

01: Introducing the Outcome-Centric Selling® Toolkit

Overview

This guide has two intended audiences: firstly, it is aimed at **existing users** of the Outcome-Centric Selling® system - helping you to understand when, how and where to use each of the tools to their best effect.

Secondly, it is aimed at **sales leaders** who are considering implementing the Outcome-Centric Selling® system within their own organisation - helping you to assess how the approach can enable you to achieve the improvement in sales performance that you are looking for.

Either way, we hope that this guide will help you to achieve your objectives.

Now, let's start at the beginning - with targeting.

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02: Outcome-Centric Targeting Tools

There are four key considerations when deciding where we can most effectively target our prospecting energies:

- 1. What are the **key business issues** that we can address more effectively than any other option?
- 2. What are the common characteristics of the **ideal customers** that are most likely to be motivated to address the issues we have chosen to target?
- 3. What are the **key roles** within these organisations that are most likely to be responsible for dealing with these issues?
- 4. What are the **key trends** and **trigger events** that are likely to cause these potential prospects to conclude that they have to urgently address the issue?

The first three factors help us to identify our longterm prospects: the fourth factor helps us to determine which of these prospects are likely to turn into short-term opportunities.

Key Targeting Tools:

- 02.1 Key Business Issues
- 02.2 Ideal Customer Profile(s)
- 02.3 Key Roles
- 02.4 Key Trends and Trigger Events



02.1 Key Business Issue Worksheet

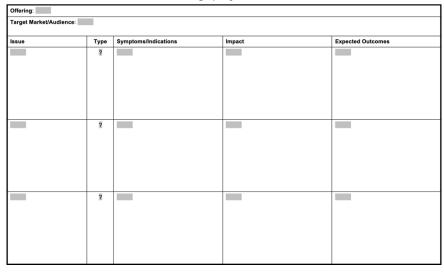
Our targeting process must start by identifying the **key business issues** (as opposed to functional needs) that our organisation is particularly **expert at addressing** - preferably backed up by positive references and case studies.

These issues must be **common** (and **important**) enough across our target markets to make them worth focusing our energies on - there is little value in targeting uncommon or low-priority issues.

The **key business issue worksheet** enables us to identify and describe our prospective customer's top-three common addressable business issues:

- How would our prospective customers describe the issue?
- Is the issue something they need to fix, avoid, or achieve?
- What are the typical symptoms and indications?
- What is the likely impact of the issue on both the organisation and the key stakeholders?
- What better outcomes are they looking for?

Outcome-Centric Selling® | Key Business Issue Worksheet



- As an essential input into our territory and account planning processes
- To help us develop our prospecting priorities, messages, and campaigns
- As a high-level initial qualifier does a potential opportunity suffer from any of the issues we have chosen to target?

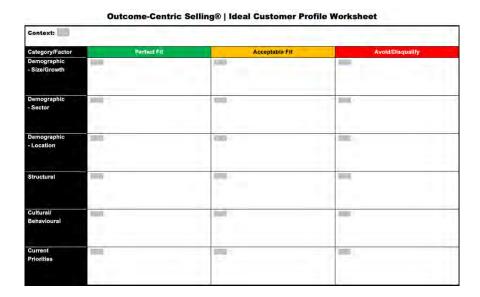


02.2 Ideal Customer Profile Worksheet

Our ideal customer profile (or profiles) must capture the common characteristics of the organisations that are most likely to be suffering from the business issues we have chosen to target.

Our ideal customer profile will typically start with the typical demographic indicators of **size**, **sector**, and **location**, but to be effective it also needs to reflect:

- Key structural factors, such as organisational structure, their go-to-market model, their market focus, the systems they have in place, their strategic vendor relationships, the functions or departments we are targeting, and so on ...
- Cultural/behavioural factors, such as the way they make buying decisions, their relationship with suppliers, appetite for innovation, willingness to buy best-of-breed solutions, position on the adoption curve (early adopter, early majority, mainstream, laggard) and so on ...
- Current Priorities: their most important current strategic programmes and initiatives - for example, cost reduction, revenue growth, market share growth, digital transformation and so on ...



- As an essential input into our territory and account planning processes
- To help us research and build our target account and prospect lists
- As a high-level initial qualifier how closely does a potential opportunity reflect our ideal customer profile?



