# The Marketing Hat Trick: Relevant, Interactive, and Automated

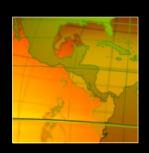








**Kate Dunn**Director
July 24, 2015











# **A Change of Plans**

The Marketing Hat Trick: Refevant, Interactive and **Automated** 

# **Let's Talk About Sales!**



# **Topics**

- What You Can Learn From Your B2B Counterparts
- What We Know Works
- Where to Focus
- **Recommendations & Conclusions**

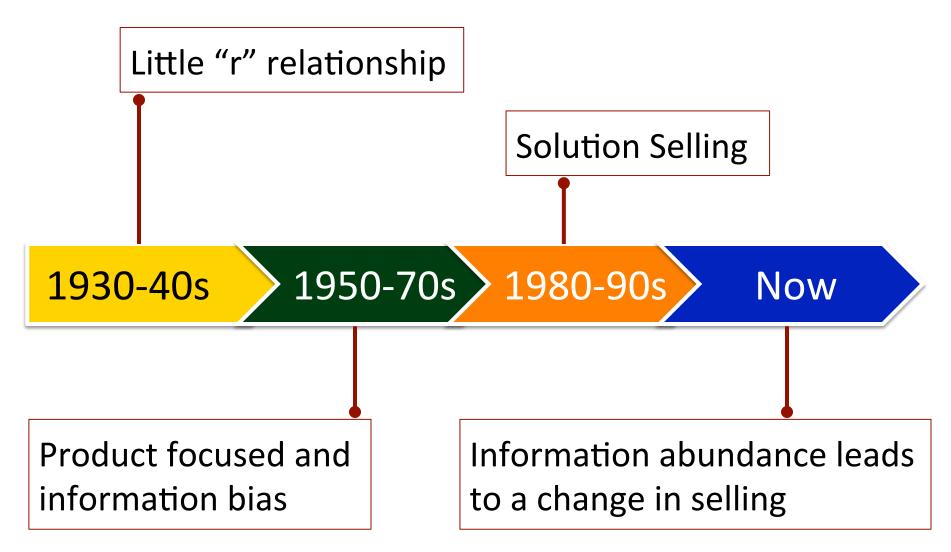
# Which Type of Sale Sounds Like Yours?

Type 1 Characteristics	Type 2 Characteristics
Relationship-driven	Product-driven
Maximize the value of the relationship	Maximize value of transaction
Small, focused target market	Large target market
Multi-step buying process, longer sales cycle	Single-step buying process, shorter sales cycle
Brand identity created on personal relationship	Brand identity created through repetition and imagery
Educational and awareness-building activities	Merchandising and point-of- purchase activities
Rational buying decision based on business value	Emotional buying decision based on status, desire, or price

# **Different Approaches: B2B versus B2C**

Business-to-Business	Business-to-Consumer
Relationship-driven	Product-driven
Maximize the value of the relationship	Maximize value of transaction
Small, focused target market	Large target market
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# The Evolution of Selling



# **4 Key Factors**

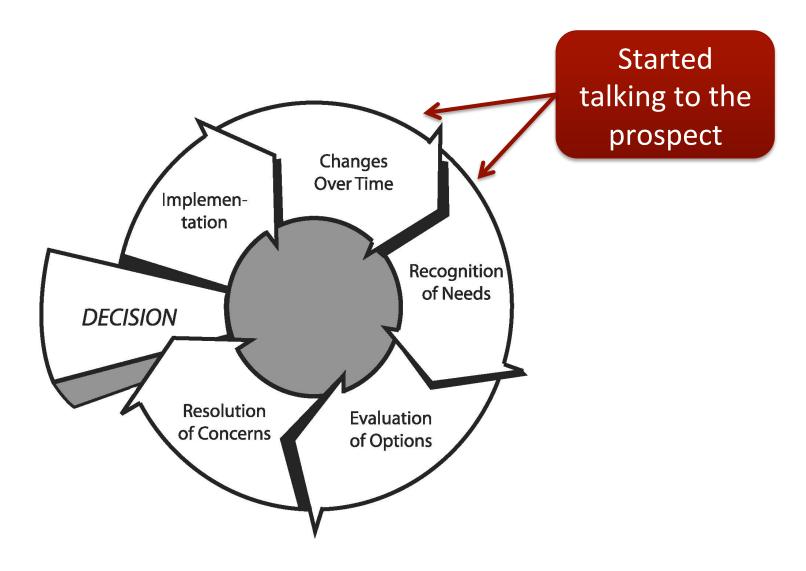
- **Buyers Are Smarter than Sellers**
- 2. Buyers See More Risk
- 3. Sellers Don't Give Buyers a Reason to Buy
- 4. Everyone Sounds the Same





