

A practical guide on how to run a case solving course and how to solve cases

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WARRINGTON COLLEGE *of* BUSINESS

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CASEKEY ACADEMY GUIDEBOOK SERIES

Case Solving Toolbox for universities

This toolbox is a living document and will be updated to reflect feedback, lessons learned, as well as policy and operational changes. Please provide any comments or feedback on this document to: general@nationinaction.com.



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CASE SOLVING TOOLBOX FOR UNIVERSITIES

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INTRODUCTION

Cases are used extensively as a teaching tool. A key reason is that cases provide active learners with opportunities to use the strategic management process to identify and solve organizational problems. Thus, by analysing situations that are described in cases and presenting the results, active learners (i.e., students) become skilled at effectively using the tools, techniques, and concepts that combine to form the strategic management process.

The cases that follow are concerned with actual companies. Presented within the cases are problems and situations that managers and those with whom they work must analyse and resolve. As you will see, a business case can focus on an entire industry, a single organization, or a business unit of a large, diversified firm. The issues facing not-for-profit organizations also can be examined using the case analysis method.

Basically, the case analysis method calls for a careful diagnosis of an organization's current conditions (as manifested by its external and internal environments) so that appropriate strategic actions can be recommended in light of the firm's strategic intent and strategic mission. Strategic actions are taken to develop and then use a firm's core competencies to select and implement different strategies, including business-level, corporate-level, acquisition and restructuring, international, and cooperative strategies. Thus, appropriate strategic actions help the firm to survive in the long run as it creates and uses competitive advantages as the foundation for achieving strategic competitiveness and earning above-average returns. The case method that we are recommending to you has a rich heritage as a pedagogical approach to the study and understanding of managerial effectiveness.

As an active learner, your preparation is critical to successful use of the case analysis method. Without careful study and analysis, active learners lack the insights required to participate fully in the discussion of a firm's situation and the strategic actions that are appropriate.

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