

Letter to Reddit about the SelfImprovement subreddit

Hi Reddit,

My name is Luka, and I'm requesting to moderate the subreddit r/selfimprovement! I'm aware that this subreddit is enormous and that assigning a new moderator to it comes with a lot of risk. I understand that it would require deliberation on the part of whatever Reddit staff is managing this request, and I'm going to go out of my way to be high bandwidth and responsive to any questions that need to be asked of me.

The reason that I am making this request is that I have been a subscriber to the subreddit for some time, but have found that the quality of content has plummeted over the last few months due to an absence of or low-quality moderation. Earlier on in my time with this subreddit, I found that it was an extremely valuable resource for my own self improvement and development. I learned a lot on this sub, and I will always appreciate the way that it has improved my own life. I feel like I understand what this subreddit offered to Reddit's community, and what initially attracted many of the existing subscribers to follow it. However, the current state of the subreddit is making it far less useful to me and, I think, actually very off-putting to a large segment of what would otherwise be the subreddit's primary audience. Topics alluding to pornography, masturbation, and non-safe-for-work content pop up in my feed frequently as a consequence of following r/selfimprovement. It's no longer a positive contributor to my reddit content feed.

https://www.reddit.com/r/selfimprovement/comments/17u3n5o/im_unfollowing_this_sub_because_the_posts_are/

I made a post on r/selfimprovement yesterday regarding the faltering quality of the sub which received over 1000 upvotes within 24 hours and a 94% upvote rate, with many of the comments agreeing with my thoughts on the sub and sharing similar experiences. Notably, although my own post bends the subreddit's normal posting guidelines, no moderator has commented on the post for over 24 hours or removed the post. The post is now the second most popular post on the entire Self Improvement subreddit within the last month, and will soon be the #1 post of the month. Apparently, many more people than myself have been having the same unpleasant experience, from a subreddit which should be a wholesome and constructive resource post by post for it's followers.

So, that's the problem. Now on to why I'm the right person to fix the issue as a moderator for the subreddit. There are two primary things I'd like to share about my fit. I'm sharing these in the hopes that I can convince you to assign me to the subreddit's moderation, because I would be

very excited to be able to contribute in that way. First of all, I'm very familiar with the subreddit's content and rules, and have been consuming self improvement content across Reddit and the internet for some time. I also have a good amount of experience with Reddit more generally, and so you can background check my extensive post history.

Second, I have deep knowledge of community management and community growth. I think this one is super relevant so I'm making it its own paragraph. I was one of the earliest moderators of Noita Discord which now has almost 35,000 members, I wrote its original moderation bot, and helped design many of the server's policies and take care of its users and the community. I also had a hand in developing the now much larger moderator team there. I went on to assist in moderating two smaller game and hardware development communities, the Coldwild Games discord server and the Exit Suit discord server. Now, I actually work as a community manager and app designer for Castle (the app store app). Castle's discord community has grown over 200% over the last year and is primarily administrated by me. The current size of the server is over 17,000 users. I think that my wide experience in community development and care makes me a fitting moderator for a subreddit like r/selfimprovement. I would be happy to give you some references to people I have been on moderation teams with.

That's everything I needed to share. To TL;DR my post and respond to the prompts given me by the AutoModerator bot, 1. My plan for the subreddit is to restore it to its previous useful state, and protect the existing follower base by gently curating the content to prevent an overflow of redundant pornography, masturbation content, or any other future problem topics. This means instituting some new content policies around overly redundant and prevalent topics like masturbation and pornography addiction, specifically such posts should be removed if they're not presenting any new information about the issue, and a pinned post in the subreddit should redirect users to places where they can get help with extremely frequent issues such as those. 2. I will now send a message to the moderators of the sub via Modmail as requested.

Thank you