

High-Profile Leaders and Ways They Stay Productive

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Sometimes Staying Productive Takes Ingenuity

Let's face it - all of us need a little kick in the rear sometimes to stay productive. Life throws many curveballs, especially around the holidays - but that doesn't mean productivity is a lost cause.

There are many surprisingly creative ways to keep the wheels in motion. In fact, you might be shocked to learn that sleep and rest are excellent ways to stay productive.

Don't believe me? Just ask Internet publishing pioneer Arianna Huffington. She and other high-profile [leaders shared their ways of staying productive](#) in an excellent article at [Inc.com](#).

Here they are in no particular order.

Arianna Huffington, Internet Publishing Pioneer:

As president and editor-in-chief of the Huffington Post Media Group, Huffington helms a web universe that attracts 250 million unique visitors each month, and has been busy poaching big-name talent from the likes of *The New York Times*. While many high-powered folks claim to get by on very little sleep, Huffington advocates the opposite.

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She told Slate.com in 2009: "**My single most effective trick for getting things done is to stop doing what I'm doing and get some sleep.**"

Larry Page, Google Co-Founder:

Page told *Wired* in a 2011 profile that he and Brin abruptly decided to **get rid of their assistants** after they found themselves scheduled in too many undesired meetings. "Most people aren't willing to ask me if they want to meet with me," he says. "They're happy to ask an assistant." Anyone who wants his attention, now has to approach him.

Stephen King, Author:

In his 2000 autobiography, *On Writing* the legendary author offers straightforward advice to aspiring scribes: **Write every day**. Ideally, strive for 1,000 words, but however many you can manage will suffice so long as you do it each day. King himself writes at least ten pages every day—weekends, and holidays included. While King is not your typical entrepreneur, he is a paragon of productivity. He has published 49 novels that have sold over 350 million copies.

Ram Shriram, Angel Investor and Founding Google Board Member:

Shriram says the best way to improve personal performance is to **track it in a daily diary**. In a 2005 comment to *Business 2.0*, he explained that the point is not to beat yourself up for mistakes—a counter-productive exercise if there ever was one—but to create a kind of manual for what has worked and what hasn't in your business. "Documenting it ensures we'll always remember it."

Stephen Gillett, EVP of Digital Ventures at Starbucks:

Gillett told *Wired* in a 2006 interview, "**I used to worry about not having what I needed to get a job done. Now I think of it like a quest**; by being willing to improvise I can usually find the people and resources I need to accomplish the task."

Carol Smith, Chief Revenue Office at Harper's Bazaar:

Smith says **dedicating a few hours on Sunday to catch up on email and tend to work matters** could wind up saving you time at the office come Monday. In a 2009 interview with *The New York Times*, the so-called branding powerhouse explains: "I come to work almost every Sunday for at least four hours to go through my e-mail. I did it when it was a real inbox...and now I do it with email. I'm glad I come in on Sunday. It's

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the quiet time. I get things out of the way...so when I come in on Monday, it's like my vacation day."

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