02.3 Key Roles Worksheet

Once we have established the **key business issues** we are going to target, and identified our **ideal customer profiles**, we then need to identify the **key roles** within these organisations that are most likely to be responsible for addressing the targeted issue(s).

These **key project sponsors** are likely to be senior business executives with operational responsibility for the departments or functions that are most affected by the issue(s). We need to identify their typical **job titles**, and anticipate their likely ...

- Primary responsibilities and key priorities
- Common business challenges
- Key internal relationships and influences
- Key external influences

... particularly as they relate to the **business issues** we have chosen to target.

We also need to be clear about how we **deliver** valuable outcomes to these key stakeholders.

Outcome-Centric Selling® | Key Roles Worksheet

Context:		
Factor	Potential Ultimate Approver(s)	Potential Executive Sponsor
Typical titles		
Primary responsibilities		
Key priorities		
Common challenges		
Internal influences		
External influences		
How you deliver valuable outcomes		

- As an essential input into our account and opportunity planning
- To help us research and build our target account and prospect lists
- As a high-level initial qualifier do our current contacts have the potential to play a key role in the customer's decision and approval processes?



02.4 Key Trends and Trigger Events Worksheet

The final consideration when it comes to targeting are the key trends and trigger events that are likely to cause our potential customers to recognise that they need to change - and to act sooner rather than later.

There are three key categories of event:

- Internal trigger events such as new senior appointments, new strategies, new initiatives, new investments, new product launches, and so on
- External trigger events such as new legislation or regulation, new competitors, new technologies, one-off events and so on
- Unavoidable trends these are typically longterm, profound changes in the business landscape whose impact can no longer be ignored or avoided

These trends and trigger events are the **catalysts** that cause prospective customers to recognise that they can no longer continue on their current path and that **urgent action is required**.

Context:					
Factor	Example	Symptoms/Indicators	Who is affected?	How are they affected?	
Internal Trigger Events					
External Frigger Events					
Jnavoidable Frends					

Outcome-Centric Selling® | Key Trends and Trigger Events Worksheet

- To identify key internal and external events that are affecting our target and existing customers and that we need to monitor and respond to
- To prioritise where our short-term pipeline building activities should be focused
- As a high-level initial qualifier is there a powerful trend or trigger event that is driving the opportunity?





The Outcome-Centric Selling Toolkit offers simple, effective easy-to-keep updated frameworks for **two key levels** of sales planning:

- An easily-sharable one-page overview of how you plan to maximise the potential of your territory that establishes the core principles and can be supported by whatever level of additional information is necessary
- An easily-sharable one-page overview of how you plan to maximise the potential of each key account that can be supported by whatever level of additional information is necessary

Unlike many traditional approaches to these types of planning, which are often done as a once a year exercise and rarely revised afterwards, both frameworks are intended to be **reviewed** and **updated** on a **regular basis** to reflect the inevitable changes in both the territory and account environment - as well as our own shifting priorities.

Key Planning Tools:

- 03.1 Territory Planning
- 03.2 Account Planning



03.1 Territory Planning

Our approach to territory planning is to summarise the most important elements **on a single page**, each of which can then be expanded as necessary.

- First, of course, we need to clearly define the boundaries of the territory - which might include geography, vertical market, product line, go-tomarket-model, or any other relevant factors
- Then we need to accurately summarise backed by evidence - our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in the territory
- Based on this analysis, we then need to clearly articulate our top three objectives, strategies and tactics, and pipeline building initiatives
- We then need to identify our top three existing and target accounts in the territory, and our most important measurable objectives for each of them
- This needs to be supported by the work we have done to identify our key target issues, ideal customer profile, key roles, and key trends and trigger events



How, when, and where to use this tool:

- At the start of every new sales year, to align everyone around our focus and priorities
- Whenever circumstances change
- To help plan and prioritise our territory and pipeline development activities

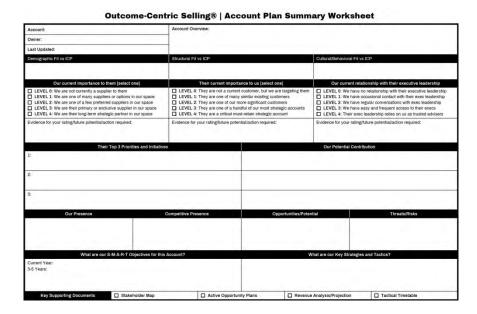


03.2 Account Planning

Our approach to account planning is - once again - to summarise the most important elements on a single page, each of which can then be expanded as necessary.

