

# Training Media Review

## The Leadership Secret of Gregory Goose Review by [Libby Wagner](#)



I'll start off by breaking one of my own writing rules: Never begin a sentence with "okay." Okay, I must say that I was not predisposed to like [The Leadership Secret of Gregory Goose](#) from [Learning Communications](#) primarily because the notion of an **animated leadership video** based on a **goose** just didn't sound like a good idea to me.

And then I broke my other rule: "Always read the directions first." Because I didn't read the directions, the promo materials, or the summary, I just put the DVD into the player and hit play. Then I took notes.

**They Will Roll Their Eyes!** Then I had flashing visions of former and current clients and leadership class participants rise up—software engineers, accountants, police officers, manufacturing supervisors—and I knew even my great reputation and ability to have a thick skin when it comes to working with resistant groups wasn't going to help me here.

There was just **no way** that I was going to be able to get a group of the most curmudgony new supervisors and managers to **take me seriously** with this goose, even if the goose story was only about six minutes long.

I should have read the directions. I should have looked at the absolutely **excellent Facilitator's Guide**, which contains not only guided exercises, discussion prompts, suggested language for facilitation, a PowerPoint presentation, assessments, worksheets, and evaluations but also an introduction by the creator, [Judith Glaser](#).

**Shift to "Power with" Leadership** She talks about where this wacky idea came from. Had I had the context, the background, the goals, and the intended outcomes—examining **"new leadership" versus "old leadership"** via personal power and relational power; discussing participants' **feelings and beliefs** about effective leadership; and the

shift to **“power with” leadership**—I would’ve understood the benefit of the video.

Short and simplistic as it is, *Gregory Goose* opens up the doors for some really important conversations about leadership and why we might want to embrace the changing notion of leadership. Plus, because the DVD is really skirting the edges of truly corny (and I like corny; my whole family makes a practice of finding the corniest cards for each other!), it may encourage participants to relax and have fun with these conversations rather than getting mucked up in the seriousness of the sacred responsibility of leadership.

**It Will Work** I recommend this as a resource, especially for the coaching of brand new supervisors or managers. Often those of us who are leadership “experts” think that everyone else has been reading all the latest books and research about leadership and so we think common sense practices are, well, common sense.

However, in addition to introducing some contradictory thinking that surrounds leadership, I think that Glaser helps the new leader develop his or her vocabulary and pay attention to key concepts about how leadership has changed over the years.

**Recommendation** [The Leadership Secret of Gregory Goose is a good introduction and would be a great companion to a performance management system that helps leaders incorporate coaching and performance management behaviors.](#)

And it could be really fun to hear your co-workers talk about wing flapping, loud honking, pecking, and strutting. That in itself makes it worth it!