

FLATTMANN FILES

July 2023

“Quality Is No Accident”

The Power of Listening *You Learn More When You Speak Less*

I listen to people all day long. While this may seem like passive work, I need to listen as attentively as possible. When someone speaks to you, how closely are you really paying attention? Do you physically show that you're listening? Genuine listening takes more effort than you imagine. World Listening Day is on July 18, and I'd like to share how crucial this skill is not just in my line of work, but also in my personal life.

My philosophy is that since I already know what I think, it's often better to listen than talk if I want to learn something new! This motto is essential to remember when I'm speaking with clients. In our meetings, I need to learn everything I can about their lives in order to accurately portray to the insurance company how an accident affected them personally. I want to know details about their relationships, hobbies, and career in order to represent them most effectively.

I want to separate myself from insurance companies that only see my clients as claim numbers, and not as real people. Sharing their unique stories is how we humanize the insurance claim process. Communication is also important during the course of a case. For instance, while my questions are important during depositions, the deponent's answers are even more so. When I actively listen, answers can lead to important questions I would not have thought of beforehand. Often, these hidden pieces are what make a case even more compelling!

I also want to ensure my clients that they have my complete attention. Listening isn't just with your ears! You can show you're listening and understanding their emotions with body language. Consistent eye contact is the most important indicator to show you're fully listening. No fiddling with your pens or looking at your phone!

Another thing I've learned over the years is that silence is uncomfortable. That's why I stay as silent as possible after offering



a question to a difficult deponent who doesn't want to share too much or seems to be holding back on the truth. They'll be more likely to fill up any silence with more details and information they may have refrained from sharing beforehand.

Communication is one of the critical foundations of our law firm. While it may seem simple, many bigger law firms often overlook it.

These skills matter just as much outside the office, too, and I need to keep practicing. Many of us struggle to transition from work mode to relaxed conversations, and I'm no different. I often catch myself in lawyer mode at home, searching for quick and efficient transmission when I need to slow down and be a compassionate listener. When you've been focused on gathering information all day, sitting back and listening to more casual chats can be challenging. Slow down and listen to the rambunctious ramblings of your kids or the detailed description of your spouse's day. These are the conversations we should be cherishing the most!

You never know what someone may be going through, and we should always be tuned to our loved ones' thoughts and feelings. While being a good listener takes practice and patience, those around you will ultimately be grateful to have someone who cares and supports them. Isn't that worth the extra effort?



-Grady Flattmann

WD-40 Has Over 2,000 Uses

It's More Than a Lubricant!

If you've looked into your cabinets, you might find a can of WD-40 lying around. That's good because it has more capabilities than just lubricating rusted parts.

Did you know that WD-40 has over 2,000 uses? You read that right — you can use it for all kinds of things! Here are a few of our favorite uses.

Cleaning Carpets

It can be difficult and expensive to deep-clean your carpet to remove those pesky stains. However, if you spray the stains with WD-40, wait a few minutes, and then use a sponge and soapy water, you can get those stains out in no time! If you go through this process and the stains remain, retry the above steps or try a carpet cleaner with soapy water.

Instantly Waterproofing Shoes

No one likes going outside when it's raining. While you can purchase water-resistant sprays for your shoes, you may have to wait a day or two before wearing them. But if you spray your shoes with WD-40, you can instantly make them waterproof! WD-40 acts as a barrier, meaning that moisture won't be able to seep into your shoes and get your socks wet.

Removing Paint Smudges From Cars

Sometimes when you're out and about, your car can get dinged as other drivers open their doors. A shopping cart might even collide with your vehicle and leave a paint smudge. But there's no need to spend hours trying to remove the smudge. Simply spray the area with WD-40 and wipe it clean with a rag.

Getting Rid of Sticky Residue

Trying to peel off a sticker or label without leaving any residue can be difficult. To help with this issue, spray WD-40 on the residue, wait a few minutes, and then wipe it away with a cloth. Then voila! No more annoying residue!

Can you believe that WD-40 can be used for all this and more? It's mind-blowing how many uses it has. Learn more about what you can do with this incredible multi-functional item at WD40.co.uk/tips-and-tricks/uses-for-WD40.



Let Your Creativity Flourish!

