a liar.*

New subscribers, the Special Report "11 Ways to Beat the Odds" should have been sent out to you already. If you have not received it, please communicate that to me via email (ara@aranorwood.com).

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