




Our Loss of Wisdom

Barry Schwartz makes a passionate call for “practical wisdom” as an antidote to a society full of bureaucracy. He argues powerfully that rules often fail us, incentives often backfire, and practical, everyday wisdom will help rebuild our world.

 **Ted Talk: “Our loss of wisdom”**
WATCH: youtu.be/lA-zdh_bQBo


SCAN ME



In this TED Talk, Barry makes some powerful statements. He says:

- “When things go wrong, we reach for rules” as a mechanism for control.
- “We are engaging in a war on wisdom.”
- “We don’t trust the judgement of [a person] to let them do things on their own. By [using rules to] prevent disaster we are assuring mediocrity.”

In this assignment, tell about an experience you’ve had or a time in your life where you disagreed with, were unable to follow, or you chose not to follow a specific rule. Perhaps you had to break a rule because of a moral judgement, or a rule was cited “just because.”

You have two options for your response:



Option 1: Please provide a two-three page response to the prompts below.

- OR -



Option 2: Please provide a two-three minute video response to the prompts below.

Assignment prompts:

1. Tell about the rule, why it was created, and who it was intended to serve.
2. Tell the story of your personal experience with this rule and discuss how you dealt with your personal opinion about this rule.
3. Why was your response to this rule important to you personally and to your community? (Remember, your community can be your town, your school, or even your group of friends.)
4. “Hindsight is always 20/20.” Now that you have relived your experience, if faced with the same situation, how would you handle yourself?
5. How does your behavior relate to what Barry Schwartz is commenting about? Do you agree or disagree with Barry? Why?

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