



Sohaib Albadawee
@Albadawee

10 Tricks to appear smart during in-person meetings:

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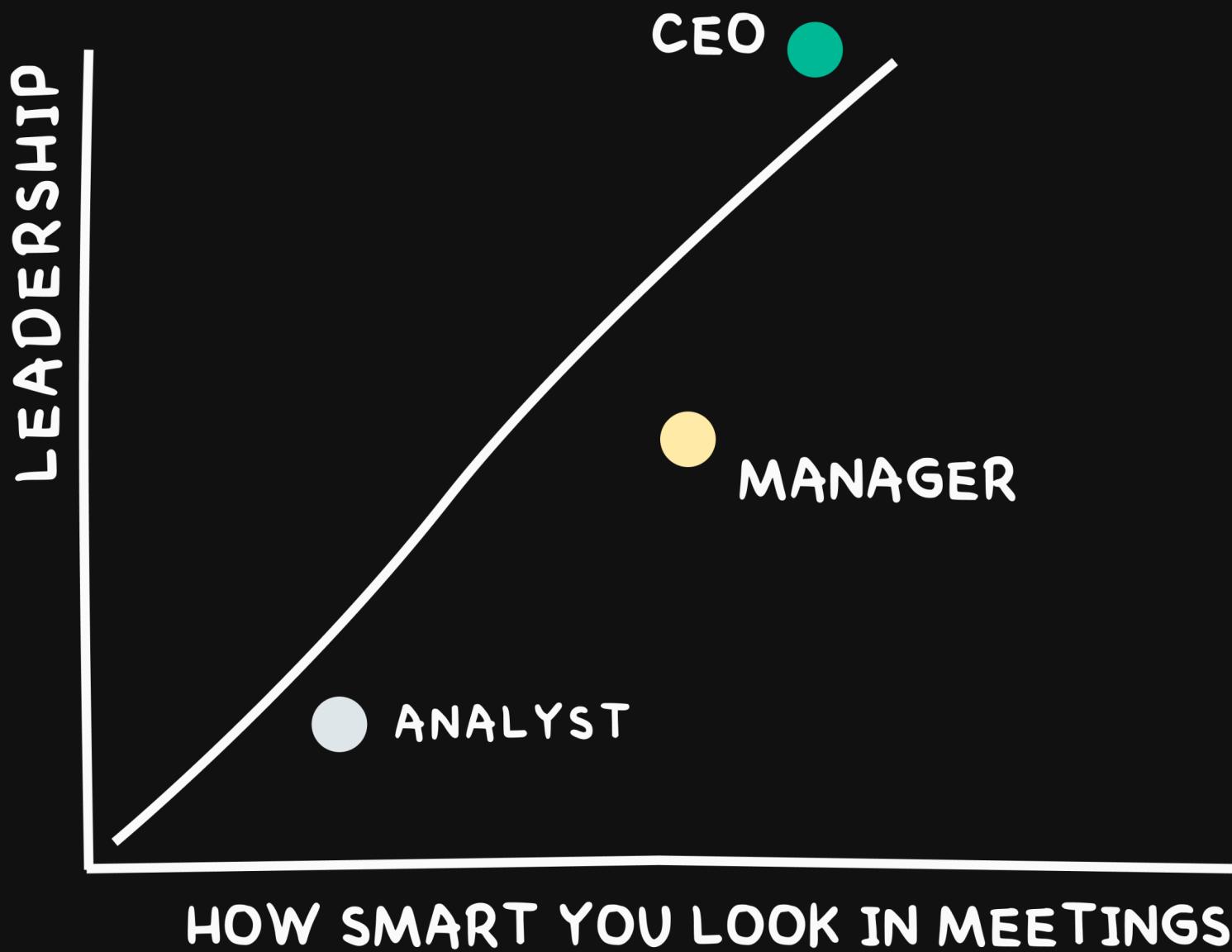
12 Replies

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Meetings are opportunities to show your creativity & leadership skills.

The smarter you appear → the more meetings you'll be invited to.

More meetings → More opportunities to shine.



1) Always sit next to the person leading the meeting

Act as if you are discussing the agenda.

Back him/her up at the appropriate times.

Why it works → Everyone now thinks that you're co-leading the meeting.

2) Use "The Kanye" move

While someone is giving an update:

Interrupt to say how important this is.
Then ask the person to continue.

You just established your dominance
over the meeting.

Just pls don't be Kanye at the
Grammys, that's taking it too far.



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3) Request everyone that is not speaking to mute themselves

Interrupt the conversation and ask:

“Where’s that noise coming from?”

Then ask everyone to click mute.

