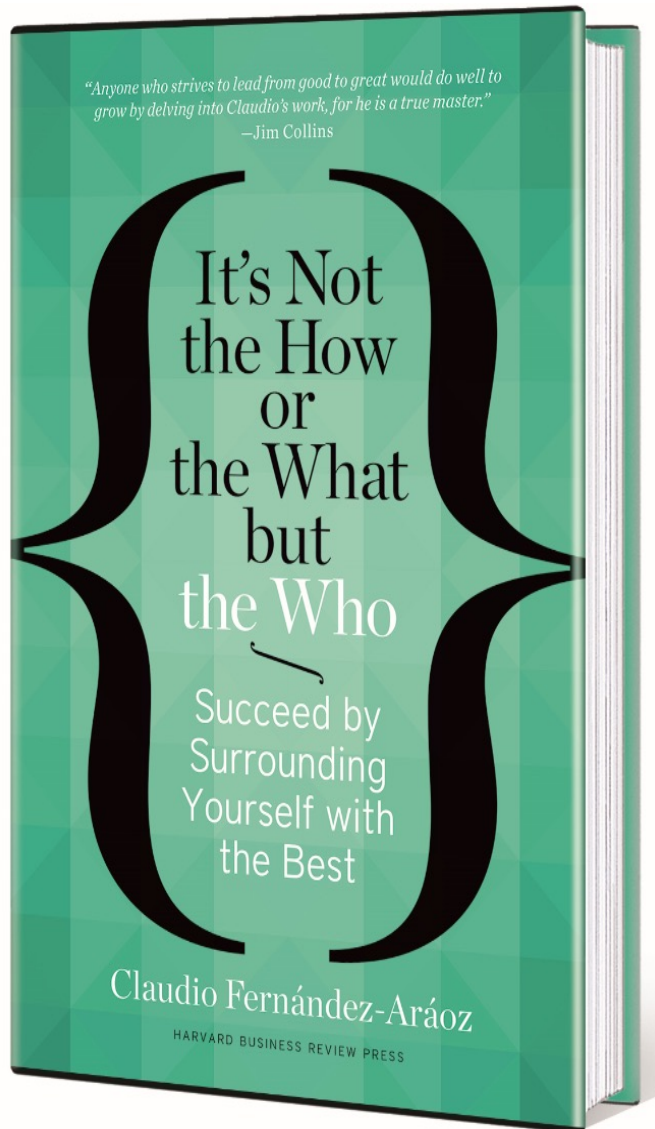


The Science of Great People Decisions



Harvard Business Review



HBR.ORG JUNE 2014

SPOTLIGHT
**ARE INVESTORS
BAD FOR BUSINESS?**
The Capitalist's Dilemma
Clayton M. Christensen and
Derek van Bever 60

The Price of Wall
Street's Power
Gautam Mukunda 70

Managing Investors
An interview with Sam Palmisano 80



Great people decisions are the key for success

People decisions are very hard

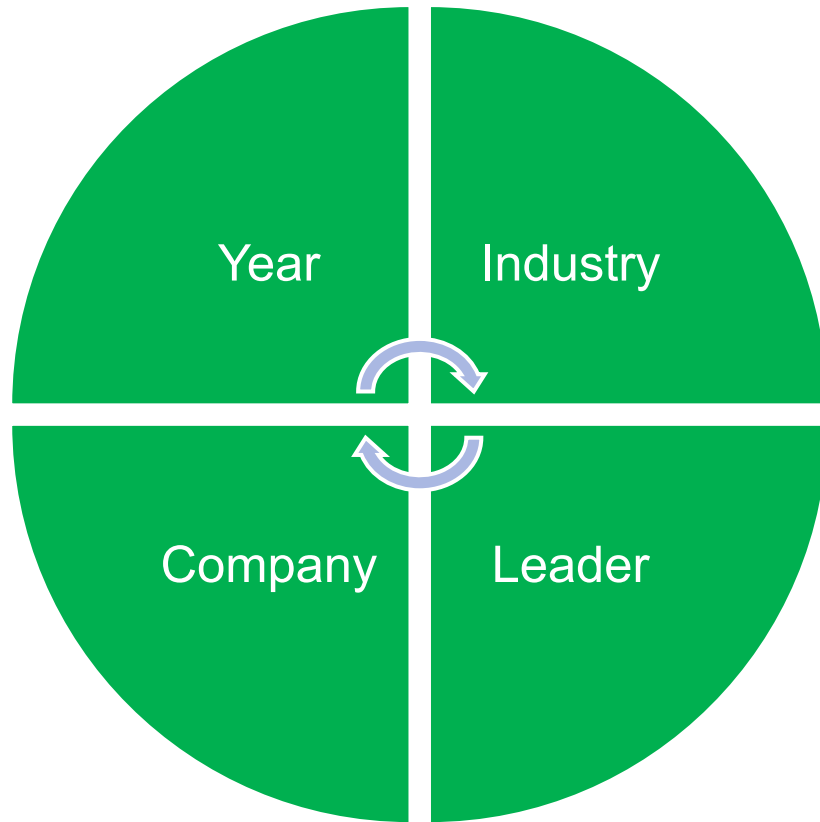
What to look for in a candidate

Where to look for the best candidates

How to assess them

Making the best greater each day

Choosing the right leader is the key for company value



Just 4 factors explain 2/3 of the variance in company value

The leader effect accounts for up to 40% of the variance in value

It is by far the most important controllable factor

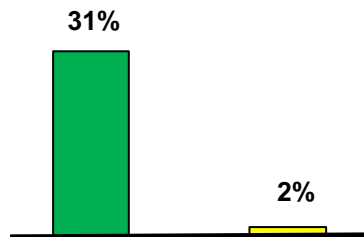
A high return on leadership happens in any market

% Revenue CAGR (2001-2007)

COMPANY EXAMPLES



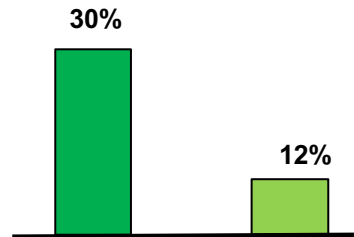
Banking Example (Europe)



Top Talent
Company
Growth

Banking
Market
Growth

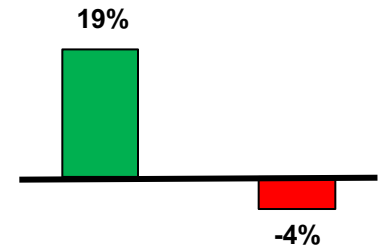
Telecommunication Example (Germany)



Top Talent
Company
Growth

Banking
Market
Growth

Energy Example (Norway)



Top Talent
Company
Growth

Banking
Market
Growth

Disciplined people decisions create extraordinary value

#1



Amazon

#3



Vale

Sector	High-tech	≠	Mining
Stage	Start-up	≠	Old, Privatized
Country	U.S.	≠	Brazil
Growth	Organic, Domestic	≠	Organic + M&A, Global
Business	B2C	≠	B2B

Value Creation	111 billion \$	157 billion \$
Industry-adjusted return	12,266 %	1,773 %
Country-adjusted return	12,431 %	934 %

Great people decisions are the key for success

People decisions are very hard

What to look for in a candidate

Where to look for the best candidates

How to assess them

Making the best greater each day

EXERCISE: Impact of assessment errors

Assumptions

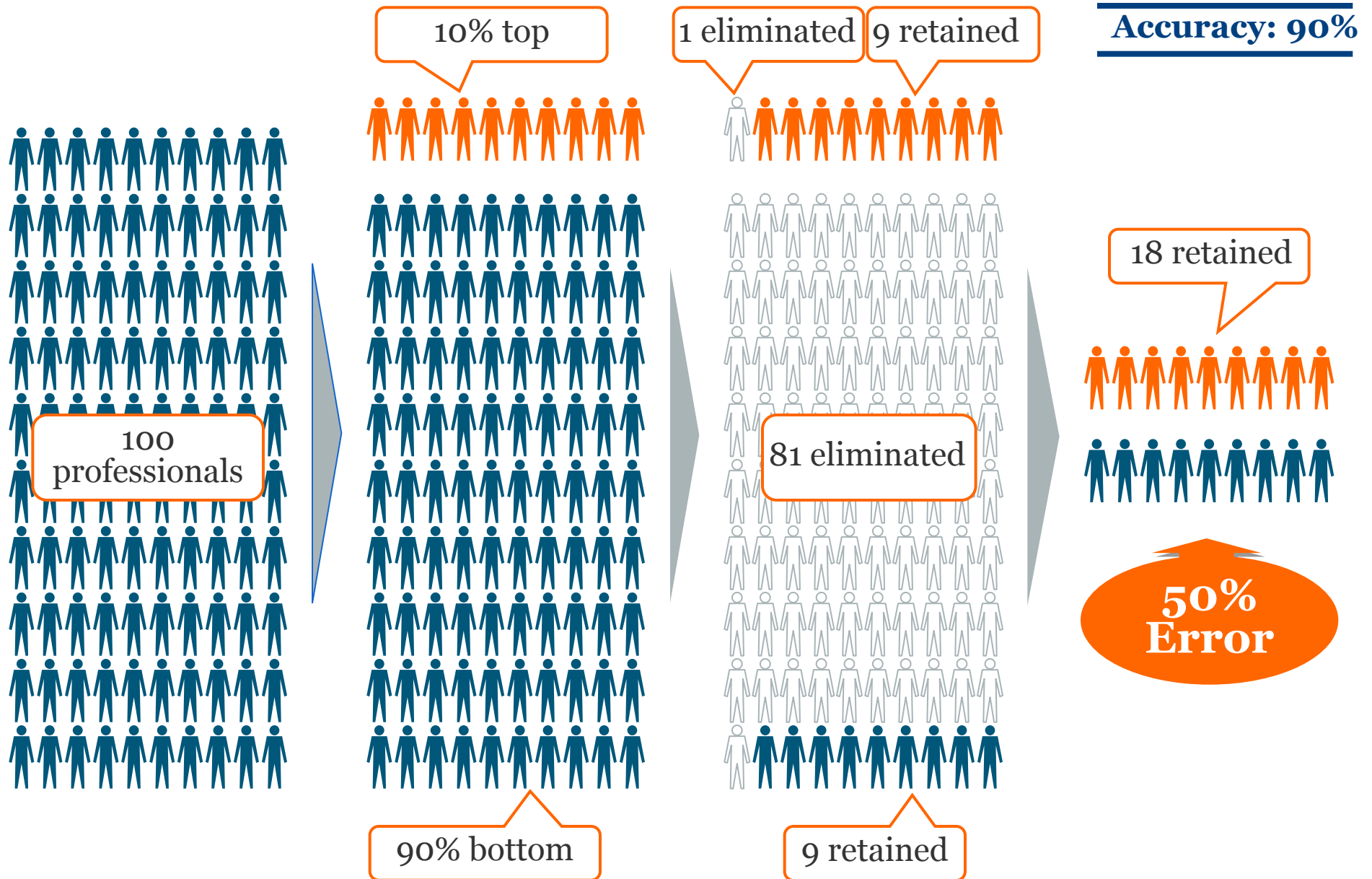
- 1 Intention to hire only “Top 10%”
- 2 90% accuracy of assessments