- In addition to providing a brief account overview, the worksheet explores the alignment against the demographic, structural and cultural/behavioural aspects of our ideal customer profile
- We then go on to explore our importance to them, their importance to us, and our relationship with their executive leadership
- We then capture the account's top three business priorities and how we contribute to them
- We then contrast our presence in the account against our key competitors, as well as identifying our opportunities/potential and our threats/risks
- In the light of the above, we then summarise our SMART objectives for the account, together with our key strategies and tactics

This can then be supported by **further details** including a stakeholder map, active opportunity plans, revenue analysis/ projections and a tactical timetable.



- When taking over responsibility for a new account
- At the start of each new sales year, and reviewed on at least a quarterly basis thereafter
- Whenever anything significant changes
- To help plan and prioritise our account development activities



04: Outcome-Centric Opportunity Management Tools

The Outcome-Centric Selling Toolkit includes a number of carefully-crafted **building blocks** that are specifically designed to help salespeople assess and manage their significant sales opportunities:

- An opportunity review checklist designed to focus attention on the key things salespeople need to know and do in order to give themselves the best possible chance of winning the opportunity
- A continuously updatable opportunity qualification worksheet based on the IMPACCT framework - an evolved version of MEDDIC
- A continuously updatable stakeholder management worksheet designed to help salespeople identify, engage, and assess every key player in the decision and approval process
- A mutual success plan framework designed to help salespeople and key customer stakeholders to collaborate to ensure that the prospect's desired outcomes are clearly understood and successfully achieved

Key Opportunity Management Tools

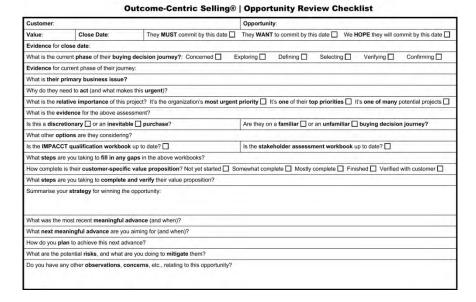
- 04.1 Opportunity Review Checklist
- 04.2 IMPACCT Qualification Worksheet
- 04.3 Stakeholder Management Worksheet
- 04.4 Mutual Success Plan Framework

04.1 Opportunity Review Checklist

The opportunity review checklist seeks to capture the current status of some of the most important factors that have been proven to have a significant impact on the outcome of every sales opportunity.

It highlights what the salesperson does and doesn't know, and what they have and haven't done, and includes:

- The evidence behind the close date
- The nature and status of the customer's buying decision journey
- The current status of qualification and stakeholder engagement
- The current status of the customer-specific value proposition
- The salesperson's strategy for winning the opportunity
- Potential risks and mitigations
- Any other key information
- Key next steps



- As soon as an opportunity is first registered, to ensure we have a deep understanding of the circumstances
- To help us recognise what we still need to find out or confirm, and what we still need to do
- Whenever the customer's circumstances change
- Before advancing the opportunity to the next stage



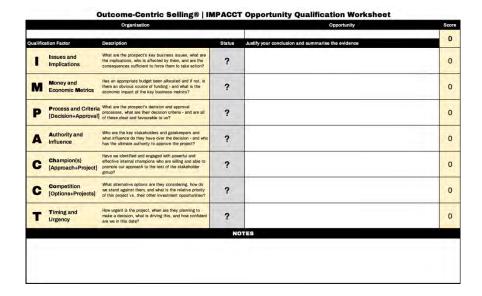
The IMPACCT opportunity qualification worksheet is based on an evolved version of MEDDIC - today's most widely adopted qualification framework for complex B2B sales.

IMPACCT addresses 7 key qualification factors ...

- Issues and Implications
- Money and Economic Metrics
- Authority and Influence
- Process and Criteria (Decision and Approval)
- Champion(s) (Approach and Project)
- Competition (Options and Projects)
- Timing and Urgency

... using a 5-point colour-coded scale ranging from very positive to very negative, but always initially defaults to "unknown"

Salespeople must **justify** their assessment of each factor and provide the **evidence** to support it.



