

# The TEN LEVELS of WORKPLACE DISILLUSIONMENT



**LEVEL 1: Disbelief** - *Definition:* That stage where the initial naivety of the new employee gives way to the questions, concerns, and confusion of illogical corporate politics.



**LEVEL 2: Nodding and Agreeing** - *Definition:* The “don’t rock the boat” stage—where the more spineless congregate to brown nose and avoid the frustration of conflicting policies.



**LEVEL 3: Gripping and Complaining** - *Definition:* Similar to Level 1, (but now you know it’s really true), the level where the motivated achievers reside while attempting to progress and find their place in the organization.



**LEVEL 4: Escape** - *Definition:* Similar to Level 2, but using drugs and/or alcohol to handle the frustration, rather than sacrificing their integrity by becoming a wimp (although the long term emotional results are the same).



**LEVEL 5: Gut Check** - *Definition:* Characterized by internal physiological complications, such as backaches, ulcers, and other intestinal distress.



**LEVEL 6: Class Clown** - *Definition:* Includes over-reaction and other bizarre behaviors, usually to counteract Level 3, or hide Level 5 symptoms.



**LEVEL 7: Apathy** - *Definition:* The much envied level of the aging executive who can see the light of retirement at the end of the tunnel .



**LEVEL 8: Surrender** - *Definition:* Distinguished by external physiological complications brought on by the failed attempt to maintain Level 7.



**LEVEL 9: Paranoia** - *Definition:* Incessant whining and fretting due to burnout and mental decline.



**LEVEL 10: Insanity** - *Definition:* The ultimate conclusion to the career of the worker who avoids the stagnation of Level’s 2 and 4, works past Level 6, fails to maintain Level 7, and survives Levels 8 and 9.