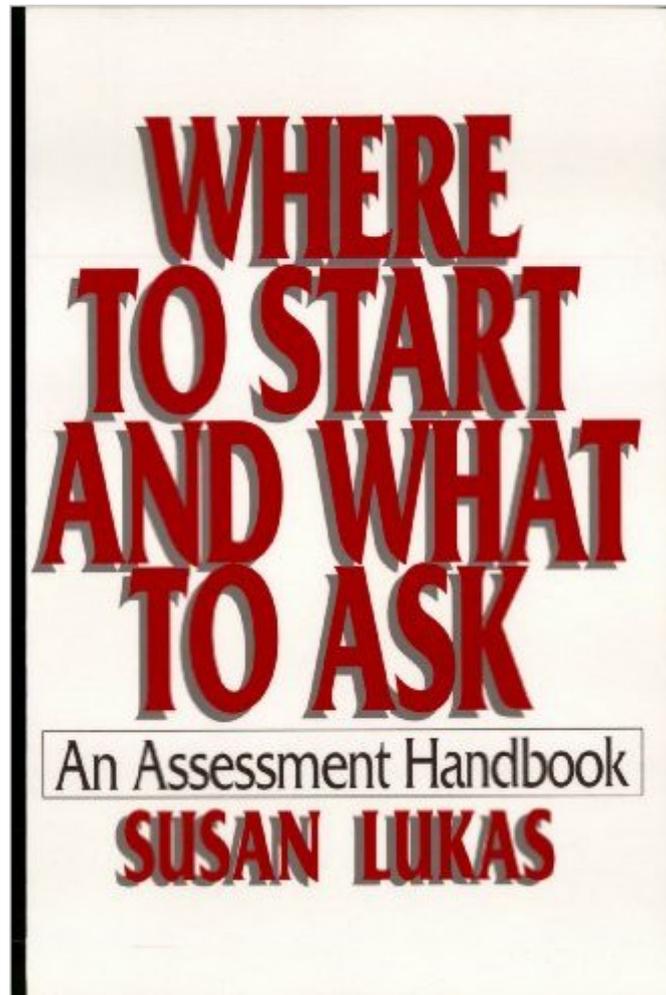


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# Where To Start And What To Ask: An Assessment Handbook



## Synopsis

A "sink or swim" philosophy frequently prevails in mental health settings today. As a life raft for beginners and their supervisors, *Where to Start and What to Ask* provides all the necessary tools for garnering information from clients. Lukas also offers a framework for thinking about that information and formulating a thorough assessment. This indispensable book helps therapeutic neophytes organize their approach to the initial phase of treatment and navigate even rough clinical waters with competence and assurance.

## Book Information

File Size: 557 KB

Print Length: 204 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0393701522

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (January 17, 1993)

Publication Date: March 12, 2012

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0078XG696

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #72,478 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #7 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Counseling & Psychology > Testing & Measurement #15 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Counseling & Psychology > Mental Health > Compulsive Behavior #23 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Counseling & Psychology > Mental Health > Behaviour

## Customer Reviews

These days, in preparation for my internship in the fall, I'm trying to read books that will remind me how to work clinically. This one is excellent, and I deeply wish I had read it in my second or third year of graduate school. I had to learn a lot of this stuff on the job, through floundering and making mistakes, and my field experiences would have been worlds easier if someone had just told me these things. This is an extremely practical (NO theory) how-to book for social work/psychology

students who are just starting out and want to know how to conduct initial interviews with various clients -- adults, children (and their parents), couples, families, etc. It also covers issues such as assessing for violent potential, suicidality, and child abuse/neglect. It's written in a very simple manner and the style and information is appropriate for students rather than professionals. However, it's serving as an excellent review for me. I also recommend it to supervisors as a good resource for providing guidance to their supervisees.

This book is a quick read that clearly outlines exactly what the title says, where to start and what to ask. Questions to assess for suicidality, homicidality and abuse are provided. Intake interviews and the specific nuances involved are written about as well as a comprehensive set of questions to ask during an intake interview. There is a set of developmental and medical questions that really help to cover all the milestones. Some of the questions are quite detailed, but you can easily pick and choose what you want to utilize or leave out. I used many of the questions when developing my own intake interview questionnaire. Working with children, adults, couples and families are addressed as well as questions to ask during an initial intake interview for them. Pitfalls to look out for are given. This is a highly applicable book for those in the mental health or social work field.

This is a really good book... I only wish I had it when I was a graduate student social worker. It would have helped me so much. What a terrific resource. My only regret: Susan you ought to write more books for student and entry level social workers. The reading was enjoyable, clear and took the mystery out of how-to-begin. Thank you, Susan.

I read this book as a beginning graduate student, and underlined, highlighted, and marked up many relevant passages. Now as a professor teaching graduate students in Counseling, my students find it every bit as useful as I did. They consistently rate this the most useful of all the books and readings they've done. As another reviewer noticed, you won't find theory. Just the practical, how-to nuts and bolts of how to do a mental status exam, describe a client's affect, what to say in your first meeting with a family, couple, child or adult, and how to keep yourself safe when working with potentially violent clients. If you are starting out in clinical work, this book will be one you will reference often.

Excellent resource book, takes you through the steps methodically and simply. Everything you would need to know , as a new social worker, working with the AOD population.CASAC personnel

would also benefit from this book. Very informative, and relevant written in an easy conversational style.

This book is great. It's short, and to the point. No boring rambling on and on for pages and pages. It tells you what you need to know and in a really easy to understand way. This is the first book I've wanted to keep for reference once I graduate and move into working in the field. I would highly recommend this book. I also find that this book is very true to what I've learned from working in the social work field doing assessments. This is a very informative and enjoyable book.

This book is a heaven sent for new therapists. It literally takes you step by step through the assessment and other initial components of therapeutic situations. For me, a social work student in his first placement at a Trauma based clinic for kids, it was a great help! I HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT!!!

Anyone who works in the field of psychology should read this book in order to hone his/her interview skills. Step-by-step Ms. Lukas explains how to conduct a psychological interview for individuals, couples, families, and children. After reading this book, there will be no awkward silences when you interview patients because you will always know what to say.

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