Question

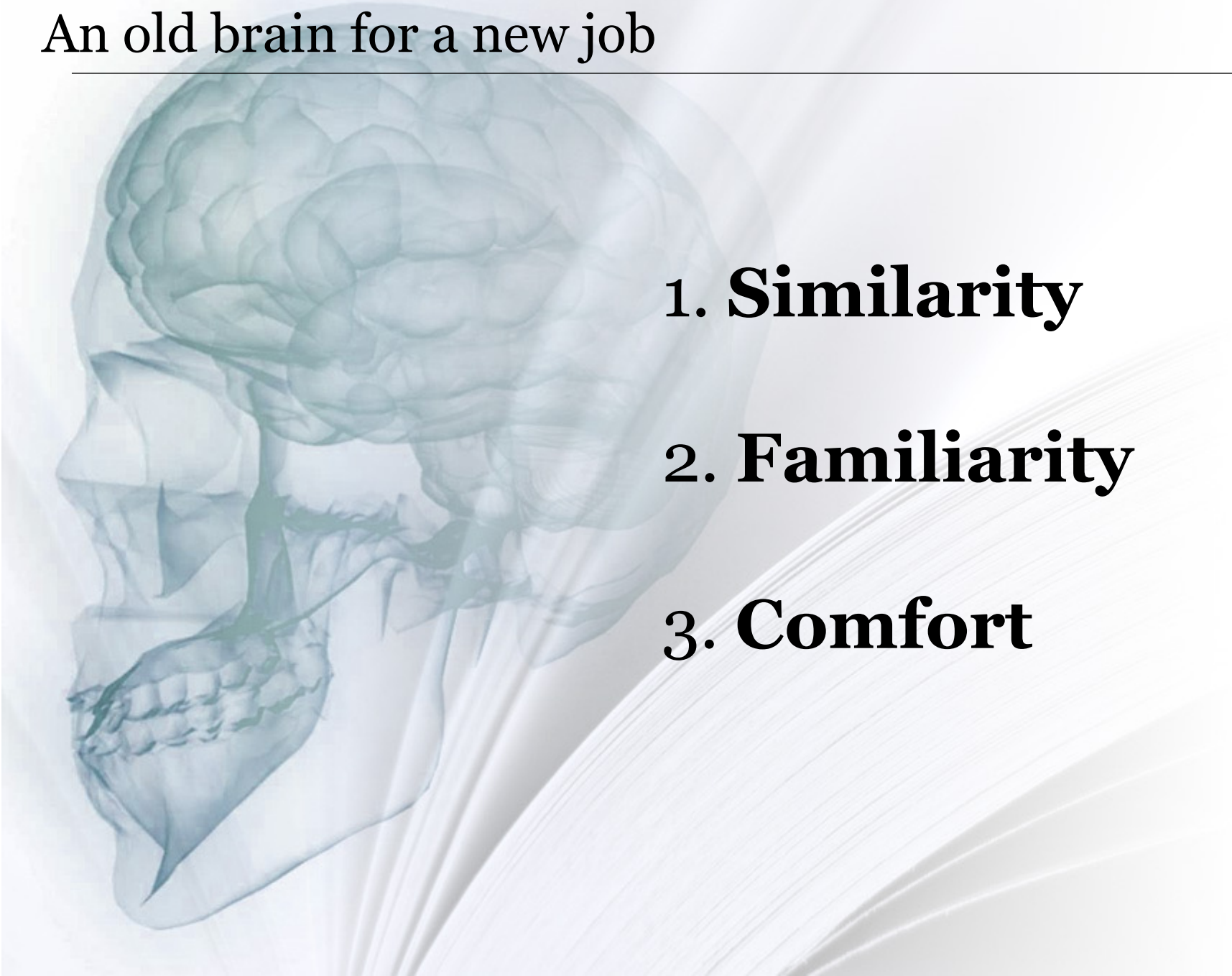


**What percentage of “Top 10%”
will we actually hire?**

The odds are against us!



An old brain for a new job



1. Similarity

2. Familiarity

3. Comfort

Great people decisions are the key for success

People decisions are very hard

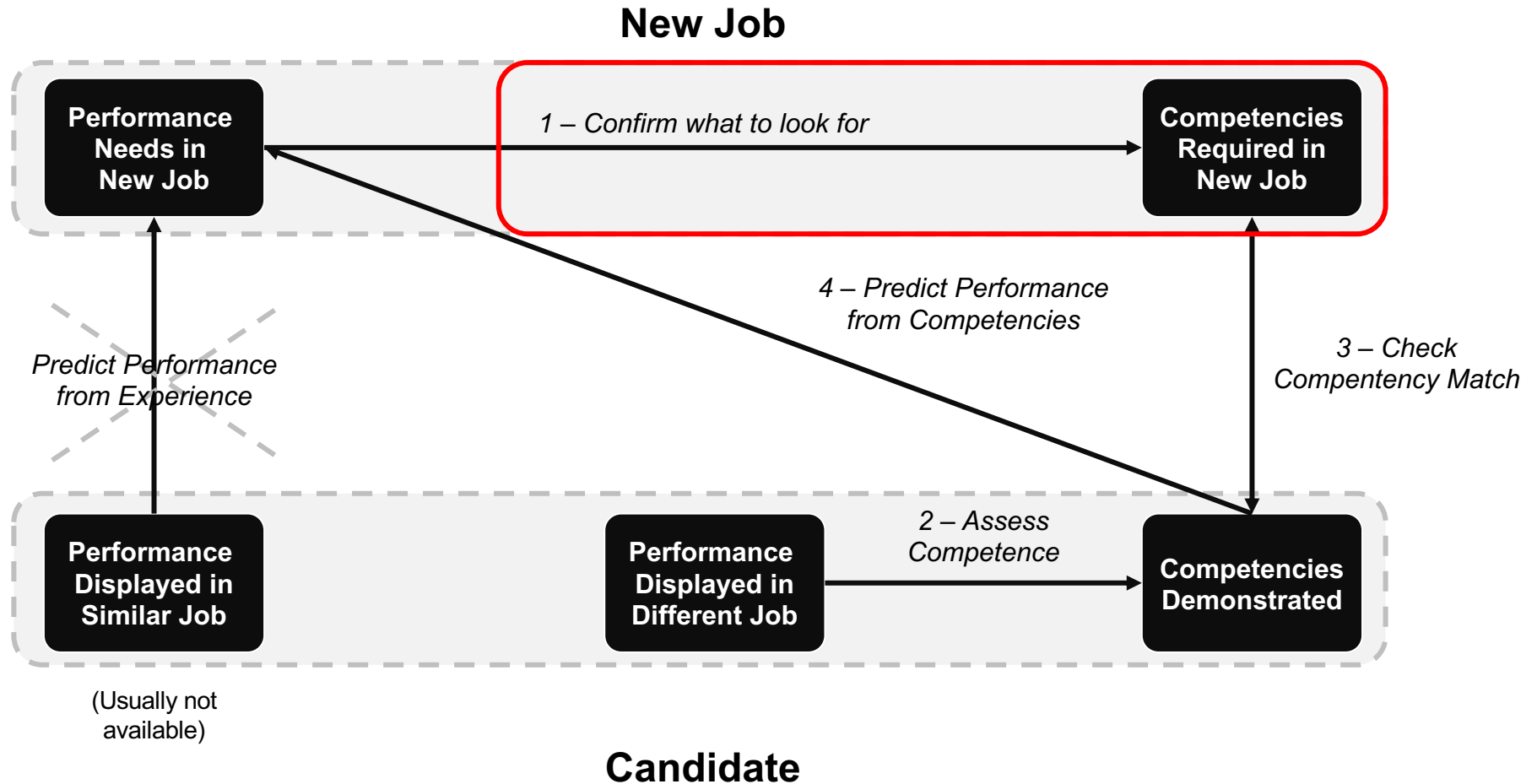
What to look for in a candidate

Where to look for the best candidates

How to assess them

Making the best greater each day

Each job requires specific competencies



Required competencies for key roles

Case example



CEO

Mission

Set and drive a new company vision under new digital era



CFO & CSO

Develop and implement new strategies under a new vision



Head of Business Units

Drive a large global organization to achieve the budget

Competencies

Change Leadership
Strategic Orientation
Market Insight
Results Orientation
Collaboration
Building Org. Capability
Inclusiveness
Team Leadership

