

Academy of Management Perspectives
Reviewer Template
Book Briefs

Thank you kindly for agreeing to review for AMP. We know that reviewing is a significant undertaking. We hope that this template eases that burden a bit. We strongly encourage but do not require use of this template. You may modify or deviate from it, if you feel it necessary to do so to convey your feedback more effectively.

Please provide comments within the template, save the file, and upload to Manuscript Central. Please address your comments to the authors, not the editor. Please be constructive and cordial; offer specific advice to improve the manuscript where possible.

Every year, thousands of business advice books are written, with some selling hundreds of thousands or even millions of copies. Given their popularity, it is important to understand if managers are getting good advice from these books. Book Briefs (BB) essays rigorously assess the usefulness of popular business books in addressing important managerial problems. Unlike traditional scholarly book reviews, BBs focus on an important managerial problem, assess popular business books only, entail *at least three* books, synthesize rather than summarize, and bring academic rigor to bear. In sum, a BB essay provides critical scholarly analysis of the insights available in popular business books to resolve a real-world managerial problem. Where that analysis shows gaps, a BB essay outlines relevant insights from the scholarly literature, where available. Finally, a BB essay specifies research still needed to improve managerial insights about the important problem.

Motivation: *Please comment on whether the essay is clearly focused on an important and well-defined managerial issue. Is this something that matters to managers, and is it defined narrowly enough to be actionable but broadly enough to be meaningful?*

Book selections: *Has the author selected an appropriate set of popular business books? We define popular as a book that has been listed on the New York Times best sellers list for business books, recommended in the Financial Times “Business Books: what to read this month” column, profiled in the Wall Street Journal, or otherwise awarded, ranked, or recommended by well-reputed media at some point. We require at least three books to be included, and they should comprise a fair and comprehensive*

set of popular books that are aimed at addressing the focal managerial issue motivating the essay.

Book syntheses. *The essay should glean the content of each book that is relevant to informing the focal issue, and not provide section by section summaries of the full content of each book. Does the essay appropriately assess the contributions of these books, individually and collectively, toward informing the focal issue? Are there any figures or tables that compare and contrast, or any that you would suggest?*

Representation of relevant literature. *Does the essay adequately and correctly represent the current state of academic literature on this topic? To what degree does the essay demonstrate how the academic literature bolsters or contradicts claims and prescriptions in the focal books? Charts and figures are encouraged, where they ease and further understanding.*

Roadmap for future research. *The primary purpose of these essays is to motivate and guide future research that can better inform the focal managerial issue, so this is the most critical section. Please comment on how effectively this essay clarifies remaining gaps in understanding of this managerial issue and provides a useful structure to guide scholars toward actionable solutions to fill these gaps.*

Readability. *AMP papers should be clear and concise, not verbose and filled with jargon. They should use clarifying tables and figures, placing less reader-friendly materials in a supplement. Please comment on the essay's structure, flow, and general readability. Focus especially on suggestions for tables and figures that could help the reader to quickly and effectively understand key contributions in the essay.*

Other topics (if needed)