# **#1: Buyers Are Smarter Than Sellers**

# **The Traditional Buying Process**



Source: Major Account Sales Strategy by Neil Rackham

## The Corresponding Sales Process

Identifies customers who recognize a problem that the supplier can solve

Rep gives priority to those ready to act

 Rep asks questions to help attach the company's solution to that problem

 Rep finds/nurtures an advocate within the company who helps navigate the buying process

# **Buyers Are Doing More of The Work**

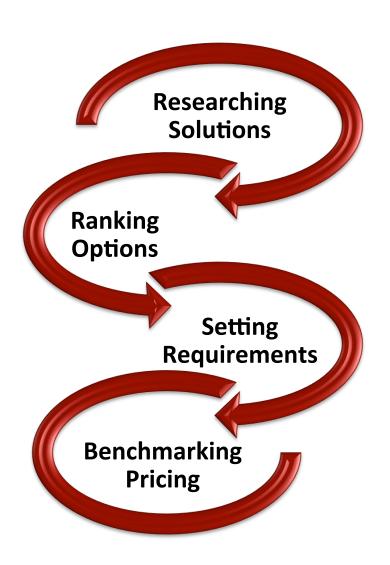
of B2B buyers engage rep after completing internal research

Do not engage a salesperson until after creating a preferred vendor list

# The Purchasing Process Today

60%

of the purchasing process is completed before having a conversation with a sales representative



Source: Corporate Executive Board Study, The End of Solution Sales, Harvard Business Review 2012

#### Makes It Harder for Sellers!

- Reps find it increasingly difficult to reach decision-makers
- Decision-makers frequently complain that reps are woefully underprepared and seemingly not attuned to the fact that they have access to endless amounts of information and perspective prior to speaking with them
- Decision-makers see no reason to invite sales reps back to take the process forward

#### **A Power Shift**

#### **Buyers Are...**

- Increasingly more educated than the seller
- Already deeply aware of their needs and the potential offerings of their solution providers

## Sellers Are...



- Having difficulty adding value or convincing decision-makers to rethink their conclusions
- Being forced into more price-driven conversations

#### This Leads To...



67% of sales reps aren't making quota

Average quota attainment is

58%





**#2: Buyers See More Risk** 

# **More People Involved!**

Longer sales cycle in the past 5 years with 3 more decision-makers



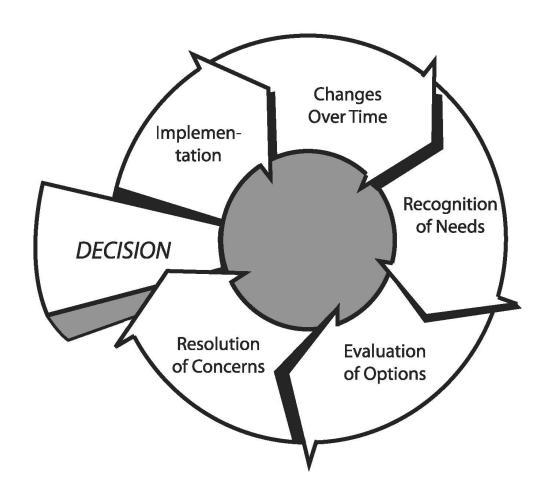
Source: SiriusDecisions Sales and Marketing Benchmarking Study, SiriusDecisions, Southport CT

#### **Fear of Risk**

- More people are involved in decision-making to dilute the risk
- Buyers want sellers to take more of the risk
- Buyers demand more customization, putting more pressure on the seller's margin