- Review all factors soon as a potential opportunity requires initial qualification
- Reassess all factors whenever our or the customer's circumstances change
- Reassess all factors before advancing any opportunity to the next stage

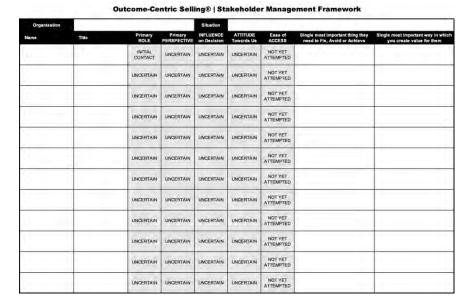
04.3 Stakeholder Management Worksheet

The stakeholder management worksheet is designed to help salespeople identify, engage, and assess every key player in their prospective customer's decision and approval process.

In addition to each stakeholder's name and title, the worksheet guides salespeople in assessing:

- Their primary role in the decision process
- Their primary perspective and how to best communicate with them
- Their influence over the decision
- Their attitude towards us as a vendor.
- Their attitude towards the project as a whole
- How easy it is to access them
- The single most important thing they need to fix, avoid, or achieve
- The single most important way in which we create value for them

Salespeople are encouraged to rely on **evidence**, and not hope or assumption, when assessing each stakeholder.



- Seek to identify and start to assess all the key stakeholders soon as a potential opportunity requires initial qualification
- Continue to reassess and better understand the already-identified stakeholders and seek out additional stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of the sale

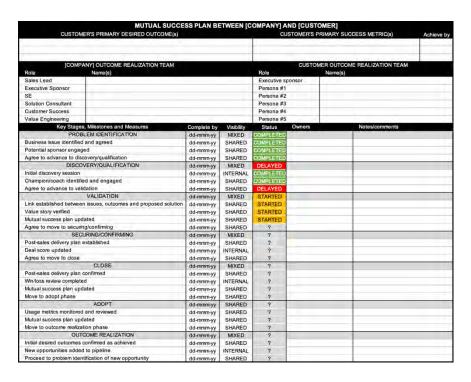
04.4 Mutual Success Plan Framework

The mutual success plan framework is designed to help salespeople and key customer stakeholders to collaborate to ensure that the prospect's desired outcomes are clearly understood and successfully achieved.

In addition to capturing the customer's **primary desired outcome**(s) and **success metrics**, the mutual success plan:

- Identifies the key members of both organisation's outcome realisation teams
- Tracks the current stage of the customer's decision journey
- Identifies and monitors the mutually agreed steps towards achieving the desired outcomes, who is responsible for them, and when they need to be accomplished

Note: the example on the right is a simple shared spreadsheet-based approach, but a growing range of **on-line mutual success plan platforms** are now available **- ask us for recommendations**.



- At the start of the sales process/buying decision journey, to ensure alignment around outcomes
- Throughout the sales process/buying decision journey, to ensure that we remain on track to achieve the agreed outcomes



05: Conversation Management Tools

The Outcome-Centric Selling toolkit provides a range of support to help salespeople to plan, prepare and successfully manage value-creating customer conversations - and to leverage these conversations to progressively craft compelling value propositions that are specific to each customer's circumstances.

The building blocks include:

- A customer-specific value proposition framework that will ultimately provide the basis for the executive summary of your proposal
- A conversation planning workbook designed to create meaningful value for every participant
- A SPINCycle questioning framework designed to ensure that every question we ask is valuable
- A frequently asked questions workbook designed to help salespeople prepare to answer the customer's common predictable questions
- A shareable anecdote framework designed to help create a pool of compelling, relevant stories

Key Conversation Management Tools

- 05.1 Customer-Specific Value Proposition Framework
- 05.2 Value-Creating Conversation Planning Workbook
- 05.3 **SPINCycle Questioning Framework**
- 05.4 Frequently Asked Questions Workbook
- 05.5 Shareable Anecdote Framework



05.1 Customer-Specific Value Proposition Framework

When organisations refer to their "value proposition", this typically takes the form of a **generic message** aimed at a **wide target market**. Whilst these can be useful in initiating an **early-stage conversation** with a prospective customer, their generic nature makes them **progressively less useful** as the sale evolves.

