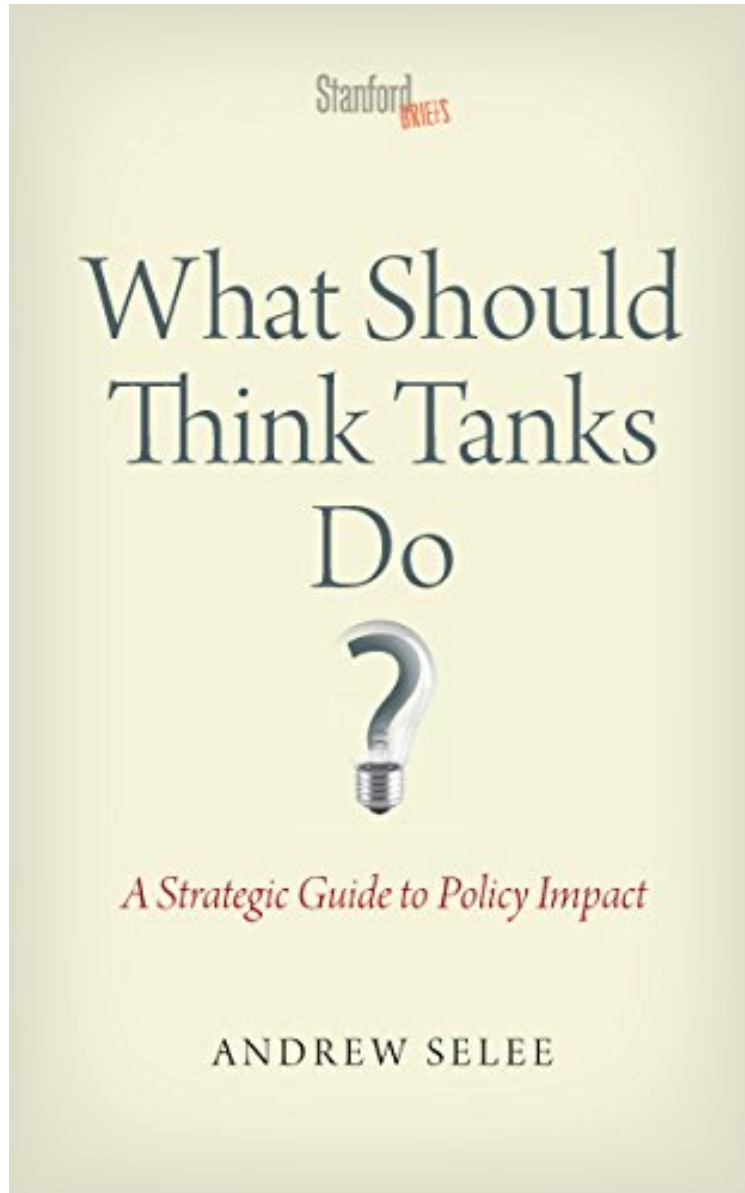


(Read free) What Should Think Tanks Do?: A Strategic Guide to Policy Impact

What Should Think Tanks Do?: A Strategic Guide to Policy Impact

Andrew Dan Selee

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Andrew Dan Selee : What Should Think Tanks Do?: A Strategic Guide to Policy Impact before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Should Think Tanks Do?: A Strategic Guide to Policy Impact:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Focused almost exclusively on government policy think tanks, although ...By Robert L Bennett Focused almost exclusively on government policy think tanks, although the target

goals can be modified toward private, corporate or entrepreneurial think tanks with a bit of concentrated effort. Last of the three is where my interests focus so the more politically liberal approach serves to ready me for H. B. Neil's "The Art of Contrary Thinking." 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful little book By Gonzalo Aguirre A very helpful guide to understanding the challenges facing think tanks. Short, comprehensive and solid in its analysis drawn from real life, it is a wonderful little book for anyone interested in understanding how these operate and their limitations. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By r lawton Timely astute evaluation of the roles national think tanks can and are trying to play in our society.

Think tanks and research organizations set out to influence policy ideas and decisions—a goal that is key to the very fabric of these organizations. And yet, the ways that they actually achieve impact or measure progress along these lines remains fuzzy and underexplored. *What Should Think Tanks Do? A Strategic Guide for Policy Impact* is the first practical guide that is specifically tailored to think tanks, policy research, and advocacy organizations. Author Andrew Selee draws on extensive interviews with members of leading think tanks, as well as cutting-edge thinking in business and non-profit management, to provide concrete strategies for setting policy-oriented goals and shaping public opinion. Concise and practically-minded, *What Should Think Tanks Do?* helps those with an interest in think tanks to envision a well-oiled machine, while giving leaders in these organizations tools and tangible metrics to drive and evaluate success.

"The chasm between good ideas and making policy has confounded Washington for too long. Andrew's concise and informed work builds a bridge to connect these two realms and maps the five steps to successfully walk across it. Whether an academic or a legislator, think tank or government staffer, if you care about turning good ideas into good policy, Andrew's book will guide you down the right path." (Barry Jackson) "Contrary to its title, Andrew Selee's *What Should Think Tanks Do?* is not a book of prescriptions. Instead, it is a tool for thinking. It offers a set of principles and illustrative cases that, taken together, incite a reader to think clearly and creatively about how an organization might make the most valuable contributions possible to important public issues. Anyone who works in a public policy arena and struggles with questions of how best to spend their time and resources for maximum impact can potentially benefit from a couple of quiet hours' concentration on this short, engaging book . . . [*What Should Think Tanks Do?*] offers a great deal of ground truth and perspective about what it takes to successfully steer a policy-oriented team or organization in today's challenging public policy environment." (Jacqueline Meszaros *Science and Public Policy*) "The policy world is filled with voices clamoring to be heard, but few organizations are consistently successful at getting the ear of policymakers and shaping the ideas that become part of public debate. This book shows how organizations that care about influencing policy can take a strategic approach to impact and deliver results." (Jane Harman, Director, President, and CEO of the Woodrow Wilson Center former Member of Congress) "This interesting and thoughtful treatise offers practical advice that will help think tank directors better manage how their organizations engage in research, and how they communicate their findings to multiple target audiences. It should prove enormously helpful both to think tanks and to scholars who study these complex and increasingly visible organizations." (Don Abelson *The University of Western Ontario*) "What Should Think Tanks Do? A Strategic Guide to Policy Impact should be considered mandatory reading for anyone that is a part of a think tank operation, be it governmental, NGO, academic, or corporate." (James A. Cox) "With its focus on outcome-oriented strategies, *What Should Think Tanks Do?* is essential for the directors and funders of think tanks, who want their institutions to make a real difference in informing and influencing public policy." (Paul Brest *Stanford University*, former president, *William and Flora Hewlett Foundation*, and co-author, *Money Well Spent: A Strategic Plan for Smart Philanthropy*) "Selee has produced a highly practical guide to help think tanks improve their strategic planning, performance, and impact. In a highly competitive and information rich world, think tanks and other knowledge-based organizations must make strategic choices regarding staffing, technology, and engagement. *What Should Think Tanks Do?* provides the tools for effectively managing these complex challenges and choices." (James G. McGann, Director, *Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program University of Pennsylvania*) About the Author Andrew Selee is Vice President of Programs at the Woodrow Wilson Center and former Director of its Mexico Institute. He has been a congressional staffer and served as staff and on the board of several non-profit organizations. He teaches at Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University and writes extensively on international affairs.