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Change Leadership					◆		
Strategic Orientation						◆	
Market Insight				◆			
Results Orientation					◆		
Collaboration				◆			
Building Org. Capability				◆			
Inclusiveness					◆		
Team Leadership					◆		

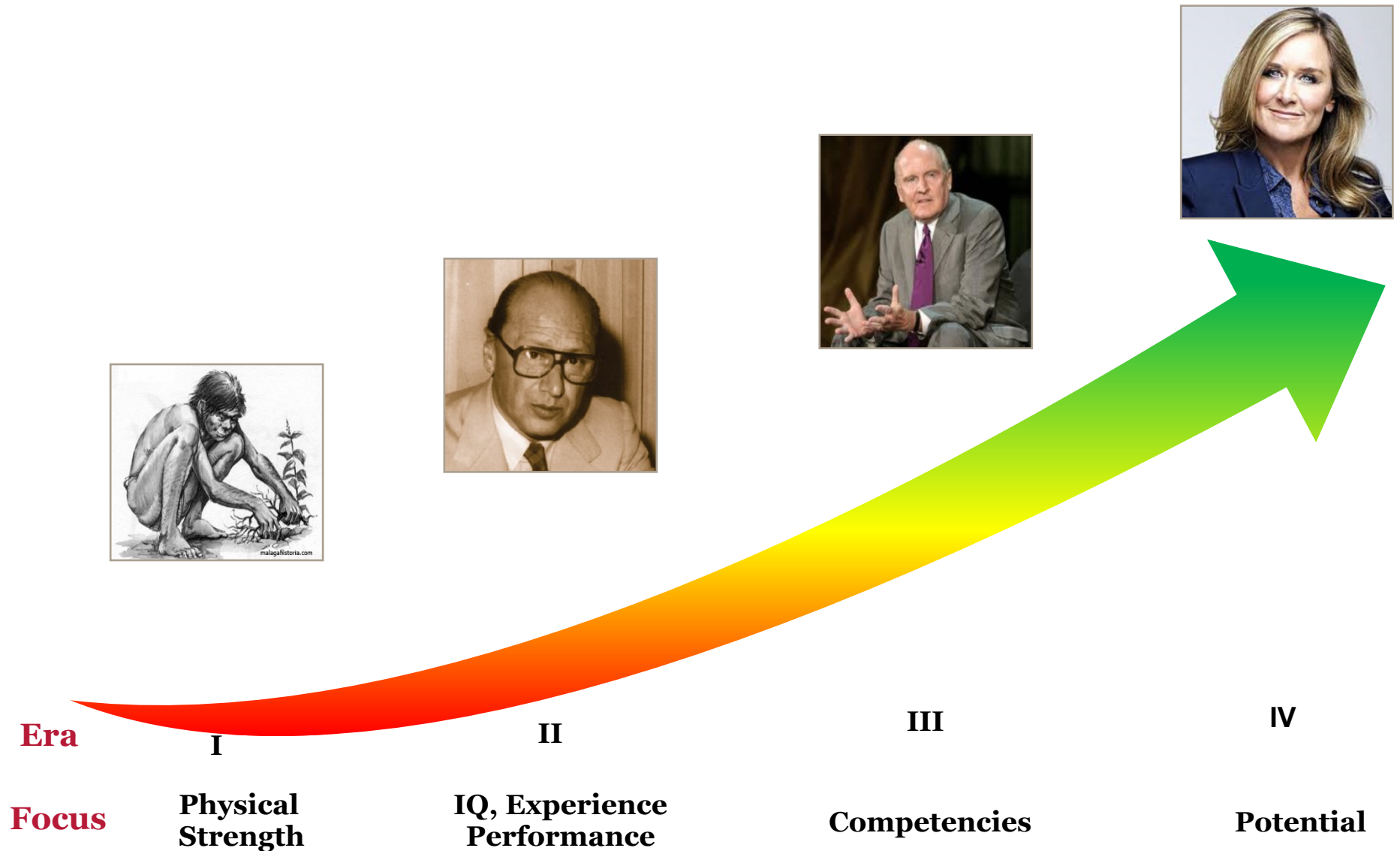
CL
ST
MI
RO
C&I
BOC
IN
TL

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CL					◆		
ST					◆		
MI				◆			
RO				◆			
C&I					◆		
BOC			◆				
IN				◆			
TL				◆			

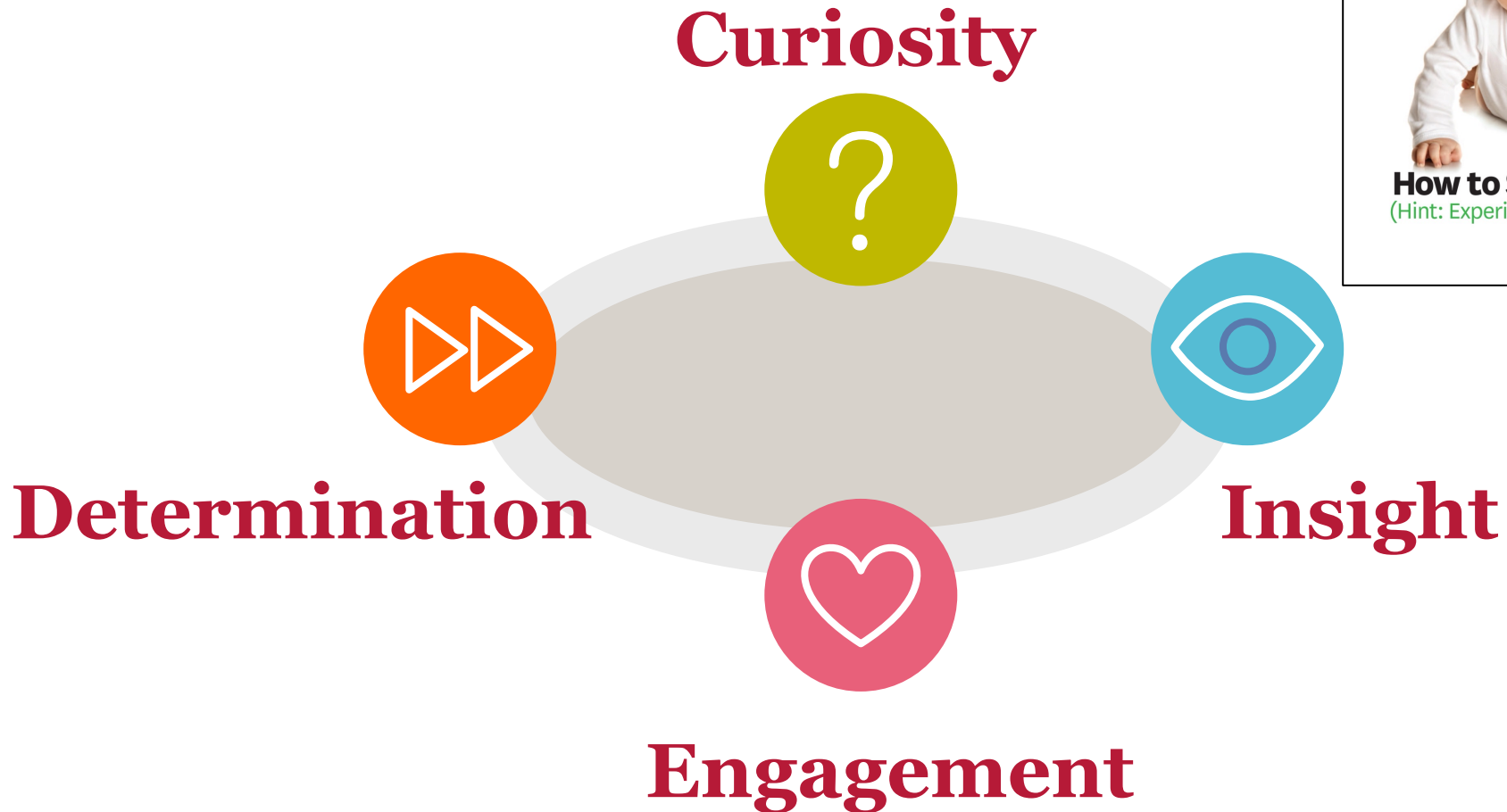
CL
ST
MI
RO
C&I
BOC
IN
TL

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
CL				◆			
ST			◆				
MI				◆			
RO					◆		
C&I				◆			
BOC					◆		
IN					◆		
TL					◆		

A new era of talent spotting: Potential is key!