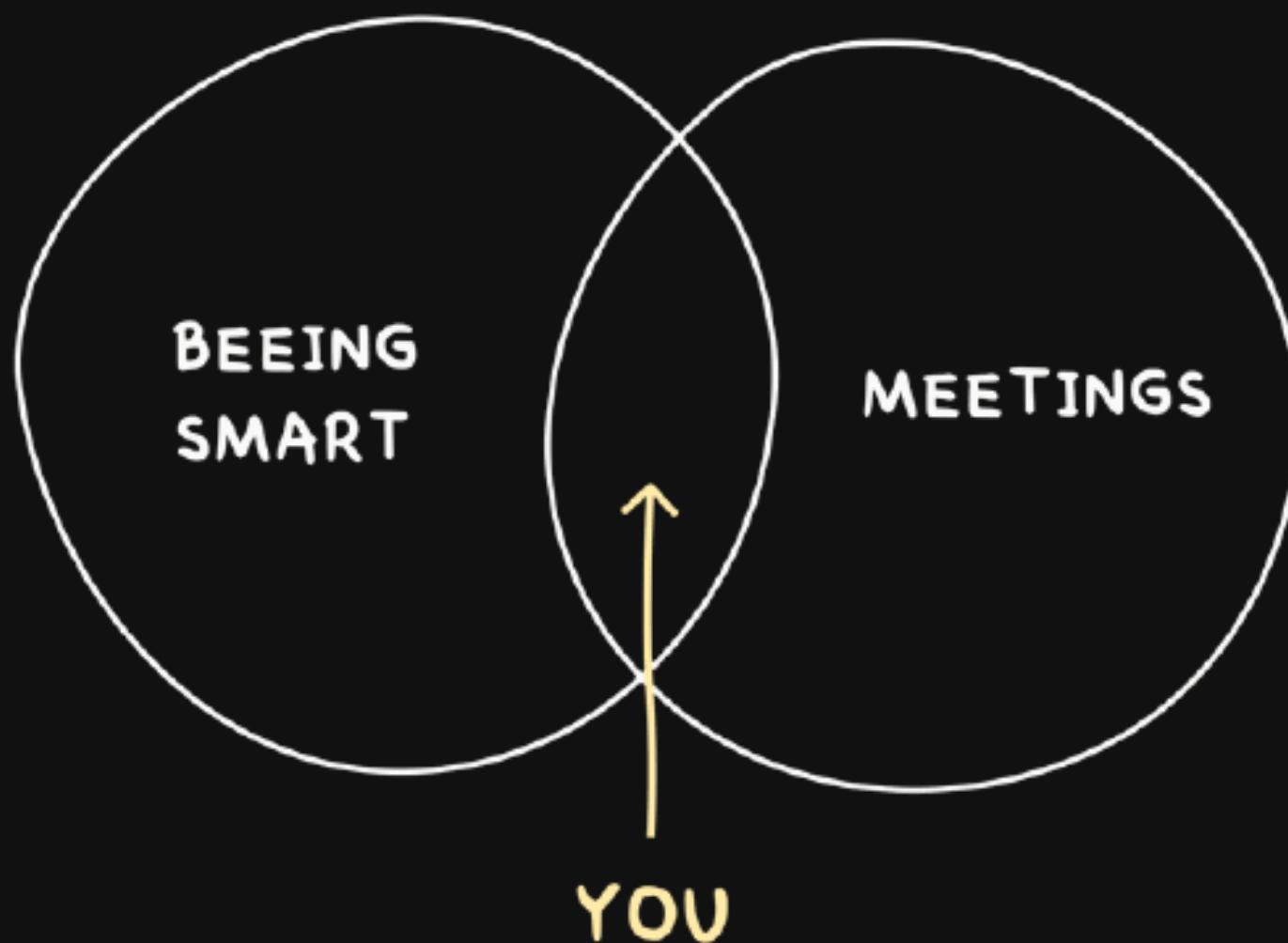
Why it works → Everyone will admire you for taking the lead to make the call quieter.

3) Draw a Venn diagram

Drawing a Venn diagram is a great way to appear smart.

Even if it's wildly inaccurate; others will start discussing how to draw it.

Now, you can go take a seat and scroll through LinkedIn.



4) Translate percentage metrics into fractions

If someone says, “About 20% of our customers are males”

→ Jump in with, “So about one in four,” and take note of it.

Everyone will nod their head in agreement.



5) Encourage everyone to “take a step back”

While everyone is voicing their opinion, stay silent.

Then say: “Can we all take a step back here?”

Follow with “What is the problem we really trying to solve?”

