

**Reviewing Mark Miller's "Smart Leadership: Four Simple Choices to Scale Your Impact"**

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## **Introduction**

Mark Miller's "Smart Leadership: Four Simple Choices to Scale Your Impact" suggests how leaders can increase their influence on subordinates by making four simple choices: confronting reality, growing capacity, fueling curiosity, and creating change. Miller starts by creating an image of "quicksand" and how most leaders "just cope with quicksand-they learn to swim in it (Miller, M. 2022)" rather than finding a way out; he relates quicksand as a comparison to meetings, digital communications, constant distractions, and growing complexity. Overcoming "quicksand" aids leaders in creating a lasting effectiveness and impact on others.

Before learning the four simple choices that scale a leader's impact, Mark Miller discusses the importance of choices giving us "agency and opportunity (Miller, M. 2022)" but not always giving us the outcome that we may desire. Miller suggests that his book is about "raising your awareness and your personal discipline regarding the choices you make (Miller, M. 2022)". Learning the four simple choices that scale a leader's impact creates a moral compass, making each action a smart choice that goes hand in hand with one another.

## **Confronting Reality**

First, leaders must have an accurate, sensible view of self-reflection, analyzation of data, and seeking feedback through confronting reality. Confronting reality provides a foundation for all other actions. My interpretation of Miller's smart choice to confront reality implies that leaders who choose to consistently confront reality have the skills, knowledge, and abilities to handle situations more effectively.

## **Growing Capacity**

Second, leaders must proactively expand their ability to create margins, improve core energy, foster adaptability, and build a growing mindset through growing capacity. Growing capacity emphasizes the need for continuous personal and professional growth through developing new skills;

and improving one's mental, physical, and emotional energy. I believe that the smart choice to grow capacity is a suggestion for leaders to invest in themselves to ensure their skills, abilities and resilience inspire change and achieve success.

### **Fueling Curiosity**

Third, leaders must nurture a curious mindset by asking questions, seeking diverse perspectives, openness to others' inputs, and embracing change through fueling curiosity. Fueling curiosity is essential for leaders to remain relevant and dynamic in an evolving environment. Miller's message may be interpreted that leaders should avoid complacency by seeking new information and perspectives to foster innovation.

### **Creating Change**

Fourth, leaders must understand one's purpose, take accountability for channeling resources toward a better future, and use leadership tools to make a difference that creates positive change. Creating change is a proactive choice that requires vision, practical tools, and accountability to succeed. While change can be challenging, Miller emphasizes the importance and the necessity for change; and how it can be an exciting, blended, and innovative part of leadership success.

### **Conclusion**

The four choices: confront reality, grow capacity, fuel curiosity, and create change work together to form a virtuous cycle of good leadership actions. For example, creating change leads to new reality, requiring the leader to confront new reality again; consistently making these simple choices allows leaders to achieve success and influence.

After completing my reading of "Smart Leadership: Four Simple Choices to Scale Your Impact", no concept is left in question; Miller provides everyday tools to aid in bringing ideas to life. Miller provides a "Be Smart" paragraph at the end of each chapter that provides techniques to immediately apply critical thinking in useful practices. For example, my favorite "Be Smart" paragraph that Miller

discusses, comes from the chapter, “Fuel Curiosity”; he challenges the reader to practice intentionally talking to strangers by attempting to schedule one conversation within the following month and “see what happens; see what you can learn (Miller, M. 2022)”. Mark Miller provides a self-reflective book that leads readers to self-discipline around choices that will make them more effective in their leadership roles and obstacles that may arise along the way.

## References

Miller, M. (2022). *Smart leadership: Four simple choices to scale your impact*. Matt Holt Books, an imprint of BenBella Books, Inc.