Indicators of Executive Potential



Foundation: The Right Motivation

Great people decisions are the key for success

People decisions are very hard

What to look for in a candidate

Where to look for the best candidates

How to assess them

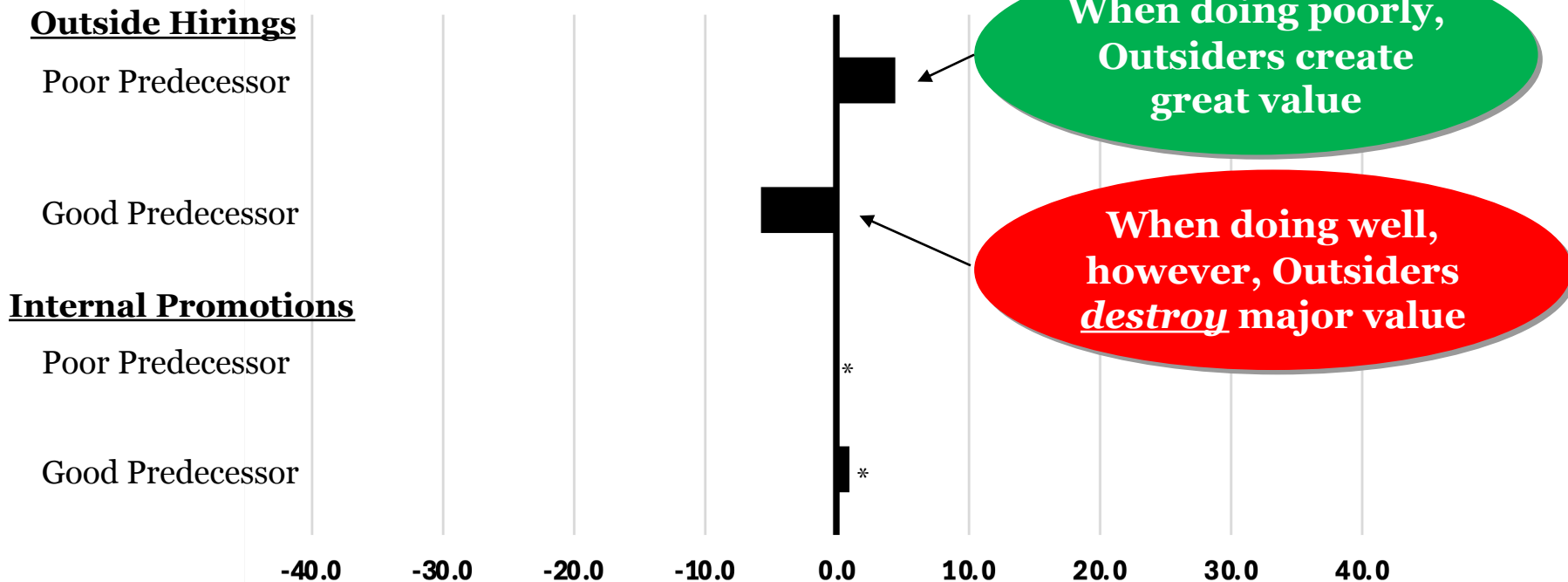
Making the best greater each day

Should we promote from inside or hire from outside?

Poll
2

On average...

Change Ind. Adj. Oper. Returns, % points



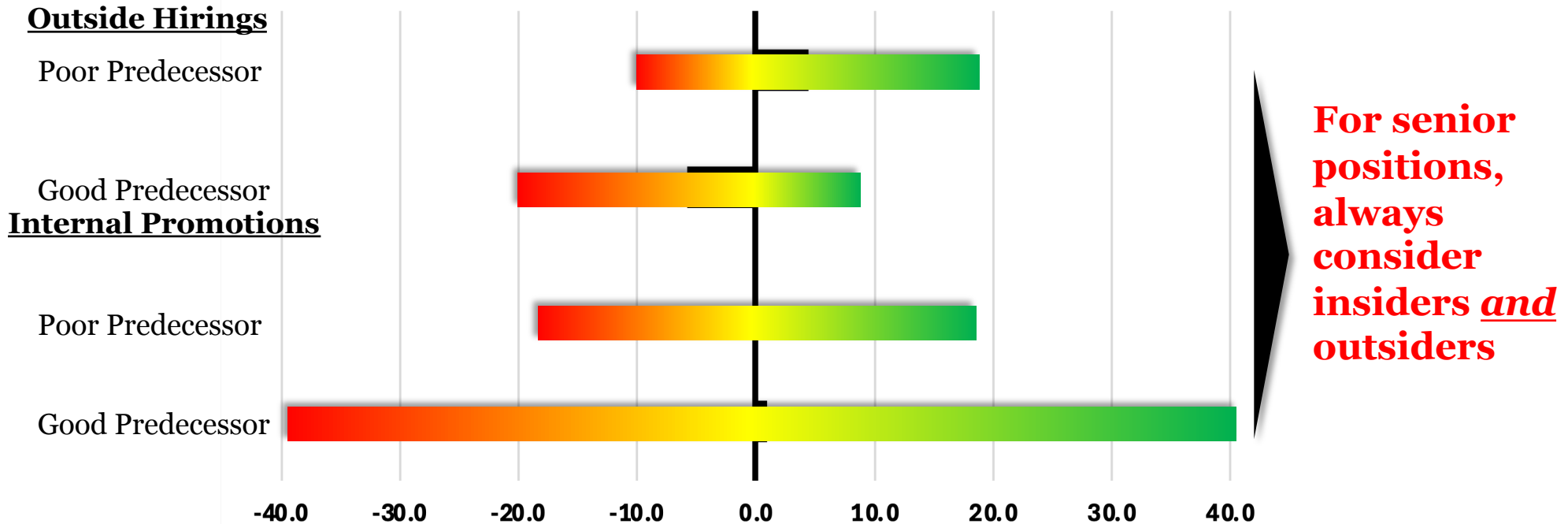
* Changes for internal promotions were statistically insignificant

Source: The Performance Impact of New CEOs, MIT Sloan Management Review

Should we promote from inside or hire from outside? (cont.)

*Average effects are irrelevant when variance is high.
What matters is the range of performance impact*

Change Ind. Adj. Oper. Returns, % points



* Changes for internal promotions were statistically insignificant

Source: The Performance Impact of New CEOs, MIT Sloan Management Review, CFA analysis

The value of investing in executive searches

$$\text{Expected Value}^* = e_n \cdot \sigma \cdot \underbrace{V \cdot \rho}_{\text{Assessment Quality}} - C_n - X_c$$

Candidates Considered (points to e_n)
Job Complexity (points to σ)
Assessment Quality (points to $V \cdot \rho$)
Search Cost (points to C_n)
Pay Premium (points to X_c)

Factor	Definition	Implication
e_n	Expected value of the maximum of a random sample of size n from a standardized normal population	A large number of potential candidates should be generated.
σ	Standard deviation of the candidate's performance	The more complex the job, the higher is the expected value of investing in people decisions.
V	Validity of the assessment criteria	Understanding the competencies required for unique jobs becomes critical.
ρ	Reliability of the assessment of candidates	For senior positions, highly competent evaluators need to be involved, in a process of high integrity, including reliable reference checking.
C_n	Cost of generating, assessing, and hiring the best candidates	Given the low frequency and high specialization needed, professional help is usually highly cost effective for senior levels.
X_c	Extra cost of the hired candidate compared with the average candidate	In order to maximize value, conflicts should be avoided (such as percentage fees for search services).

Diminishing returns of candidate generation

Expected Value

$$e_n \sigma \cdot V \cdot \rho - C_n - X_c$$

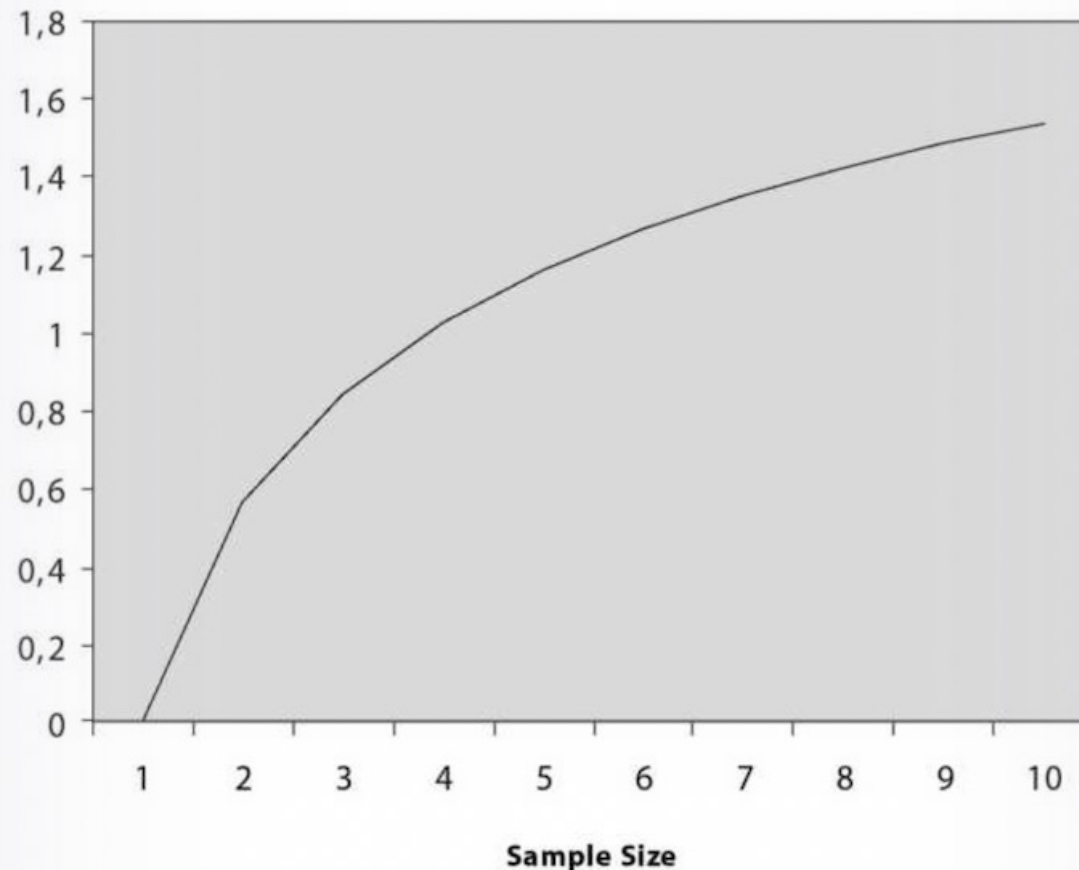
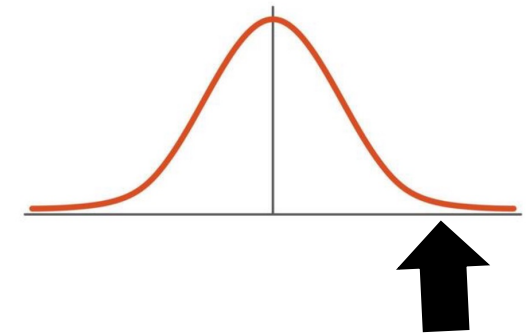