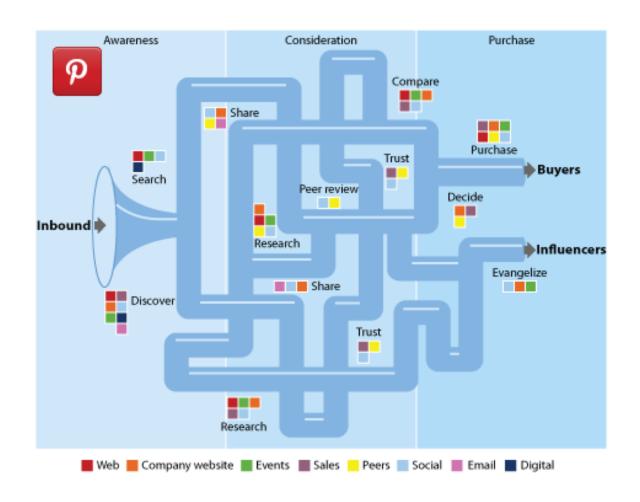


#### **Process Goes From This...**



Source: Major Account Sales Strategy by Neil Rackham

#### To This!



Source: Buyer Behavior Helps B2B Marketers Guide The Buyer's Journey, Forrester Blogs



# #3: Sellers Don't Give Buyers a **Reason to Buy**

## **Differing Definitions of Value**



#### Research Has Shown...

- Customers put the highest value on salespeople who make them think, bring new ideas, and find creative and innovative ways to help their business
- In short, customers are demanding more depth and expertise!



As many decision-makers prefer to have discussions about business trends, business issues, and business insights than traditional product knowledge-driven sales conversations.

Source: SiriusDecisions

# There are Two Types of Value Today

The return the customer realizes from what you sell

The process you use to help them see the value

## When You Do This Right...

60%

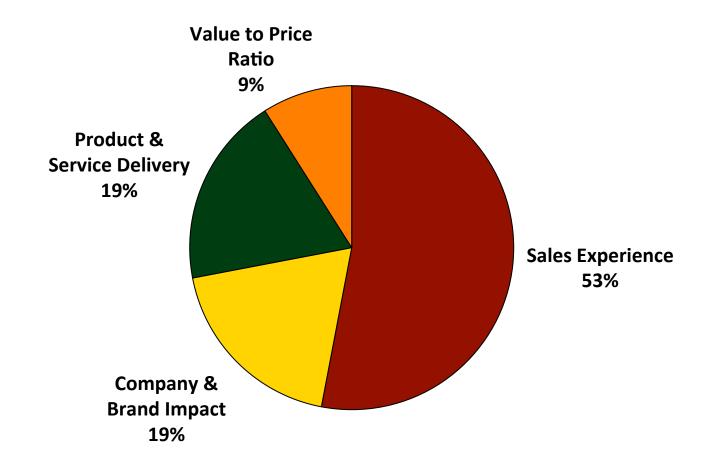
of customer loyalty is a result of not what you sell but how you sell it.

Buyers are <u>three times</u> more loyal to sellers who proactively bring opportunities to their attention.



Source: The Rain Group, Your Guide to Insight Selling Success, Mike Shultz & John Doerr

# What Drives Today's Purchasing Decisions?



Source: Corporate Executive Board

#### **Successful Sellers Do This!**

Instead of leading with your solution, use insight

to lead to your solution!



#### There is Value In The Process

- Rep offers unique and valuable perspectives
- Rep helps build consensus
- Rep helps navigate alternatives
- Rep helps avoid potential landmines
- Rep coaches buyer on how to buy





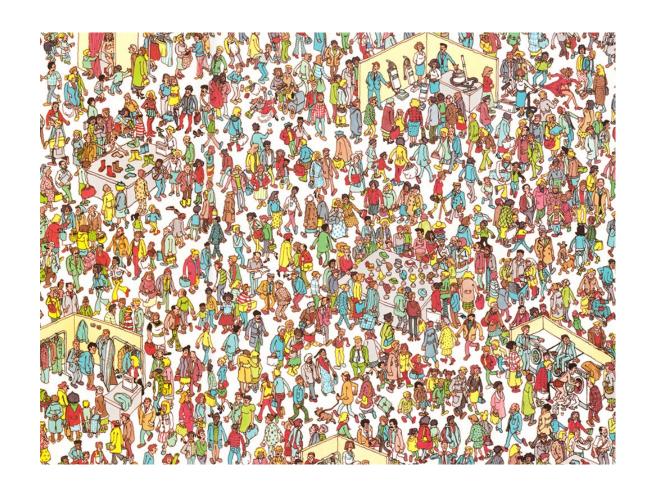
#4: Everyone Sounds the Same

#### This is What Sellers Think



"We're completely different!"

