

## **20 MINUTE MANAGER**

# Performance Reviews



Evaluate performance Offer constructive feedback Discuss tough topics

### **20 MINUTE MANAGER SERIES**

# Performance Reviews

Evaluate performance Offer constructive feedback Discuss tough topics

HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW PRESS

Boston, Massachusetts



#### **HBR Press Quantity Sales Discounts**

Harvard Business Review Press titles are available at significant quantity discounts when purchased in bulk for client gifts, sales promotions, and premiums. Special editions, including books with corporate logos, customized covers, and letters from the company or CEO printed in the front matter, as well as excerpts of existing books, can also be created in large quantities for special needs.

For details and discount information for both print and ebook formats, contact booksales@harvardbusiness.org, tel. 800-988-0886, or www.hbr.org/bulksales.

Copyright 2015 Harvard Business School Publishing Corporation

All rights reserved Printed in the United States of America 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise), without the prior permission of the publisher. Requests for permission should be directed to permissions@hbsp.harvard .edu, or mailed to Permissions, Harvard Business School Publishing, 60 Harvard Way, Boston, Massachusetts 02163.

The web addresses referenced in this book were live and correct at the time of the book's publication but may be subject to change.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Performance reviews: prepare for the meeting, offer constructive feedback, discuss tough topics.

pages cm. - (20 minute manager series) Includes index.

ISBN 978-1-63369-006-6 1. Employees-Rating of.

- 2. Employees-Evaluation. 3. Performance standards.
- I. Harvard Business Review Press. HF5549.5.R3P478 2015 658.3'125—dc23

2014041167

ISBN: 9781633690066 eISBN: 9781633690073

### **Preview**

You've just received word that it's time to conduct annual performance reviews for your direct reports. You know these evaluations offer a great opportunity for change and growth—for stellar employees, subpar performers, and those in between. But year after year, you find yourself ill prepared, and your assessment ends up being more of a formality than an opportunity for employee improvement. This book walks you through the step-by-step process of conducting performance reviews so you'll be better equipped when it comes time for this crucial task. You'll learn to:

- Use direct observation and other resources to make an objective assessment
- · Formally document your evaluation

#### Preview

- Discuss both achievements and performance gaps
- Turn negative feedback into a productive conversation
- Set challenging but achievable goals
- Make feedback and follow-up an ongoing part of your job

## Contents

The Basics	1
What is a performance review? 5	
The performance review process 7	
Involve your employee 9	
Gathering Information	11
Observe and track employee progress 13	
Request an employee self-appraisal 16	
Solicit 360-degree feedback 19	
Collect additional resources 26	
Evaluating Performance	29
Assess results 32	
Consider your role in the employee's	
performance 35	
Document your impressions 38	

#### Contents

Conducting the Meeting	47
Prepare for the meeting 50	
Set the right tone 52	
Discuss employee performance 57	
Establishing Next Steps	65
Set goals 68	
Create a development plan 75	
Monitor progress and follow up 78	
Evaluate your approach 81	
Handling Tough Topics	87
Responding to a raise request 89	
Discussing a promotion 91	
Addressing unacceptable performance 94	
Learn More	101
Sources	107
Index	109
A POUCO	109