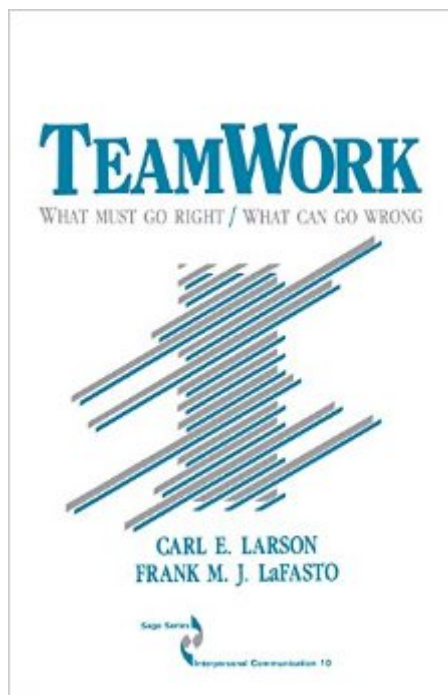


The book was found

# Teamwork: What Must Go Right/What Can Go Wrong (SAGE Series In Interpersonal Communication)



## Synopsis

What are the secrets of successful teams? Why do some teams achieve remarkable success while others fail or are consigned to mediocrity? To find the answers, Larson and LaFasto interviewed a wide range of teams, including the space shuttle Challenger investigation team and executive management teams, and discovered a surprising consistency in the characteristics of effective teams. The authors explore the eight properties of successful teams and examine priorities in building a high-performance team.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Larson and LaFasto put their outstanding research into easy-to-understand language. The book is foundation reading for executives and team members who want to understand the key variables that spell success for teams. And it's an easy-reading 138 pages presented so anyone (5th grade reading level!) can understand their findings. I know the authors, and have the utmost respect for their scientific methodology and experience. We use the matching team/ leadership assessment and training program to help client organizations plan, build, and fix their teams. Really an excellent

reader, and a foundation of our consulting practice.

These authors studied all different sorts of teams (everything from a Mount Everest expedition and a Notre Dame championship football teams to the group that invented Chicken McNuggets) in order to determine what they had in common. The book is highly readable and describes eight common principles that could be implemented to improve the function of any team. It is also full of interesting comments and stories from the study. I highly recommend the book for any team member (not only managers) since the book also clearly describes how the individual can influence the success of the entire team.

There's an enormous amount of reading material on teams and teamwork and this book is one of the best. Its highly rational approach condenses studies of high performing teams. The authors found eight common characteristics and explain in enough detail why they are important. They include excerpts from the leaders and teams they have studied. They also state that the two most common reasons for team failure are politics and personal agendas. They include a quote from Duke Drake: "The minute the politicians take over and start worrying about what's in it for me, you're dead in the water."

I have purchased several copies of TEAMWORK over the years. Most recently as a gift for a client who is the VP of HR in a large manufacturing company. I have found this study of teamwork to be the best and most practical discussion of what it really takes to make a team successful that I have come across in my 20 years as an executive coach. My clients are very interested in how to build more effective teams, and want to know what really works and what doesn't. The discoveries of Carl Larson and Frank LaFasto in their years of research have proven to be of great value to dozens of team I have coached - from small family-owned enterprises to Fortune 500 companies. For example, knowing that no team is likely to survive for long without a clear elevating goal, standards of excellence, and competent team members has been a critical initial lesson in many cases. And recognizing that early indications of a team in decline includes team members beginning to loose their unified commitment and when the collaborative climate fades - these insights have also proven to be of great value to many of the teams I have assisted. I have not found a clearer, more comprehensive explanation of how and why effective teams develop than Larson and LaFasto's presentation of the crucial eight characteristics. Kenton R. Hill, CMCP  
Principal Consultant  
KRH Consulting[...]

This book was really helpful for me. I work with athletes and soldiers teaching principles of sport psychology and this book was a foundational piece of my education. I recommend anyone who works with teams reads it.

This a great book about teamwork. I have many books but this is the most academic and yet useful book that I have found. I highly recommend this if you want to understand how to build a system of teamwork. It is the best book I have found out there on this subject.

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