# **This is What Buyers See**



# **Few Have Figured How To Stand Out!**



# When Value Isn't Clear...



# **Applying These Lessons To Your World**



# **Buyers Are Smarter!**

"I know what I want."



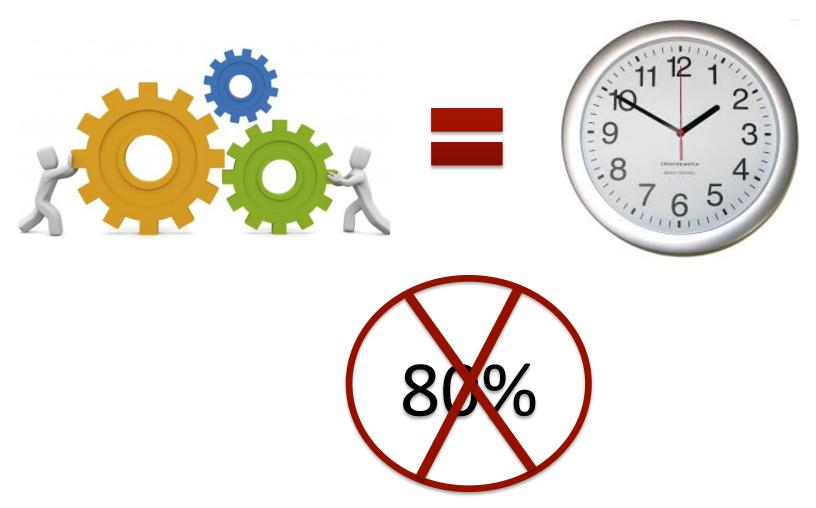
### **Key Areas of Focus**

- 1. Start earlier. Get there first and actually talk to prospects early in the process!
- 2. Engage their "buying teams" from the start and build consensus.
- 3. Lead them to your school not with your school.
- 4. Coach them through the process.

## **Key Areas of Focus**

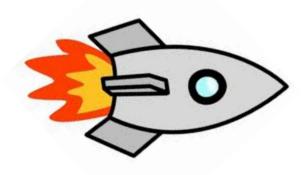
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## **Key Strategy #1: You Need A Process AND People!**