FIGURE 6.3 Expected Value of the Maximum of a Standardized Normal Distribution

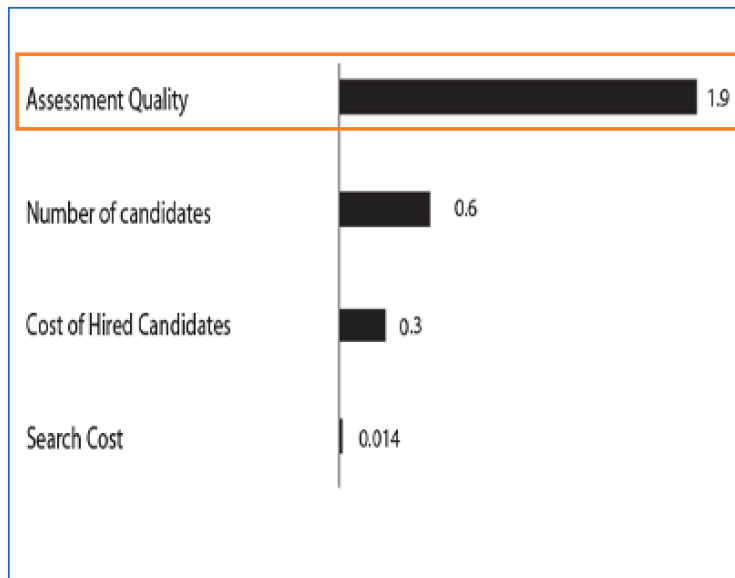


A dozen candidates properly sourced are usually enough

Improving the quality of assessment is the key

$$\text{Expected Value} = e_n \cdot c_n \cdot V \cdot \rho \cdot C_n - X_c$$

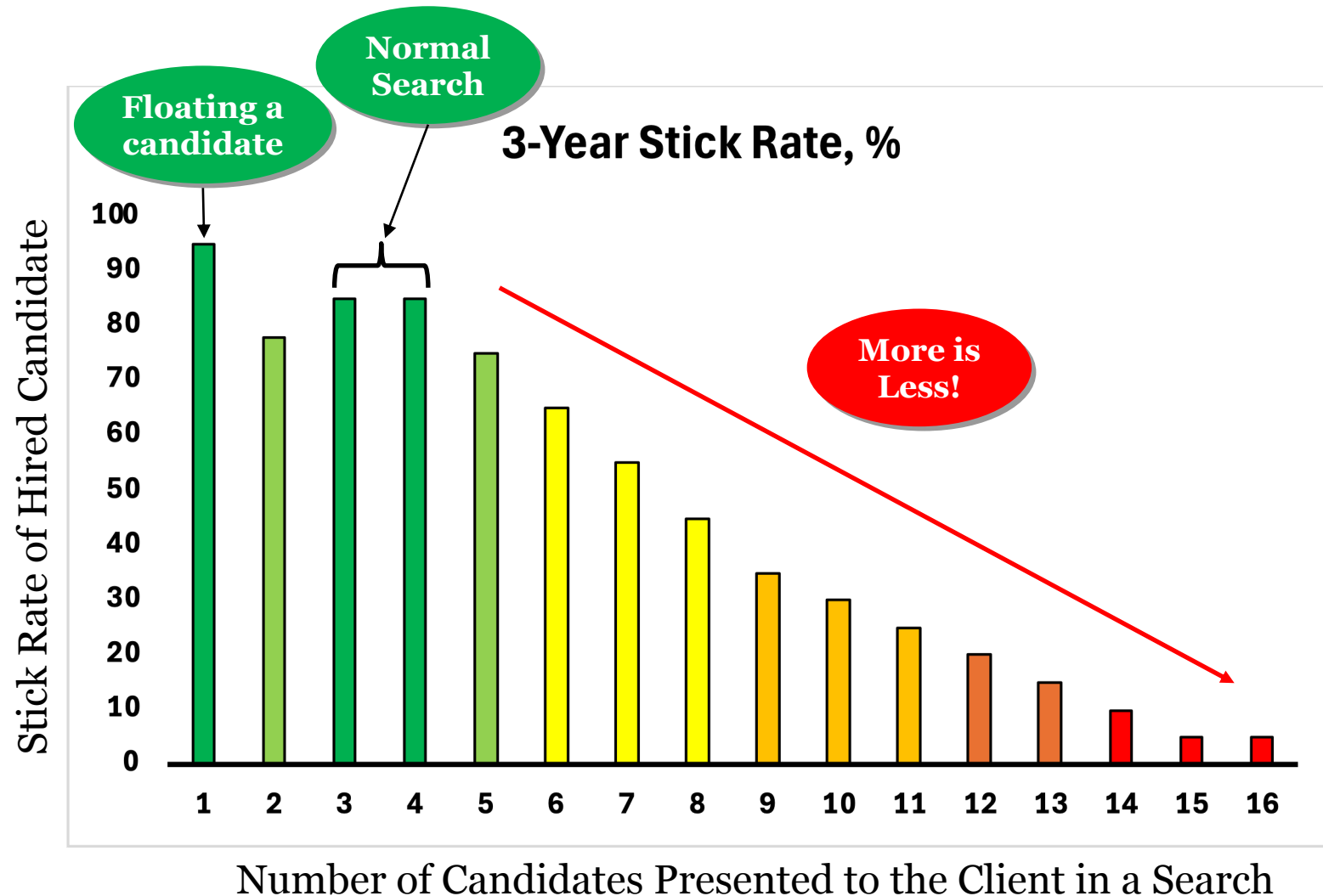
Change in yearly profits assuming a 10% improvement in each parameter *



- **Improving the quality of candidates' assessment has by far the largest payoff**
- **It is 3 times more valuable than generating more candidates**
- **The extra cost of a thorough search is negligible compared with the expected return**

* Source: *Great People Decisions*, example for the search of the CEO of a \$ 50 million profit company. In this example, a 10% increase in the assessment quality generates \$2 M additional profits and \$40 M additional company value.

