For a project to be successful, the project leader must demonstrate several necessary leadership qualities. These qualities are often named as good communication, being adaptive to the situation, able influence the sponsors and other important figures, and are familiar and comfortable with the team itself. Project leaders can minimize the risk of failure and create momentum for the team by focusing efforts on technical understanding of the field they are working with, managing project scope, and making sure the project team has the necessary resources to work well. However, good project leaders do also have to focus on relations with their team and sponsors by offering moral support and understanding to the members of the team as well as establishing good relations with the sponsor. If the members of the team see their leader with these qualities and feel the support, the project is much closer to becoming a success.

David Ciriello’s “Tough Project? Ten Insights for True Success as a Project Manager” details the situations in which projects commonly fail. For example, Ciriello mentions that the success of a project can be prevented in part by leaders worrying about compensation, job security, and performance reviews. Furthermore, Ciriello gives the reader the reminder to focus on the bigger picture, which is the completion of the project and providing exactly what is expected while also making sure that every step goes according to plan. Understanding the importance of sticking to the scope of a project can obviously minimize scope creep but also remind project members to be big picture oriented and keep them from worrying about smaller issues that do not affect the result. Ciriello goes on to say how important staying in the present is and how damaging dwelling on past mistakes or events can be to the motivation of a project.

By keeping the project team running well and focusing on the end goal, project leaders can minimize the risk of failure and keep momentum going resulting in a project much closer to success.