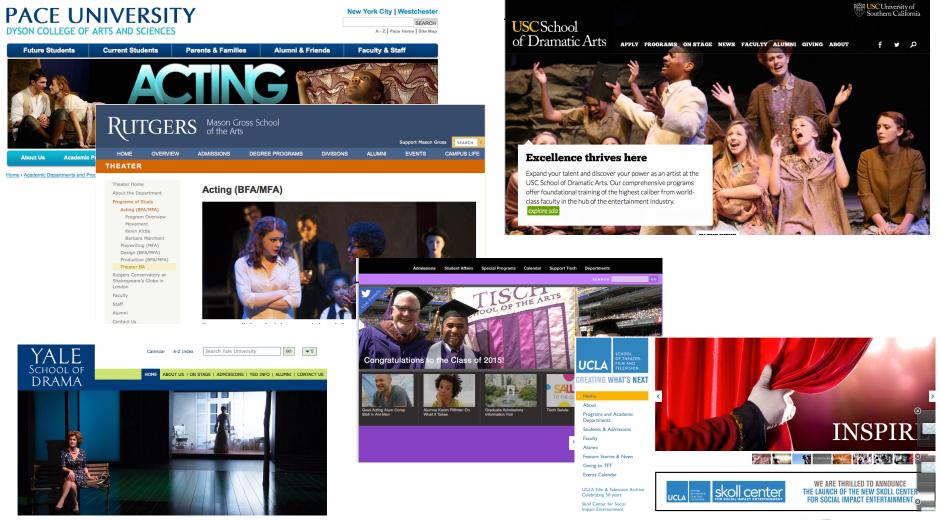
## **Timing is Everything!**







### **She's Interested in Theatre**



## **She Will Have Many Choices!**



## **Engaged Early, One-to-One**





FEATURED > **VIDEOS** 

ABOUT

CAMPUSES

**PROGRAMS** 

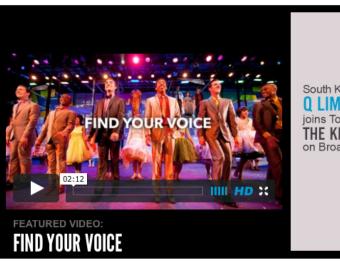
**ADMISSIONS** 

SCHOLARSHIPS + FINANCIAL AID

**FACULTY** 

STUDENT LIFE ALUMNI

HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMS





#### **OUR AUDITIONS**











#### **HS COUNSELORS** Information Request Form

#### **BECOME A STUDENT**



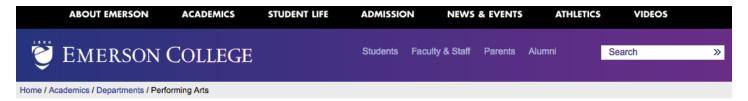
#### **OUR CAMPUSES**



#### **OUR BFA DEGREE PROGRAMS**



### **Stalled Momentum**



#### **Performing Arts**

**Undergraduate Programs** 

**Graduate Degree** 

Faculty

Courses

Performance and Production Spaces

**Emerson Stage** 

**Alumni Profiles** 

Careers & Internships

**Department News** 

Videos

Contact Us



#### **PERFORMING ARTS**



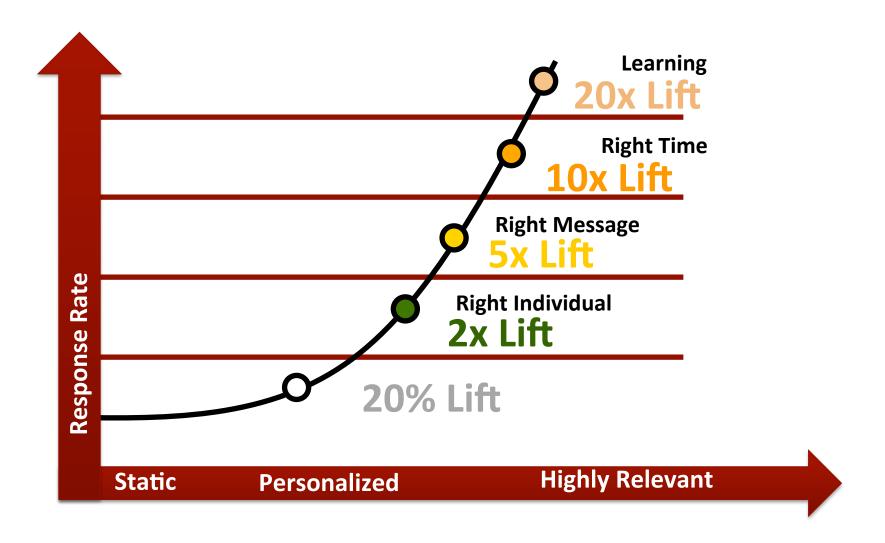




Get to know Emerson's Performing Arts Department Professor and Chair Melia Bensussen!

>>Watch Here<<

### Increase Your Chances of Success With Each Interaction



Source: Caslon & Co.

#### Lesson #1

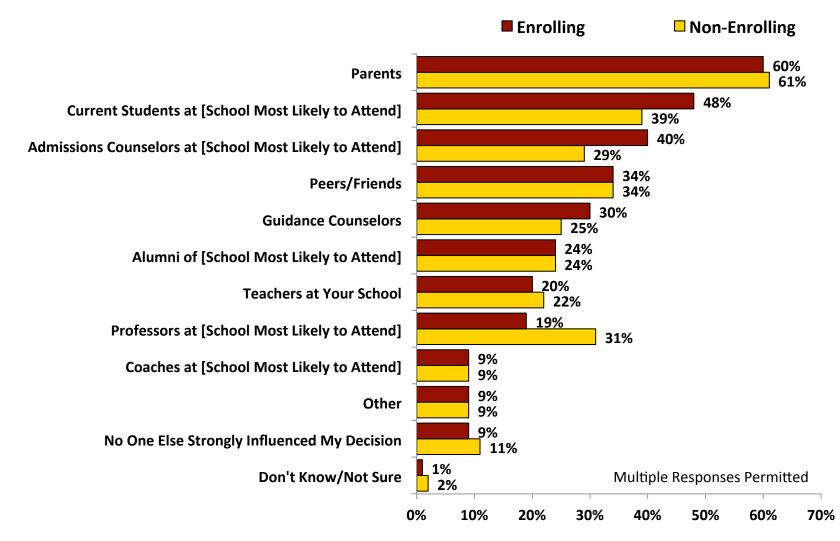
- Figure out how your staff can actually talk to more prospects early in the process.
- Your print and digital information is differentiated and your conversations with prospects should be too.
  - Share insight that make them think differently about their options
  - Besides answering their questions, ask them questions.
  - Lead them to your institution, not with your institution

