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Observable Behaviors Of Executive Presence

When people talk about "executive presence," they're usually talking about a set of observable behaviors that they associate with confidence, competence, and warmth.

They are:

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Behavio

02

Gestures

What it looks like

Descriptive gestures

What it does

Engages audience, projects comfort.

Behavior

04

Language

What it looks like

Avoids filler words (um, uh), tentative language (sort of, kind of), and acronyms/jargon What it does

Plain, thoughtful language connects with audience.

Behavior 06

Facial Expressions

What it looks like

Warm, curious expression. Doesn't betray unconscious negative emotions. What it does

Warm, curious expression signals to audience that you are interested and confident.

Behavior

01

Posture

What it looks like

Erect and symmetrical

What it does

Projects comfort, command.

Behavior

03

Movement

What it looks like

Moves purposefully, doesn't pace or fidget

What it does

Movement commands attention and gets points across.

Behavior

05

Voice

What it looks like

Controls pitch, modulation, and volume What it does

Controlled pitch increases credibility. Varying modulation creates engagement. Intentionality with volume displays control.

Behavior

07

Dress

What it looks like

Non-distracting

What it does

Shows that you understand your cultural context and career trajectory. Doesn't distract from your message.