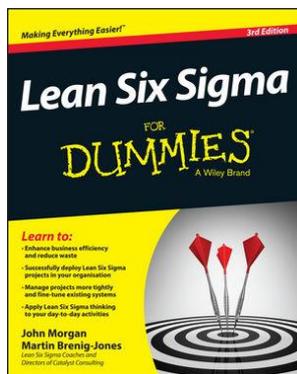


## PM WORLD BOOK REVIEW



Book Title: ***Lean Six Sigma For Dummies®, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition***  
Authors: **John Morgan, Martin Brenig-Jones**  
Publisher: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.  
List Price: \$26.96 paperback, \$14.39 Kindle  
Format: Soft cover Publication Date: 2015  
ISBN: 978-1-119-06735-1  
Reviewer: **Larry Barnett, PMP** Review Date: Apr 2016

### Introduction

The John Wiley & Sons' "Dummies" brand has an impressive success record helping readers understand complex, detailed, or intimidating subjects. "Dummies" products may target a unique area of publication, sandwiched somewhere between the high-level, cursory overview and the very complex standard reference materials.

***Lean Six Sigma For Dummies®, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*** fills that unique space of in-depth, practical learning for the rest of us. Lean Six Sigma can help both public and private entities of any size improve their success in meeting customer requirements.

### Overview of Book's Structure

**Getting Started and Working with Lean Six Sigma** – Authors John Morgan and Martin Brenig-Jones introduce the basics of Lean Six Sigma (LSS), along with some terminology and philosophy. They assert that the customer, not the organization, specifies value.

**Assessing Performance** – Good data and regular review and evaluation of data collection processes are necessary for process control and improvement. Data collection processes must be continuously honed to leverage the data, by asking questions (What? Why? How? When? Where? Who?). Chapter seven covers practical ways of reviewing and presenting the data, and chapter eight shows how to analyze performance, using some familiar tools and some Six Sigma mathematics.

**Improving the Processes** – Any process improvement effort involves boosting *value-add* steps and/or removing waste. Value-adding steps fit an agreed-upon definition. And the "Seven Wastes" help identify non-value-adding steps. The remainder of the section covers prevention, bottlenecks, and Design for Six Sigma.

*Design is a funny word. Some people think Design means how it looks. But, of course, if you dig deeper, it's really how it works. — Steve Jobs*

**Deploying Lean Six Sigma** – Successful deployment of LSS requires supportive leadership, the right projects, and the right tools and techniques. Chapter 18 has practical tools and techniques to manage and gauge critical people issues, including acceptance, change, culture, energy, and attitude.

## Highlights

The book has numerous tables, charts, and lists, which could be readily adapted and used in practice. These are a few of them:

- Key principals of Lean Six Sigma
- Prioritizing Projects - Criteria for Success
- Gaining acceptance and overcoming resistance
- Ten Best Practices, Ten Pitfalls to Avoid, and Ten Places to Go for Help.

*Lean Six Sigma for Dummies* also has page after page of examples and advice for setting up and practicing LSS:

- Development and regular use of a *storyboard* throughout the project
- Stories from Lean Six Sigma pioneers, such as Toyota and Ricoh, and their processes and practices that have helped define LSS
- Small bite-sized projects move your performance in the right direction
- Awareness that an introduction to Lean Six Sigma may need to be gradual.

## Highlights: What I liked!

According to the authors, each chapter is self-contained, and one could start with the section or chapter(s) of interest. However, they recommend readers new to the topic of Lean Six Sigma start at the beginning.

Lean Six Sigma terminology can be somewhat obscure to *LSS Outsiders*. The authors do use terms specific to LSS, but consistently define them and explain their use in general business terms.

## Who might benefit from the Book?

**Project Managers** – The authors frequently use charts, methods, benchmarks, and processes in the *PMBOK® Guide* (Project Management Body of Knowledge). PMPs (Project Management Professionals) and project managers familiar with PMI's (Project Management Institute) global standards would benefit from this book.

**Other Managers** – This book is also for other managers wanting to improve their organization's performance. It would benefit anyone considering or actively participating in any stage of Lean Six Sigma.

## Conclusion

***Lean Six Sigma For Dummies*** is a very good introduction to this structured approach to business improvements. Project managers will recognize practical applications for some familiar Tools and Techniques. Among Best Sellers in Six Sigma Quality Management, it is both a reference and a *how-to* resource.

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For more about this book, go to: <http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1119067359,subjectCd-BA32.html>

*Editor's note: This book review was the result of a partnership between the publisher, PM World and the [PMI Dallas Chapter](#). Authors and publishers provide the books to PM World; books are delivered to the PMI Dallas Chapter, where they are offered free to PMI members to review; book reviews are published in the PM World Journal and PM World Library. PMI Dallas Chapter members can keep the books as well as claim PDUs for PMP recertification when their reviews are published. Chapter members are generally mid-career professionals, the audience for most project management books. If you are an author or publisher of a project management-related book, and would like the book reviewed through this program, please contact [editor@peworldjournal.net](mailto:editor@peworldjournal.net).*

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## About the Reviewer



### Larry Barnett

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**Larry Barnett** has broad experience in information technology, IT Project Management, Business Analysis, and Solution Development and Delivery. His work experience covers a variety of industries, most recently, the Energy industry and Paper & Forest Products. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration, Accounting, from Texas Tech University. Larry is a member of the Project Management Institute, Dallas Chapter, having acquired PMP certification in 2015.

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