## **Key Areas of Focus**

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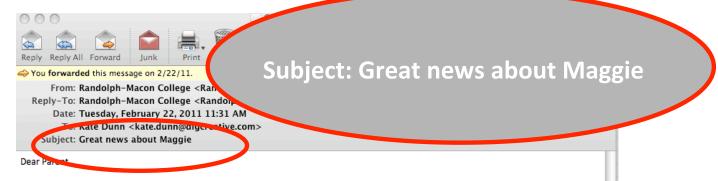
## **Key Strategy #2: Engage the Buying Team Early**

Which of the following people strongly influenced your enrollment decision?



Source: Eduventures, Inc. 2014

## **Engage Your Prospect's Buying Teams**



I'm writing to let you how impressed I am with your student's motivation in the college search process. I offered two helpful tools, the Ultimate Get-Into-College Kit and Affording Your First-Choice College, and I was delighted that Maggie requested that I send both of them.

Maggie also asked that I contact you with more details about Randolph-Macon College. Here are some links from our website <a href="http://">http://</a> www.rmc.edu/> you may find helpful ...

- Parents <<a href="http://www.rmc.edu/Parents.aspx">http://www.rmc.edu/Parents.aspx</a>
- Academics <<a href="http://www.rmc.edu/Academics.aspx">http://www.rmc.edu/Academics.aspx</a>>
- Scholarships & Aid <a href="http://www.rmc.edu/financial-aid.aspx">http://www.rmc.edu/financial-aid.aspx</a>
- Campus Improvements and Growth <a href="http://www.rmc.edu/News/10-10-25%20Groundbreaking.aspx">http://www.rmc.edu/News/10-10-25%20Groundbreaking.aspx</a>
- · Virtual Tour < http://www.rmc.edu/admissions/virtual\_tour/default.aspx>

I know this is a time of great excitement and change in your family, and I'm pleased that Maggie is getting a head start in searching for colleges.

#### Sincerely,

David Lesesne Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Randolph-Macon College 204 East Patrick Street Ashland, VA 23005

P.S. Your family is always welcome to tour our campus. Schedule a visit online now. <a href="https://secure.rmc.edu/admissions/visit.aspx">https://secure.rmc.edu/admissions/visit.aspx</a>

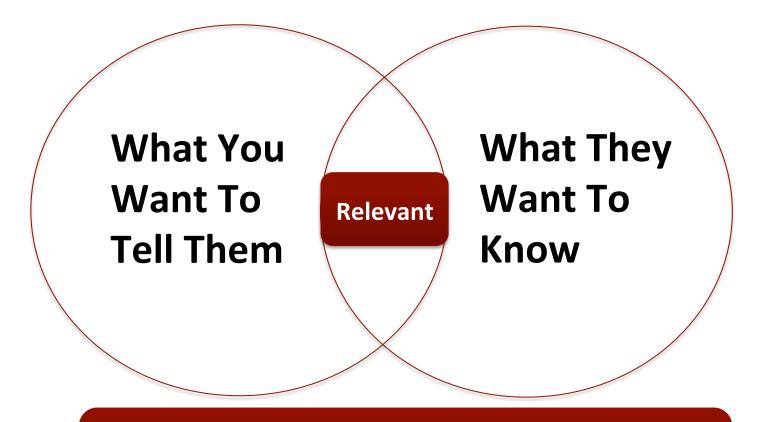
I received your contact information from your student. If you'd rather not receive e-mail from R-MC, please let me know <a href="http://">http://</a> www.rmcadmit.org/info/esuppress.asp?pin=E2I2G6G7A5M793~8&c=540&e=kate.dunn@digcreative.com&ln=PSAT>.