When conducting a search, push for quality over quantity



Great people decisions are the key for success

People decisions are very hard

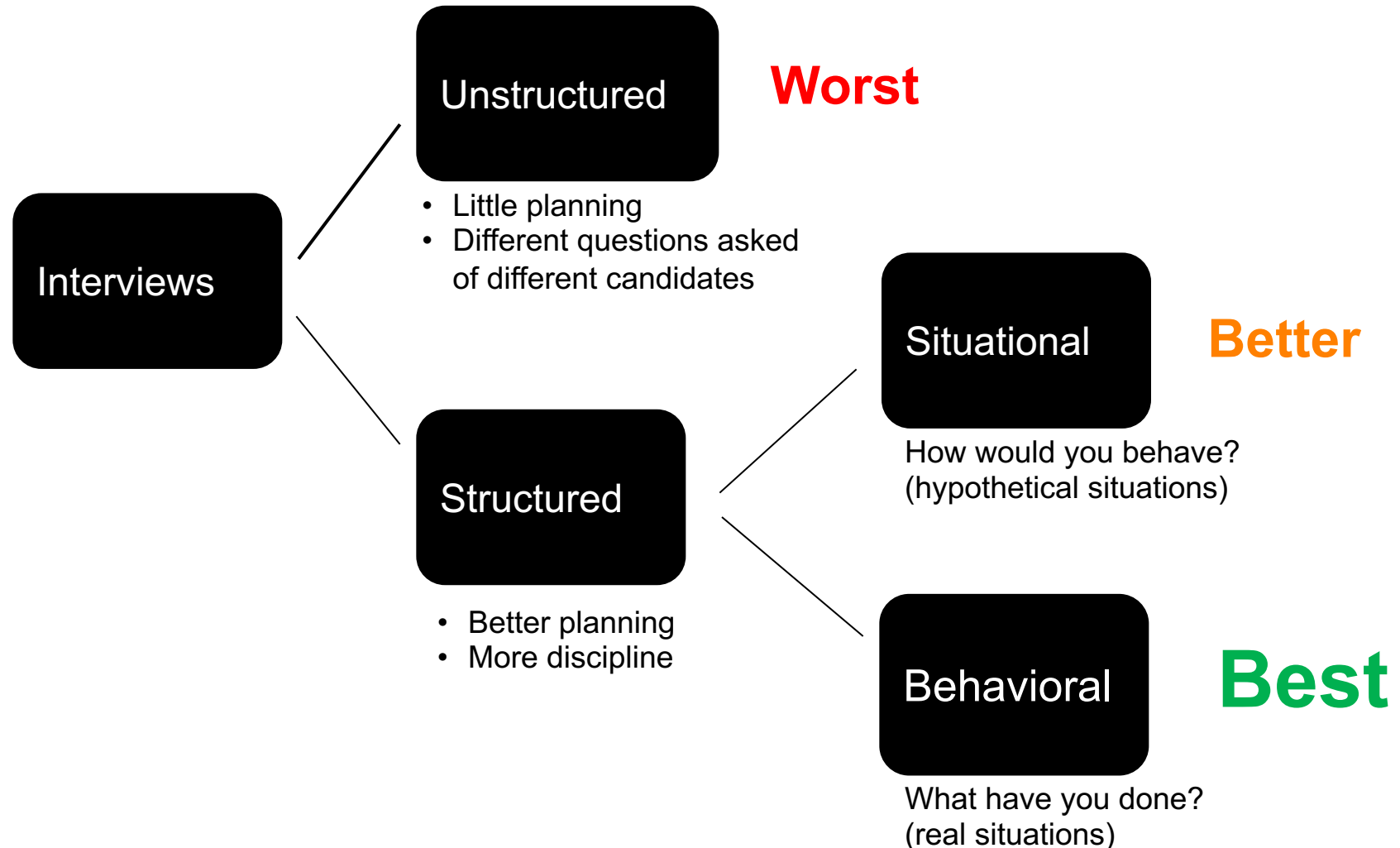
What to look for in a candidate

Where to look for the best candidates

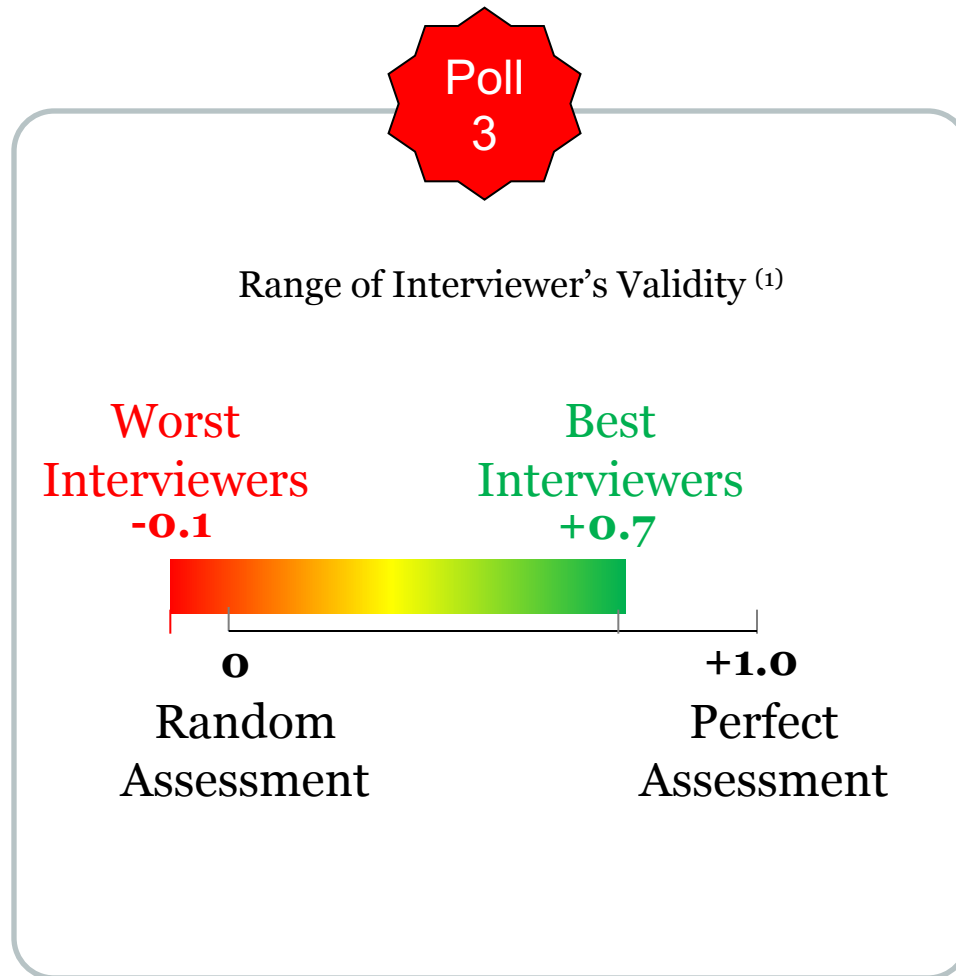
How to assess them

Making the best greater each day

Use the right type of interview



Involve the Right Interviewers



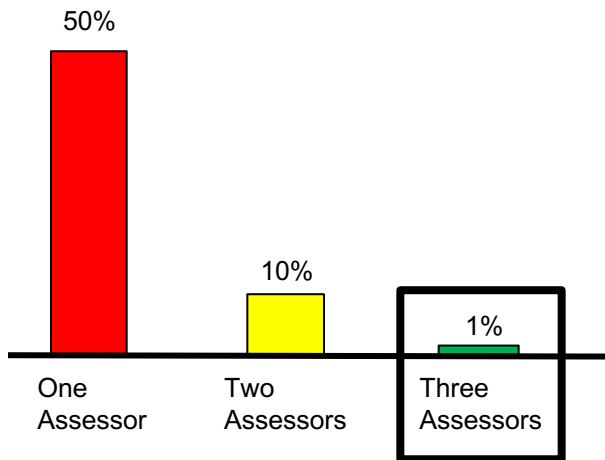
Huge range.

Involve the right people!

(1) Source: Pulakos, E.D., Schmitt, N., Whitney, D. & Smith, M. (1996). "Individual differences in interviewer ratings: The impact of standardization, consensus discussion, and sampling error on the validity of a structured interview." *Personnel Psychology*, 49, 85-102

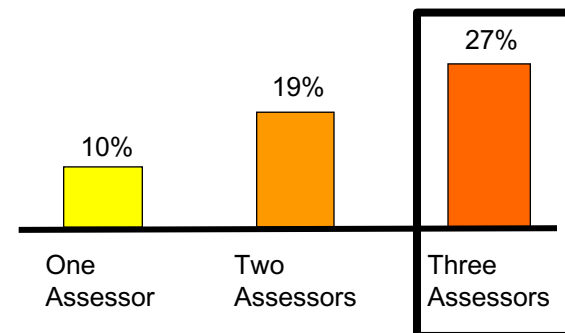
How many interviewers should you have?

Probability of *Hiring the Wrong* Candidates



By adding “sequential filters” you reduce the chances of hiring the wrong candidates ⁽¹⁾

Probability of *Rejecting the Right* Candidates



However, adding filters also increase the chances of rejecting the right candidates and damage the candidate experience ⁽¹⁾

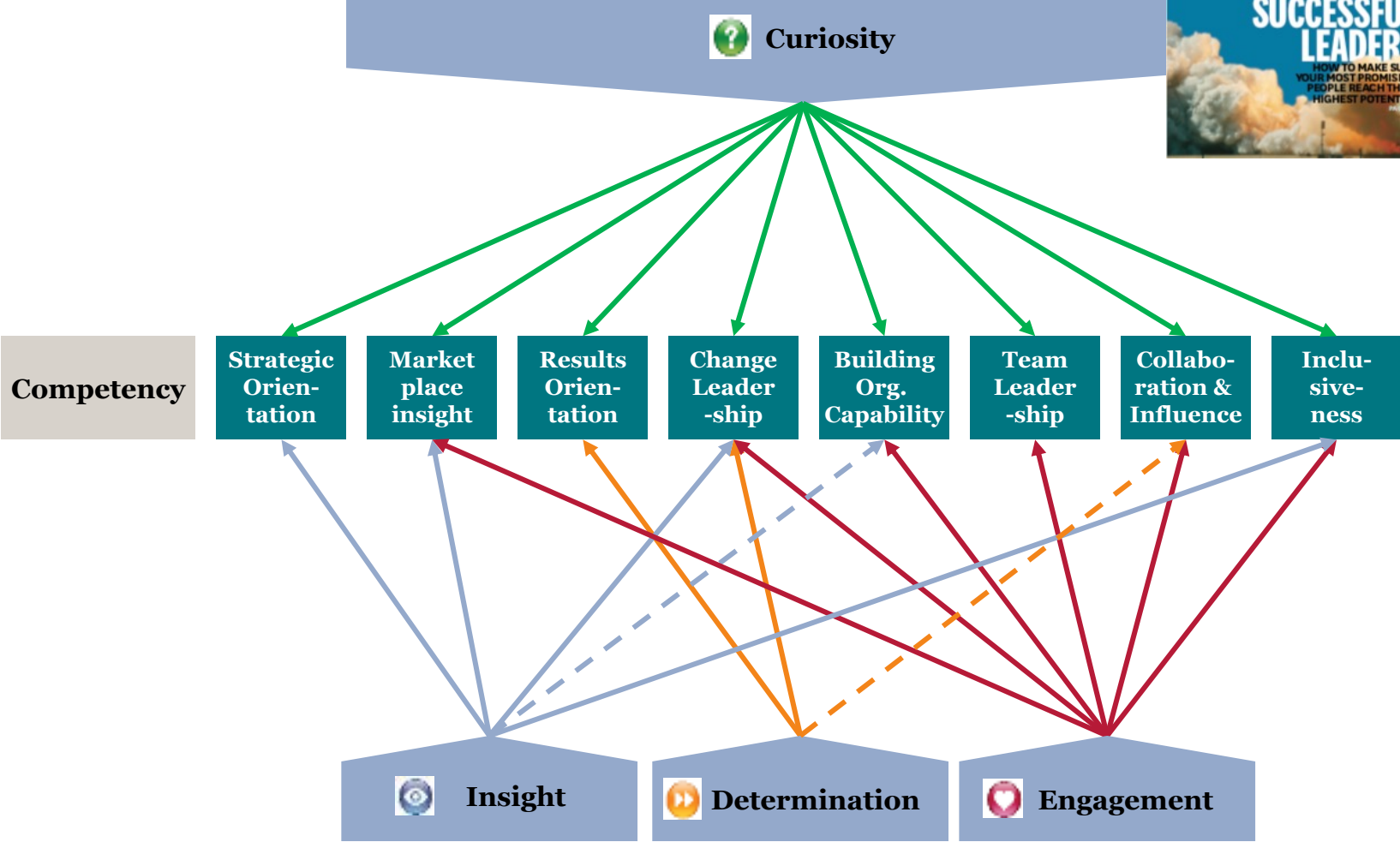
⁽¹⁾ Assumes you want to hire only “top 10%” candidates, and also assumes you are 90% accurate in your assessments

