Unglamorous Work Still Deserves Effort

Idea In Short

An advanced degree can quietly create the impression that certain tasks fall beneath someone's role, tedious logistics, printing, errands, the unglamorous mechanics that keep a project running. That impression is worth resisting. Choosing the tedious, cost-conscious option over the convenient, expensive one is rarely a deal-breaker either way, but doing it anyway signals something durable about a person's judgment and their relationship to resources, one that has nothing to do with how prestigious the task looks.

An invisible boundary worth questioning

An advanced degree, a senior title or years of experience can quietly draw an invisible boundary around which tasks feel appropriate to a role. Tedious logistics, printing materials, running errands, handling the unglamorous mechanics that keep any project or workshop running, often fall outside that boundary in someone's own mind, even though no one actually assigned it there. That boundary deserves real scrutiny rather than automatic acceptance.

The cost of convenience adds up

Outsourcing a tedious task to a convenient, full-service option instead of handling it directly carries a real cost, one that becomes obvious once actually calculated. A large volume of color printing and binding through a retail service, for instance, can run well over a thousand dollars for a single event, a cost that a more resourceful, hands-on approach would avoid entirely.1

Doing it anyway, even when inconvenient

Choosing the more resourceful path, printing materials directly rather than paying a premium for convenience, sometimes means using a personal vehicle, spending a weekend morning

on an errand or getting genuinely dirty work done that a title alone would seem to exempt someone from. None of that effort is glamorous. All of it is worth doing anyway.

Neither option is a deal-breaker by itself

It is worth being honest that choosing the convenient, expensive option instead would rarely have broken anything. A workshop generally succeeds or fails on far more consequential factors than how the materials got printed. The choice matters less for its direct impact on any single event and more for what it reveals about someone's habits and judgment.2

Small habits compound into judgment

A person who consistently chooses the tedious, cost-conscious option over the convenient, expensive one in small moments tends to carry that same instinct into far larger decisions, how a budget gets managed, how a team's resources get allocated, how a client's money gets treated as if it were one's own. Small, repeated choices build the habit that shows up later in genuinely consequential ones.

Considering the environmental angle too

There is also a legitimate environmental question buried inside these decisions: is the volume of printing, or any resource-intensive choice, actually necessary for a meeting or workshop to succeed. That question deserves to be asked before defaulting to either the convenient option or the resourceful one, since the most sustainable choice is sometimes simply using less in the first place.3

Status is not an exemption from effort

Ultimately, no credential or title exempts anyone from unglamorous, hands-on work when the situation calls for it. The willingness to do that work anyway, without treating it as beneath the role, is itself a marker of the kind of judgment that tends to serve a career well over time.

- 1Cost Management
- 2Resourcefulness
- 3Sustainability

Summary

No task, however tedious or unglamorous, is genuinely beneath someone simply because they hold an advanced degree or a senior title. Choosing the more resourceful, cost-conscious option over the convenient, expensive one rarely changes an outcome by itself, but the habit of making that choice repeatedly says something durable about judgment, one that shows up in far more consequential decisions later.