### What Do Your Conversations Sound Like?



## This Applies to Everyone on the Buying Team



Right person, right message, right time, right channels

## **Build Consensus**

**Get Creative! Conference Calls** Web Conferencing Tools **Go Beyond Visits!** 



#### Lesson #2

- Be creative and engage their buying team both digitally and personally.
- Go beyond what your competitors are doing!
  - "What to Expect When You're Expecting Model"
  - Make it multi-media!
    - Auditory, Visual, Kinesthetic
  - Give them tools

## **Key Areas of Focus**

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### Lead Them To You!

- CEB defines a commercial insight as "a compelling, defensible perspective from a supplier that materially impacts a customer's performance and directly leads back to their unique capabilities."
  - What does your school believe students will need in the future?
  - What experiences does your school believe are important to shaping tomorrow's workforce?
- **Impacts** Your insight should clearly show how your prospect's life will be impacted as a result of either making a decision to attend your school or not doing so
- **Unique** Your insight should be unique to your prospect and not generic information.

#### There's a Format

- Factual context relevant to the prospect
- Your prospect's objectives
- Your insight
- A compelling question that starts a two-way conversation
- Tell a story!



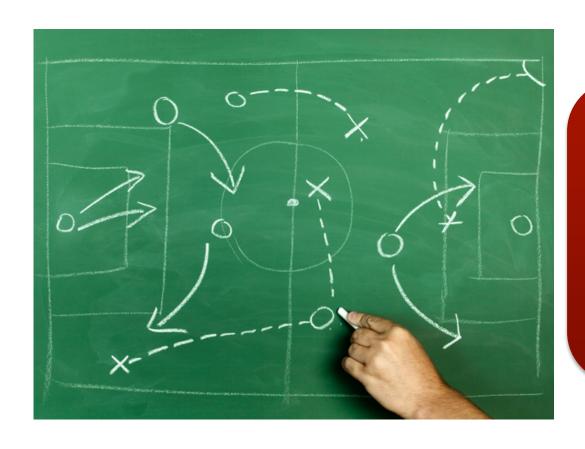
#### Lesson #3

- Rather than leading with open-ended questions about your prospect's needs, lead them with a relent hypotheses about their needs, informed by your own experience and research.
- Paint a picture of how students like them used the process they are using and failed to consider things that might have lead them to a better fit.
- Your goal is to have them ask "how does it work at your school?"

## **Key Areas of Focus**

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## **Key Strategy #4: Coach Prospects on How to Buy!**



- Educate about evaluation criteria
- Provide alternatives
- Help them avoid pitfalls
- Build widespread support
- Minimize the risk

#### Which Bucket Are You In?

- "Yeah, I just wasn't feeling it."
- "Really? I thought that was your perfect fit."
- "Yeah, me too at first. But he didn't really even get to know me. You know what I mean? Like, he was treating me like I was everyone else. He never even asked me about what I really like to do or what I want to do in my life or anything."
- "What a jerk!" "So, now what?"
- "Oh, it's all good. I have enrolled at XYZ University. The admissions counselor was amazing, she asked me tons of questions about what I like to do and what my friends are like and what I see myself doing in the future. She really cares about me. Next week I am going to a summer program there where she said I'll meet lots of other freshman students like me. I can't wait!"

Source: The Best Admissions Teams Know: "It's Not (about) YOU, it's (about) ME!

#### Lesson #4

- This is the first time the student is making a decision.
- You have been involved in many decision processes and seen all kinds of takes on how to do it - what worked well and what didn't.
- You have insight that they don't have about the decisions of other students and their outcomes.
- Use what you know to educate them, lead them to consider things they have not, and differentiate the process you use to help them.

#### **Use Your Sales Process to Differentiate!**

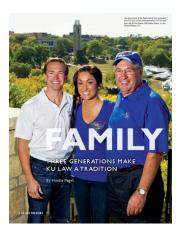
60%

of customer loyalty is a result of not what you sell but how you sell it.









Source: The Rain Group, Your Guide to Insight Selling Success, Mike Shultz & John Doerr

### **Summary**

- This is a "lifetime value" transaction and a complex sales cycle.
- It's a big decision with lots of risk associated with it.
- There is a buying team with many influencers.
- EMP gives you the tools to differentiate your communication and gives you the data to prioritize your personal interactions.
- Make your personal interactions as memorable as your print and digital communication!

# **Thank You!**

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