Sustained Level Flight Setup

It is important to sustain level flight prior to initiating a loop in order to keep up the flying speed needed to fly through the entire maneuver. A tendency early on to let the plane creep higher prior to a maneuver may cause the plane to fall out of the loop due to its diminished airspeed — and could possibly cause you to mis-diagnose this as having made an error in the loop itself.

Typical concerns, prudent responses:

Which direction a loop is entered from relative to the wind is not important to a properly executed loop.

As a rule: Wind will seldom cause a good maneuver to go bad, but it will exaggerate the smaller deviations caused by the pilot.

Therefore, use enough power and enter the loop from sustained level flight with the wings level.

And again, just in case, loops should not be attempted unless the airplane is comfortably out in front of you.

Note: Applying a lot of power right before a maneuver might not compensate for a slow entry, since it would take awhile for the airspeed to actually build up.

KPTR: To overcome gravity at the start of a loop, level flight above half throttle needs to be sustained leading up to it.