With a Zine, Anything Is Possible!

We've all heard of journaling, scrapbooking, and creating collages, but have you ever thought about making a zine? A zine (pronounced "zeen") is a self-published and noncommercial book you can create and showcase your talents to the world. Many businesses, such as Aesop and Supreme, have used zines to connect with readers and share their stories. And now, you can do the same!



What makes a zine unique?

Zines are quickly rising in popularity because they can be anything you want! If you want to highlight your artwork, showcase your writing, display your academic research, or let your creativity blossom, then a zine is for you. There are no rules, guidelines, or processes to follow — everything is up to you!

These creations were used initially to highlight minority and underground interests. For example, mainstream magazines may highlight news and other events happening in pop culture and mainstream media. But what about niche topics such as music genres, outsider art, or small-town activists? Zines have filled this gap and provided an outlet to share their voices.

Additionally, most people think the only way to be published is to submit their work to many different publications and hope for acceptance, get an agent, or work for a magazine or newspaper. But that's not the

case anymore! Anyone can create a zine — even if they don't have any experience or training.

How do you create a zine?

Making your own zine is easy! All you need is paper, glue, scissors, pens, and photos from magazines or the internet. First, you want to take your paper (as many pieces as you wish) and fold each in half to make a book. Then, let your creativity take over! You can cut out newspaper or magazine clippings, print designs off the internet, or draw your own creations. Once you finish your zine, you can keep it to yourself or print and sell several copies.

You can publish your zine on social media, reach out to different zine publishers such as Kiosk, Ditto, or Colpa Press, or contact your local, independent bookstore to see if they are willing to showcase your work.

So, in honor of July being International Zine Month, let your creativity flourish and create your own!

TAKE A *BREAK*

SOLUTION

9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

6				4	7			9
4						1		
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9						8	1	
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SO, YOU'RE DATING SOMEONE NEW

Your Children Should Always Come First!

After you separate from your spouse, you may consider entering the dating world again. However, if you have children, dating can be difficult. It can be challenging to determine the right time for that new special someone in your life to meet your kids. How do you ensure your children know they are still important and you're not replacing the other parent?

Give your child time and space.

While you and your child's other parent are no longer together, it may take your child time to adjust to the changes. They may not fully understand why their parents no longer live under one roof. Your child may feel sadness or anger toward the situation, and accepting that new person in your life may be difficult for them.

Therefore, give your child enough time to come to terms with the situation before introducing a new partner. While this is an exciting time for you, your child should always come first. Therefore, let them adjust to their new "normal" so they're less likely to think you're trying to "replace" their other parent!

Take your new relationship slow.

If you introduce your new partner to your children too soon and the relationship doesn't last, your child can be even more confused about the situation. Experts suggest waiting at least 8-9 months before your partner meets your kids. This time allows you to get to know your new partner and ensure you share similar interests, values, and beliefs.

Discuss the situation with your ex.

Talking to your ex about introducing your new partner to your children may be beneficial. After all, your children are their children, too! You can outline expectations for you and your ex to follow, including how long you should wait to introduce your partner, where the introduction should take place, and how to share concerns you or your ex may have.

After your child meets the new special someone in your life, check in with them frequently. You want to ensure they are comfortable with this change and know they can come to you with questions or concerns. With open communication and trust, you can enjoy your time with your expanded family and watch your relationships blossom.



GRILLED STEAK SALAD WITH PEACHES

Inspired by Delish.com

Ingredients

- 1 lb skirt steak, fat trimmed
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp light brown sugar
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 large lemon, juiced
- 6 cups baby arugula
- 2 ripe peaches, thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup crumbled blue cheese or feta

Directions

1. In a large resealable plastic bag or baking dish, combine steak, vinegar, garlic, and brown sugar. Marinate 20 minutes at room temperature.
2. Remove steak from marinade, coat with vegetable oil, and season generously with salt and pepper.
3. On a grill or pan set to high heat, cook steak until desired doneness. Rest 5-10 minutes, then thinly slice against the grain.
4. In a small bowl, whisk olive oil and lemon juice to make dressing. Season with salt and pepper.
5. In a large serving bowl, add arugula, peaches, blue cheese or feta, and steak. Drizzle with dressing and gently toss.