Carefully check references

Best practice for reference check involves

- **Deciding whom to call**
 - Not just the names provided
 - Depending on the type of competencies or potential indicators you try to assess
- **Approaching them as a structured, behaviorally-based interview**
 - Focusing on the relevant competencies or potential indicators
 - With well-planned, disciplined questioning and probing

Consider each candidate's potential *profile*



Competencies and Potential Indicators Correlations

Turning Potential into Success

	1	2	3	4	5	6
RESULTS ORIENTATION PREDICTED BY • DETERMINATION • CURIOSITY	Completes assignments	Works to make things better	Achieves goals	Exceeds goals	Improves firm's practices and performance	Redesigns practices for breakthrough results
STRATEGIC ORIENTATION PREDICTED BY • INSIGHT • CURIOSITY	Understands immediate issues	Defines plan within larger strategy	Sets multiyear priorities	Defines multiyear strategy for own area	Changes business strategy in multiple areas	Creates high-impact corporate strategy
COLLABORATION AND INFLUENCE PREDICTED BY • ENGAGEMENT • DETERMINATION • CURIOSITY	Responds to requests	Supports colleagues	Actively engages with colleagues	Motivates others to work with self	Facilitates cross-group collaboration	Establishes collaborative culture
TEAM LEADERSHIP PREDICTED BY • ENGAGEMENT • CURIOSITY	Directs work	Explains what to do and why	Gets input from team	Inspires team commitment	Empowers teams to work independently	Motivates diverse teams to perform
DEVELOPING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPABILITIES PREDICTED BY • ENGAGEMENT • INSIGHT • CURIOSITY	Supports development efforts	Encourages others to develop	Actively supports team members' growth	Systematically builds team's capability	Aids development outside team	Builds organizational capability
CHANGE LEADERSHIP PREDICTED BY • ENGAGEMENT • DETERMINATION • INSIGHT • CURIOSITY	Accepts change	Supports change	Points out need for change	Makes compelling case for change	Mobilizes others to initiate change	Drives firmwide momentum for change
MARKET UNDERSTANDING PREDICTED BY • INSIGHT • CURIOSITY	Knows immediate context	Knows general marketplace basics	Investigates market and customer dynamics	Deeply understands market	Generates insights about market's future	Identifies emerging business opportunities
INCLUSIVENESS PREDICTED BY • ENGAGEMENT • INSIGHT • CURIOSITY	Accepts different views	Understands diverse views	Integrates other points of view	Functions well across diverse groups	Facilitates engagement between factions	Strategically increases employee diversity
						Creates inclusive culture



