

How to offer a company book club (and why you should)

Hosting a book club for your organization is an engaging and easy way to help develop your employees professionally, and personally. Book clubs provide an opportunity to foster relationships, improve communication, and enhance company culture with subject-specific titles for employee resource groups (ERG), or company-wide reads.

BENEFITS OF A BOOK CLUB FOR ORGANIZATIONS AND EMPLOYEES:

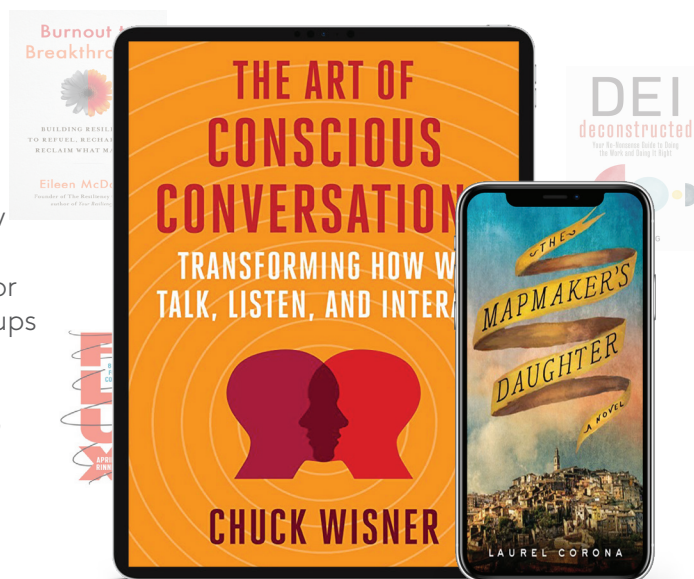
- 1. Company culture:** Bringing employees, of all levels, together in a shared experience to openly engage in free-flowing discussion contributes to a strong culture. Titles selected can also reflect and support your organization's unique mission and values.
- 2. Team strengthening:** Regularly bringing employees together to meet outside of project specific work allows relationships to develop and grow organically.
- 3. Employee development:** Books that align with your organization's business strategy, or hard skills paired with the right discussion, can help enhance employee's professional and technical skills. Post-book club insights can be implemented into day-to-day work or current projects.
- 4. Diverse perspectives:** Open discussion allows employees to discover more of what they have in common, but also how they may perceive something differently. It enables your employees to better understand why someone may have a differing viewpoint and learn more about the background that may have shaped it.
- 5. Innovation and creativity:** Sharing and exchanging insights, ideas and opinions about the books can foster out-of-the-box thinking and even inspire new approaches to professional projects and goals. Your organization may even learn more about what's important to their teams, sparking new ideas for employee engagement initiatives or crucial changes.

TIPS & RESOURCES FOR HOSTING A BOOK CLUB FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION:

1. Choosing a Title

We have titles available in different lending models that allow for multiple users to access titles simultaneously – perfect for any budget! Choose broad topics for the entire organization or encourage “breakout” book clubs for Employee Resource groups or specific departments.

The OverDrive team will help you find the right title with the right lending model to fit your interest.



2. Promotion

OverDrive can help with promotion of the book club, options include:

- HR emails and newsletter features
- Add the book club and featured title to your email signature
- Create a dedicated book club Slack channel (or any inter-office communication tool)
- Include a slide in company meeting presentation decks in "Company Updates"
- Reminders on digital screens throughout the office or physical printouts

3. Scheduling and preparation

- Plan adequate time for participants to read. We recommend monthly or quarterly meeting cadences.
- Book a meeting room and encourage in-person attendance if applicable, but always offer a virtual option to maximize engagement.
- Use internal messaging systems and start a dedicated book club channel.
- Have some initial discussion questions ready for the book club meeting. Sample questions are listed below, and often times can be found through the publisher or author's site.

4. Results

Consider sharing some of the outcomes of the book club discussions with the organization. You can share an update in company or department meetings around titles recently read and key learnings or new ideas stemmed from the book.

SAMPLE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here are a few examples, **OverDrive Librarians can help with custom questions or by contacting the publisher for their book club resources**

Fiction:

- How did the setting impact the story? Would you want to read more books set in that world?
- Did the book's pace seem right? Did you race to the end, or was it more of a slow burn?
- How did the book make you feel? Did reading the book impact your mood? If yes, how so?
- If this were to happen in real life, would these characters and plot points be realistic?
- Would you read another book by the same author?

Nonfiction:

- Of all the information presented in the book, what has stayed with you the most?
- Did you detect any bias in the way the information was presented?
- What were your impressions of the author's style? Did you find the book easy to read?
- If you could ask the author one question, what would it be?
- What else have you read on this topic, and would you recommend these books to others?

Questions? Reach out to your OverDrive team today!



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