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A BATTLE OF HE SAID, SHE SAID

Gwyneth Paltrow vs. Terry Sanderson — When Skiers Collide

When you read about celebrity court cases, you probably think of music contract disputes, messy divorces, and settlements with ridiculously high dollar amounts. But the trial between Gwyneth Paltrow and Terry Sanderson was unlike any other. It regarded a ski slope collision that occurred seven years ago.

On Feb. 26, 2016, Paltrow and Sanderson were at the Deer Valley Resort in Utah. They both enjoyed the slopes until a tragic accident occurred. The collision caused Sanderson to suffer a concussion, a brain injury, and four broken limbs. In January 2019, Sanderson filed a \$3.1 million lawsuit against Paltrow. In return, Paltrow countersued for \$1 plus attorney fees.

Sanderson argued that Paltrow collided with him from behind while she skied on a beginner's slope with an instructor. He also mentioned that his injuries prevented him from coping with life. Paltrow argued

that Sanderson was the one who struck her from behind. When pictures of the collision appeared in court, it showed Paltrow on top of Sanderson — which could only happen if Paltrow was struck from behind.

Additionally, Paltrow's lawyers argued that Sanderson sued Paltrow to “exploit her celebrity and wealth.” Evidence strengthens this point because while Sanderson said he couldn't cope with life, documents showed that he had taken multiple international and domestic trips since the accident. Furthermore, in an email between Sanderson and his children, he stated that he would be famous after the accident made the tabloids.

So, how did the case end? After determining that Paltrow was the downhill skier, according to the images shown in court, they turned to the sport's rules. According to the rules, the person further down the mountain (the downhill skier) has the right of way. This

means that the person closest to the top of the mountain must yield.

The jury found Paltrow not liable and awarded her \$1 and legal fees. To Paltrow, this case was not about the money. She felt like her character and integrity had been threatened and she simply wanted to prove the allegations were false.



FLATTMANN LAW'S SUMMER GIVEAWAY!

Get Ready for Summer in Style!

5 BIG Prizes!



Grand Prize:
Blackstone 36"
Griddle w/
Cutting Board &
Hard Cover
(est value: \$549.00)



Fourth Prize:
Ryobi 40V Gen II
Cordless Trimmer
(est value: \$160.00)



Second Prize:
YETI Tundra
45 Insulated
Chest Cooler
(est value: \$350.00)



Third Prize:
LoCo Cookers 60 qt
Boiling Kit, Including
Pot, Basket, And
Dual Jet Burner
Cook Stand
(est value: \$170.00)



Fifth Prize:
Instant Pot DUO80
Pressure Cooker
(est value: \$120.00)

EXTRA: 10 Lucky Winners Will Receive A \$25 Academy Sports Gift Card!

It's SO EASY to Enter

- Sign up for our newsletter (or, if you are already receiving the newsletter, verify your information) by filling out and returning the form on the back.

Contest Rules

- All entries must be received by July 14, 2023.
- Drawing will be held and winners will be notified on July 21, 2023.
- Winners MUST be able to pick up prizes at Flattmann Law in Covington, LA (Sorry ... no shipping available).

Continued on Back ...



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213 W. 21st Ave.
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FLATTMANN LAW'S SUMMER GIVEAWAY!

Please complete and return this form by July 14, 2023

4 options for returning:

- **Mail:** Flattmann Law: 213 W. 21st Ave., Covington, LA 70433
- **Email** to FlattmannLaw@gmail.com
- **Fax** to (985) 249-2658 or ...
- **Online:** Go to www.FlattmannLaw.com/reports/summer2023.cfm and complete the form (even if you already get our newsletter)

Name (or family name) _____ Email _____

Address (Street) _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

We send birthday cards!

If you would like to be included, please provide your birthday:

Birthday _____

Spouse _____ Birthday _____

NEW!

The office with the most individual entries wins a free lunch (up to \$400)

- Office Name (ie Dr. Miller) _____

Important notes:

- We never share or sell your information. The information you provide is used only for our own promotional purposes, including newsletters.
- We will never bombard you with mail or email! We typically send one newsletter and one email per month.
- Check us out on Facebook!



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