

The Best at Everything that Requires No Talent

During the 2023 Rugby World Cup, I stumbled upon a [clip](#) featuring rugby coach Warren Gatland. In it, he extols the virtue of being 'the best at everything that requires no talent' in the rugby game. This includes getting-off the ground quickly, chasing the kick, and getting back on defence - all of which only require effort, not talent.

Listening to him made me think that by being the best at these tasks, all of us have the makings of a world-class rugby player. This is even if the flashier rugby skills of (say) side-steps and offloads are beyond us.

This made me think of how a good piece of oral advocacy is similarly built on the back of being 'the best at everything that requires no talent'. Whether it is in rolling up our sleeves to draw-up a chronology of events, writing out a question tree for cross-examination, or in researching the legal test that the client's claim must meet.

If we take the effort to carry out these tasks, all of us have the makings of a good advocate. This is even if the silkier advocacy skills of (say) having a quick wit for a good come-back is beyond us.