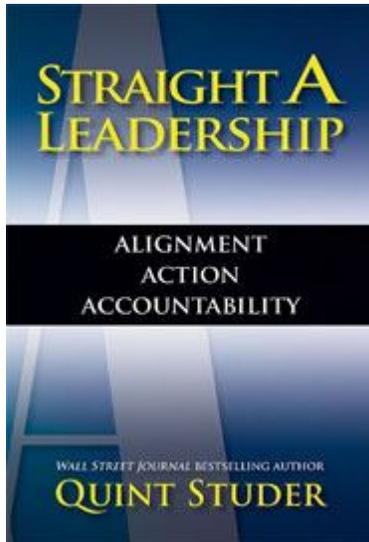


## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Straight A Leadership***

Author: **Quint Studer**

Publisher: **Fire Starter Publishing**

List Price: US\$28.00

Format: hard cover; 264 pages

Publication Date: 2009

ISBN: 978-0-9840794-1-4

Reviewer: ***Nazanin Mehrooz, PMP***

Review Date: August 2012

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### Introduction to the Book

This book shares how healthcare leaders are striving to better align, act and build accountability within their organization. Their goal is to be competitive by quickly adapting to external environmental changes, while delivering exceptional healthcare. To accomplish this, leaders need to understand the big picture of what is done well in the organization and what needs improving and consistently implement best practices to align necessary changes. This book provides guidance on how to accomplish these tasks.

### Overview of Book's Structure

This book is divided into four main sections.

Section 1: The Straight A Diagnosis assesses strengths and weaknesses of organizational capabilities. Guidelines on how leaders can improve 3 A's (alignment, action and accountability) and consistently applying best practices are provided.

Section 2: External Environment Communication Tools explores ways to increase the visibility of senior leadership to internal challenges. How leaders answer tough questions, address behavioral challenges, share financial decisions and improve communication via meeting and forums are discussed in this section.

Section 3: Senior Leader Toolkit revisited provides exercises on formulating organizational grade point, addressing creative tension, answering “what’s in it for me” for all organizational stakeholders and aligning on board commitments.

Section 4: The Basics provides tips on how leaders need to apply consistency and aligning organization into pillars, building leadership skills and conducting effective evaluations.

### **Highlights: What’s New in this Book**

The book provides insight into how the medical industry can improve their ability to stay competitive and deliver high standards of services. This is accomplished assessing current capabilities to target areas of improvements

Senior leaders are focused on external changes and often don’t have the visibility needed to align internal organization to quickly adapt to external. Tools encouraging communication are shared in this book for leaders to address this challenge.

### **Highlights: What I liked!**

This book provides very good insight into the medical organizations. The concepts, challenges and solutions are applicable to other industries. Every organization has challenges which leaders need to quickly address. Internal alignment of organizational capability with external needs is essential and this book offers useful tools for leader to accomplish such task.

The behavioral review is very insightful to me. Often top performers don’t share best practices and low performers impact team in negative ways. This topic was very useful to foster more effective teams.

### **Shortfalls: What was Missing!**

The book seems to be more focused on senior level leaders in the health industry. Guidance on how other leaders in the organization can gain their support and build awareness of necessary goals visible from the bottom-up would be useful.

### **Who might benefit from the Book**

Any leaders who want to improve competitive edge and better understand how to align internal capability with external changes will benefit from this book. The assessment questions in section one is useful to identify potential growth areas. Communication tools shared in section 2 and 3 are beneficial for project managers and various leaders.

## Conclusion

The topics shared in this book are useful for leaders in any organization. It builds awareness of senior leader tasks and how other leaders can assist with aligning internal capabilities with changing external requirements. In a competitive market, these skills and abilities are essential for survival.

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## About the Reviewer



### ***Nazanin Mehrooz, PMP***



Born in Iran, Nazanin Mehrooz migrated to the USA where she studied software engineering and worked in both defense and telecom industries. For the past decade, her focus has been IT Application Support, Operations and Service Delivery Management. Nazanin is an active volunteer for the Dallas and Ft Worth PMI chapters in Texas. Email: [nazi\\_mehrooz@yahoo.com](mailto:nazi_mehrooz@yahoo.com)