Introduction
At each point in our career, we embark on an endeavor toward mastery through professional development. You will find that with each promotion, we take on new responsibilities that will require us to master new skills. With this new requirement will come a new assessment in the hierarchy of skills. Based loosely on the Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs”, the hierarchy of skills states that we all begin as students. As we progress throughout our journey, we will transition to apprentice, specialist, expert, and eventually craftsman. These points are defined in the image below:

While practical experience, realistic training, and formal education are indispensable for the development of first-class leaders, so too is independent study. A program of independent reading keeps the mind fresh and enhances professionalism. The Instructors from the Leadership Development and Decision Making (LDDM) Program have compiled their suggested reading list, which is designed to assist you in the development of your leadership and critical decision making skills. These texts are listed in a manner to help guide you along this journey but are not listed in order of importance.
Leadership Development and Decision Making

Firefighter

Suggested Reading List

Student:
1. “Drawn by Fire” – Paul Combs
3. “Firefighter Emotional Wellness – How to Reconnect with Yourself and with Others” – Jada Hudson
4. “Own Your Past, Change Your Future” – Dr. John Delony
5. “Pass It On” – Billy Goldfeder and Friends
6. “Leadership: Theory and Practice” – Peter Northouse

Apprentice:
1. “So Others Might Live” – Terry Golway
2. “Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know” – Adam Grant

Specialist:
1. “Sources of Power: How People Make Decisions” – Gary Klein
2. “Why Everyone (Else) is a Hypocrite: Evolution and the Modular Mind” – Robert Kurzban
3. “Endurance: A Year in Space, A Lifetime of Discovery” – Scott Kelly
4. “Killer Show” – John Barylick

Expert:
1. “Don't Bullsh*t Yourself! Crush the Excuses that are Holding You Back” – Jon Taffer
2. “Don’t Leave Your Mind Behind: The Mental Side of Performance” – Keith Henschen & Nichole Detling
3. “Switch: How to Change Things When Change Is Hard” – Chip Heath & Dan Heath
4. “How to Lead When You’re Not in Charge: Leveraging Influence When You Lack Authority” – Clay Scroggins
5. “Safety on the Fireground” – Vincent Dunn
Craftsman:
1. “Man’s Search for Meaning” – Viktor Frankl
4. “Random Thoughts” – Tom Brennan