Deciding a promotion

 Target current role
 Target next role

Past

Long term track record

Essential experience



Present

Strategic Orientation

Market Understanding

Change Leadership

Customer Impact

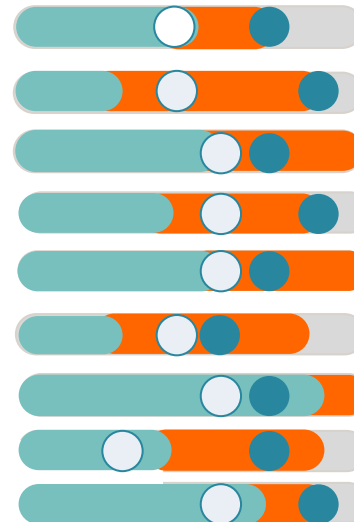
Results Orientation

Collaboration & Influence

Team Leadership

Building Organizational Capabilities

Commercial Orientation



Future

Individual potential



Choosing the best successor

Present

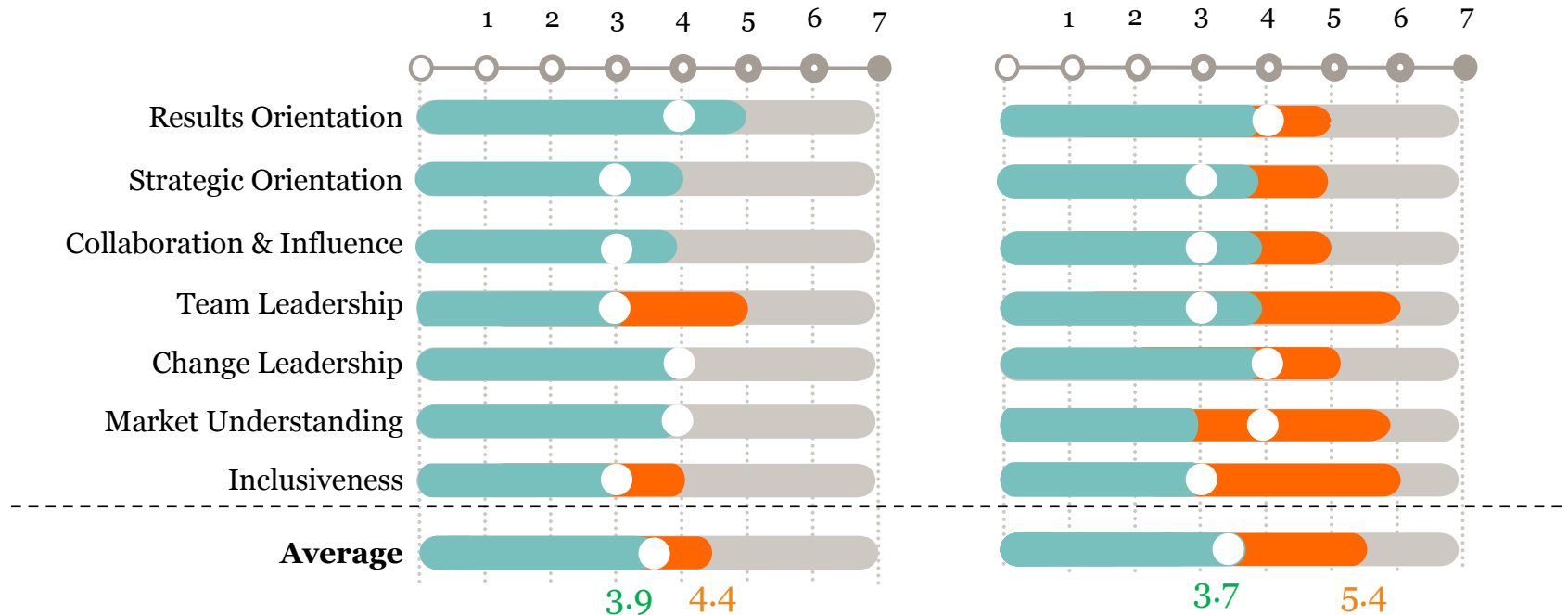
Competencies



Mr. X

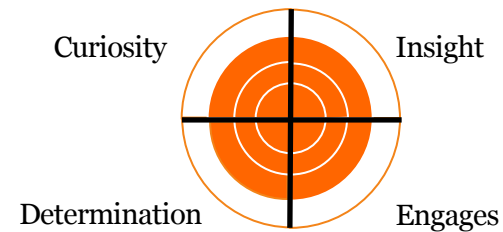


Mr. Y



Future

Potential



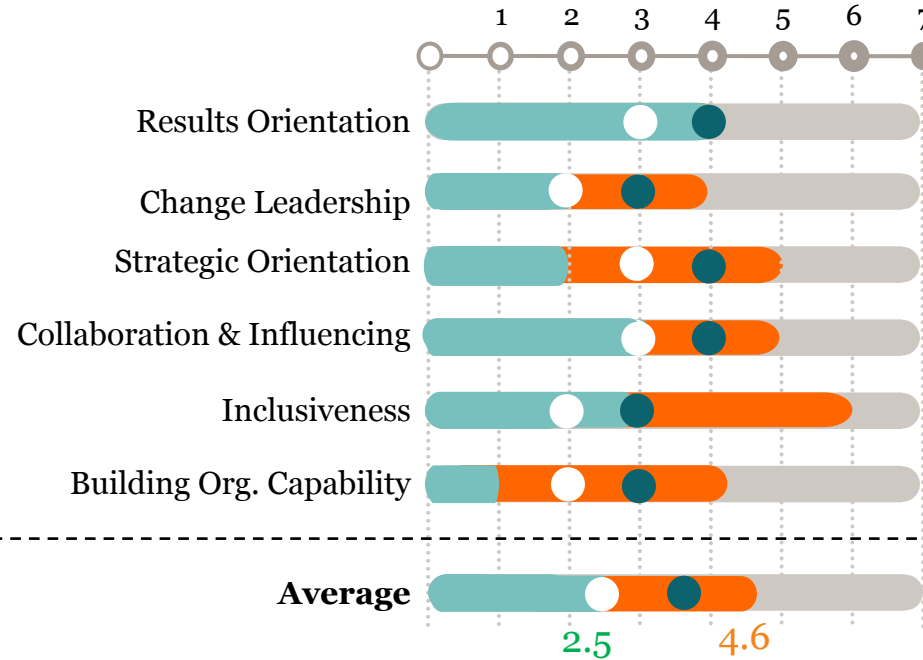
Fostering diversity

Present

Competencies

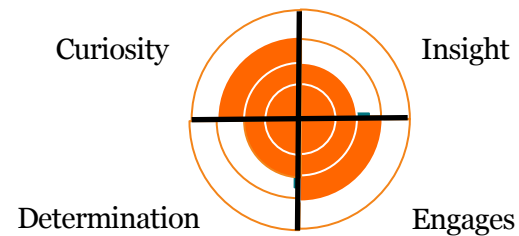


Ms. Z



Future

Potential



Great people decisions are the key for success

People decisions are very hard

What to look for in a candidate

Where to look for the best candidates

How to assess them

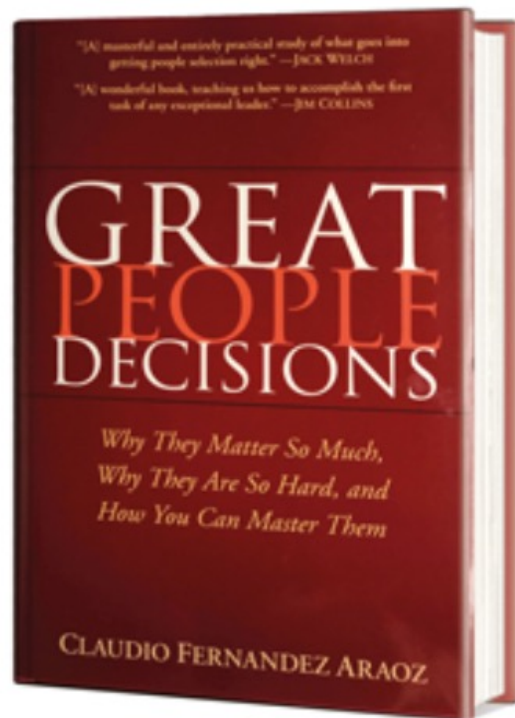
Making the best greater each day

First, you need to attract, retain and motivate the best

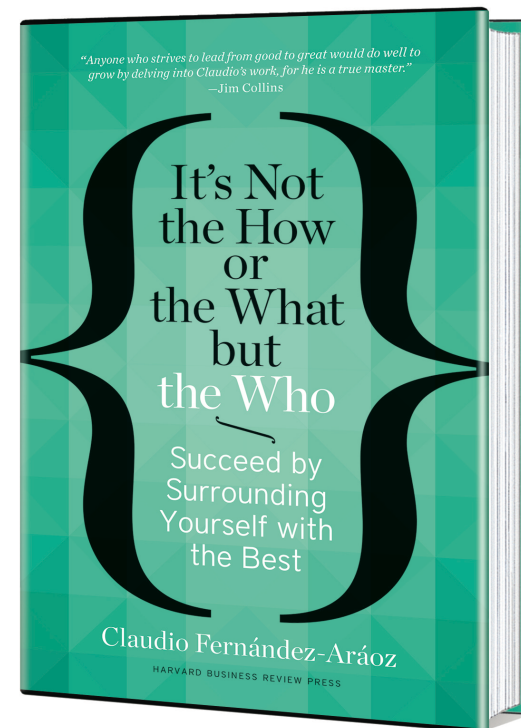
- **It's NOT (mostly) about Money**
- **Realistic Job Previews**
- **Proper Onboarding**
- **Never Tolerating Bad Bosses**
- **Motivating the Best: Autonomy, Purpose and Mastery**

Finally, adjust rotations to competency development needs

	Leading a Large Organization	Managing a P&L	Leading Multiple Regions or Businesses	Managing a Corporate-Wide Function	Running a Start-up Operation	Overseeing a Restructuring
Results Orientation		●			●	●
Strategic Orientation				●	●	
Collaboration & Influence			●	●		
Team Leadership	●	●				●
Developing Organizational Capabilities	●				●	
Change Leadership				●		●
Market Understanding		●	●		●	
Inclusiveness			●	●		



[Great People Decisions](#)



[It's Not the How or the What
but the Who](#)

Links to relevant resources (cont.)

fernandez-araoz.com

Hiring Top Executives: A Comprehensive End-to-End Process			
	POOR PRACTICES	BEST PRACTICES	IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES
1 Anticipate the Need	- Hiring only when you have an opening - Having an ad hoc succession plan - Overlooking the skills your organization will need in the future - Indulging in irrational optimism about attrition, succession depth, and recruiting yields	- Conducting ongoing, proactive analysis of future needs - Continually evaluating the pool of potential talent - Developing rigorous periodic forecasts of the company's talent needs	- Linking your talent plan to your strategic plan - Incorporating input from HR professionals into the strategic-planning process
2 Specify the Job	- Relying on generic competency models - Looking primarily for charisma, general ability, and track record	- Defining the specific demands of the job - Specifying which skills and experience are relevant - Identifying the team the candidate will need to work with or recruit - Considering how company culture and context affect the role	- Ensuring a close dialogue between HR and top management - Building up front consensus among key decision makers about job requirements
3 Develop the Pool	- Taking a scattershot, ad hoc approach to finding candidates - Limiting the pool - Looking for only external candidates or only internal candidates	- Developing a large pool - Including insiders, outsiders, inside-outsiders, and outside insiders - Considering people on the periphery of the organization: employees in remote offices, consultants, suppliers, customers - Tapping your networks and involving the right external partners - Asking candidates' peers for nominations	- Transcending organizational silos - Encouraging open discussion at the top about when and how to conduct external talent searches

The Definitive Guide to Recruitment in Good Times and Bad



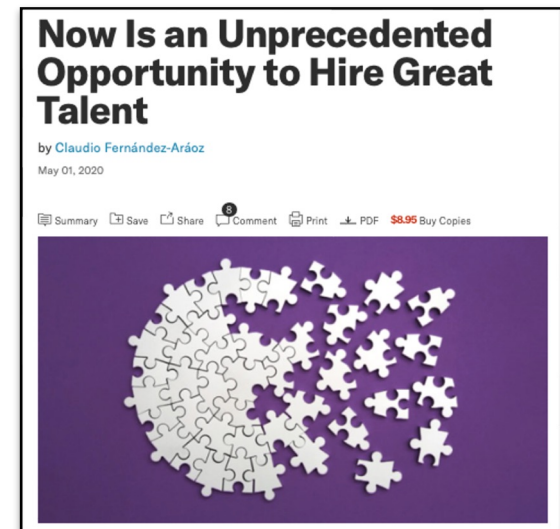
The High Cost of Poor Succession Planning



21st Century Talent Spotting

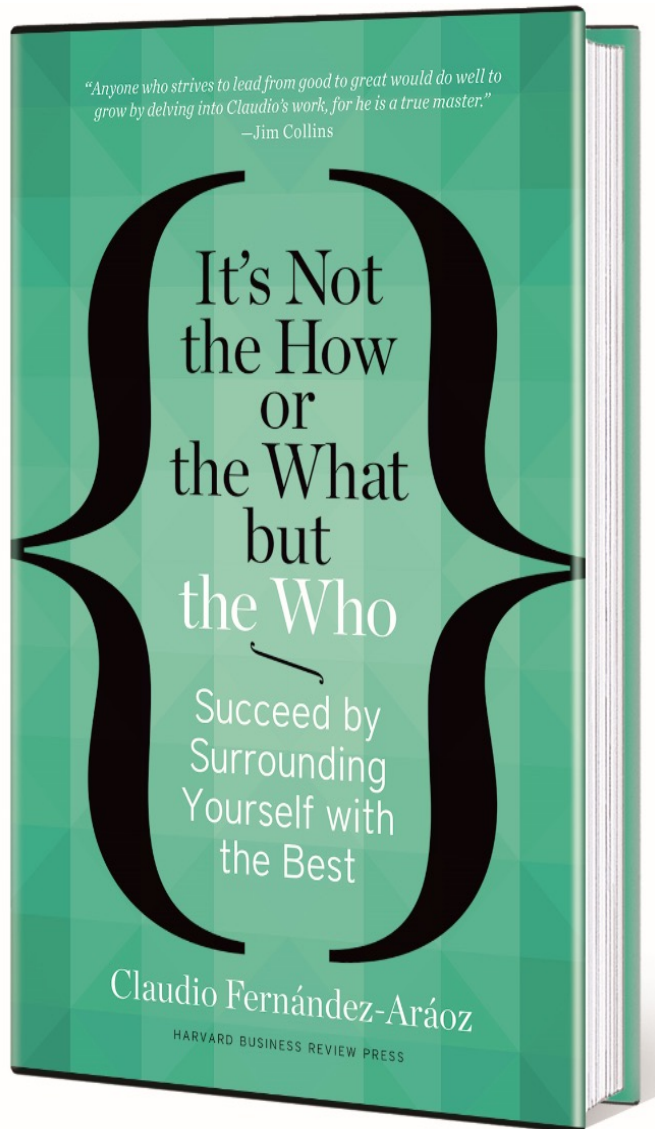


Turning Potential into Success



Now Is an Unprecedented Opportunity to Hire Great Talent

The Science of Great People Decisions



Harvard Business Review



How to Spot Talent (Hint: Experience Is Overrated)

PAGE 46

HBR.ORG JUNE 2014

SPOTLIGHT **ARE INVESTORS BAD FOR BUSINESS?**

The Capitalist's Dilemma

Clayton M. Christensen and
Derek van Bever 60

The Price of Wall
Street's Power

Gautam Mukunda 70

Managing Investors

An interview with Sam Palmisano 80

Harvard Business Review

HBR.ORG NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2017

MANAGEMENT 46
**Why Your
Company Needs
an AR Strategy**

Michael E. Porter
and James E. Hoppmann

USA DESIRABLE 66
**The Best-
Performing CEOs
in the World**

2017 edition

ORGANIZATION 110
**Stop Doubling
Down on Your
Failing Strategy**

Frederik Vermeulen
and Hiro Srandach

HBR GOING YOURSELF 100
**Are You Suited
for a Start-Up?**

Jeffrey Busgang



DOUBLE
ISSUE

LAUNCHING SUCCESSFUL LEADERS

HOW TO MAKE SURE
YOUR MOST PROMISING
PEOPLE REACH THEIR
HIGHEST POTENTIAL

PAGE 86

