

Cy Wakeman

President & Founder of Reality-Based Leadership, New York Times Best-Selling Author, & Leadership Expert

Cy Wakeman is a dynamic international keynote speaker, drama researcher, *New York Times* best-selling author, and global thought leader and business consultant with over 25 years of unparalleled experience who is recognized for cultivating a counter-intuitive, reality-based approach to leadership.

Grounded in reality, Wakeman's philosophy offers a new lens through which employees and executives alike, can shift their attention inward, sharpen their focus on personal accountability, and uncover their natural state of innovation simply by ditching the drama.

Wakeman's professional journey began when she was promoted to her first management position in the late 1980's. Rather than forcing ineffective, conventional management practices into her workplace, Wakeman began developing and teaching her employees a reality-based mindset, one that is founded in personal accountability. What she discovered was inspiring—her employees were not only motivated to succeed, but they were also driven to deliver results, adept to change, and emanate happiness on the job. Inspired to help others transform their organizations and their work, Wakeman began consulting and training. Today, she visits more than 200 companies each year, empowering employees and executives alike to take control of and invest in their work.

Deemed “the secret weapon to restoring sanity to the workplace,” Wakeman has helped numerous companies around the globe such as Google, Facebook, Viacom, Uber, NBC Universal, NASA, Pfizer, Johns Hopkins, Stanford Health Care, Keurig, Dr. Pepper, AMC Theatres, White Castle, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, and countless others learn to navigate our rapidly changing world using good mental processes to harness energy wasted in workplace drama and reinvest that effort into achieving profound business results.

Named one of the “Top 100 Leadership Experts to Follow” on Twitter for seven years in a row, Wakeman's influence continues to build. She was also recognized as #23 on the *Global Gurus 2019 list* of the World's Top 30 Leadership Professionals around the world for 2019. Her programs are consistently ranked by participants as the single most impactful training they have ever received.

As a highly sought-after conference headliner and keynote speaker, Cy Wakeman holds a Certified Speaking Professional (CSP) designation from the National Speaker's Association (NSA), placing her within the top 3% of speakers. She's a regular contributor on Forbes.com, Success.com, FastCompany.com, *The Huffington Post*, and Arianna Huffington's Thrive Global. Wakeman's ideas have also been featured on many different highly-esteemed programs, outlets, and publications, including the *TODAY Show*, the AskGaryVee Show with Gary Vaynerchuk, *Cheddar TV*, *The New York Times*, *Business Insider*, *The Daily Muse*, *SHRM.com*, and many more.

She has written three award-winning books, including *Reality-Based Leadership: Ditch the Drama, Restore Sanity to the Workplace, & Turn Excuses into Results* (Jossey-Bass; 2010); *The Reality-Based Rules of the Workplace: Know What Boosts Your Value, Kills Your Chances, & Will Make You Happier* (Jossey-Bass; 2013); and her most recently published book, *No Ego: How Leaders Can Cut the Cost of Workplace Drama, End Entitlement, and Drive Big Results* (St. Martin's Press 2017.)

Wakeman's newest book, *No Ego*, points out that Ego-driven behaviors are the number #1 source of drama in workplaces today, and it's costing organizations billions annually. The philosophy of “perfecting the environment” to create employee engagement just feeds the ego and generates huge amounts of drama and emotional waste. It is high time for a modern leadership philosophy that provides simple tools and techniques to eliminate drama from our organizations, deliver up employees who say yes to what's next, and cultivate accountability, not engagement, to drive big business results.

She also hosts her own podcast called, *the No Ego podcast*, she hosts a Facebook Watch show called, *Life's Messy, Live Happy*, and she consistently adds fresh and relevant video content to her [YouTube channel](#) every week to address leaders' biggest challenges in the workplace.