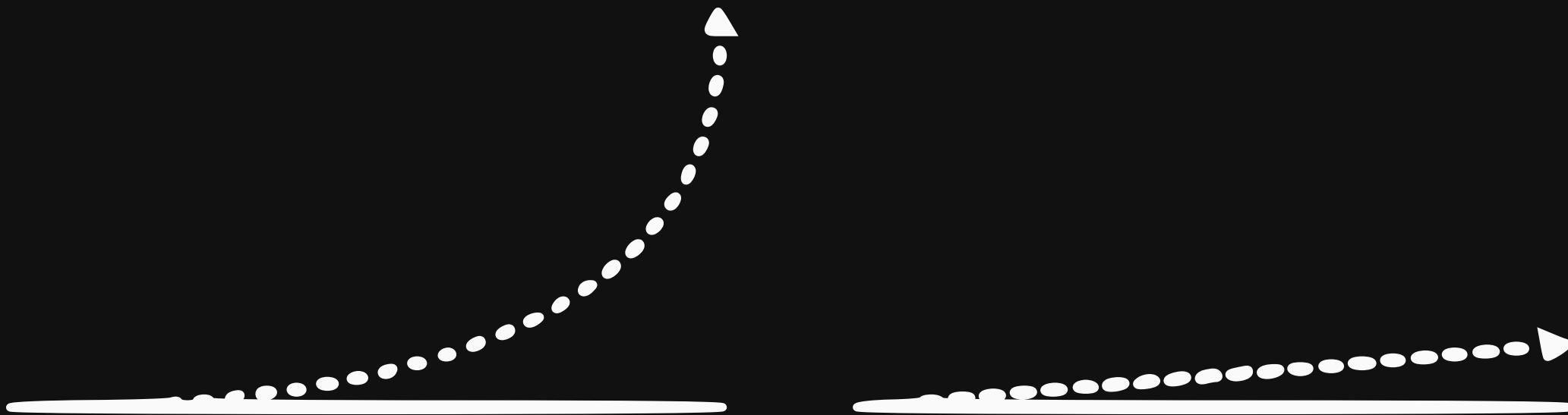
And, boom you're the smartest in the room.

6) Ask “will this scale?” no matter what it is

No one knows what it means.

But it's a smart question that drives leaders and engineers crazy.

Why it works → You've established a question CEO's & Investors ask all the time.



7) Ask the presenter to go back to a slide

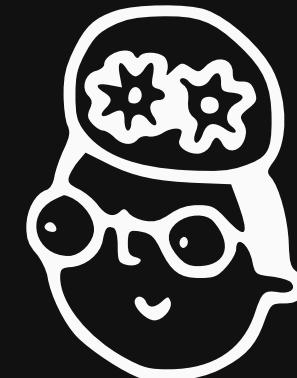
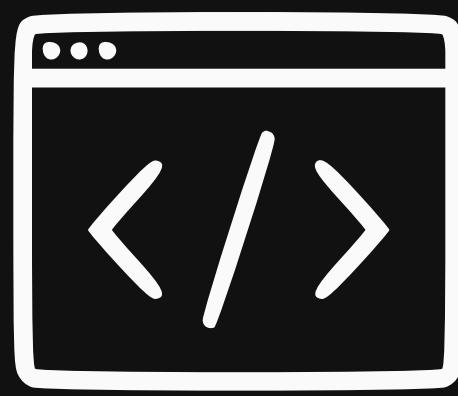
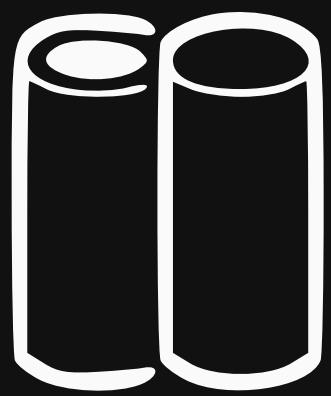
“Sorry, could you go back a slide?
Just stare silently for several seconds,
then say, “OK, let’s move on.”

Why it works → Everyone thinks that
you saw an insight no one else noticed.

8) Remind everyone that we have limited resources

Why it works:

- CEOs are obsessed with this.
- Does asking it make you sound like one? Definitely!



9) Leave to get water and ask if anyone needs anything

Do it before the meeting starts:

- Everyone will think your thoughtful
- They will wait for you to come back
- Return with water, soda & snacks

Why it works→ You'll become everybody's hero in an instant

10) If you are the one presenting:

- Introduce your idea next to other successful ideas
- Say “That’s a great question” before you avoid the question
- When a VP makes a comment, stop and write it down
- Add a huge appendix at the end of ur presentation



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