If we are to win the customer's business and deliver the outcomes they are looking for, we need to craft specific responses to the 4 key questions every customer asks themselves:

- Why do we need to change, rather than continuing on our current path?
- Why do we need to act now, rather than later?
- Why should they choose us, rather than any other option?
- Why should they trust us to ensure that their desired outcomes are achieved?

For as long as our customer is **less-than-completely** satisfied with any of the answers, they are likely to "do nothing" and stick with the status quo.

Outcome-Centric	Selling® "New Solut	ion" Value Propos	sition Framework	[for New Cu	stomers and/or New Projects]
Customer:	Project:		Salesperson:		Updated:
	WHY do th	ey need to ACT (rather	than continuing on their	current path)?	
	Current Business Issue(s)		Intended Business Outcome(s)		
Painful Consequences (Existing/Potential Pain/Risk) ♥			Positive Benefits (Potential Gain) ♠		
		WHY do they need to a	ct NOW (rather than late	r)?	
Business Case			ate Priorities		Cost of Delay
	WH	Y should they choose U	(rather than any other of	option)?	
Their alternative o	ptions Their	required capabilities	How is our approa	ch different?	How does this result in better outcomes?
	WHY should	they TRUST us (to ensur	e they achieve their inte	nded outcomes)	
Decision	n Confidence		porter Reputation		Approval Risk

- Early on in the sales process/buying decision journey, to establish the current strength of each of the answers
- Progressively throughout the sales process, to develop and test the strength of the answers
- As the foundation for the executive summary of our formal proposal



05.2 Value-Creating Conversation Workbook

If a conversation is worth having, then it is worth preparing and planning for - and it will be most productive for all participants if it follows an appropriate framework (whilst allowing all points of view to be heard).

The **essential building blocks** of a value-creating conversation include:

Before the conversation

Preparing the ground

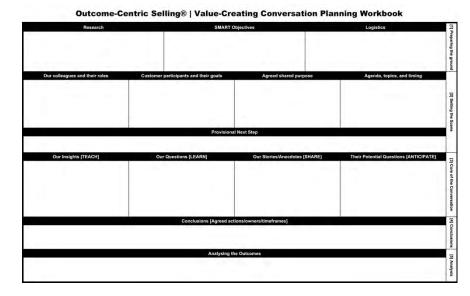
During the conversation

- Setting the scene
- The core of the conversation
- Agreeing the conclusions

After the conversation

Following up/analysing the outcomes

The value-creating conversation workbook offers a structured yet flexible framework for planning, preparing, and managing productive customer conversations that leaves every participant thinking "that was a good use of my time".



- As a visual checklist and reminder prior to every customer conversation
- As a written plan prior to particularly significant conversations, particularly where colleagues are expected to participate, and you need everybody to be "on the same page"
- As a guide to running a productive meeting or conversation



05.3 **SPINCycle Questioning Framework**

No prospective customer enjoys being asked a series of often **irrelevant-to-them** "discovery" questions that merely demonstrate that the salesperson has **failed** to **respect the prospect** or **prepare** properly for the conversation.

The SPINCycle questioning framework helps to ensure that the customer has space to speak, interwoven with intelligently chosen insights, anecdotes, and a thoughtful blend of relevant value-creating questions:

- Minimising the number of situational questions by ensuring salespeople do their research in advance
- Uncovering the problems the customer is suffering from, with a focus on business issues and not just functional needs
- Exploring the impact and implications of the issues the customer has acknowledged
- Helping the customer to recognise for themselves the need and value of addressing the issue
- Asking commitment questions that help to confirm the agreed next steps

	Outcome-Centric Selling® SPIN+Cycle Question Workbook					
Use this workt	Use this workbook to plan and prepare the most relevant SPRN+Cycle Situational, Problem, Implication, Need-Value and Commitment questions for each of your most common customer situations and scenarios - such as targeted issues, and specific product or service offerings					
Situation/ Scenario						
Potential Situational Questions to Ask						
Potential Problem Questions to Ask						
Potential Implication Questions to Ask						
Potential Need-Value Questions to Ask						
Potential Commitment Questions to Ask						

- As a collective exercise across sales and marketing to come up with the most appropriate and powerful questions to ask in common sales situations/scenarios
- To come up with an appropriate and relevant balance of questions to ask when preparing for a given customer conversation
- To avoid asking questions the customer is likely to regard as irrelevant, disrespectful, or patronising



05.4 Frequently Asked Questions Workbook

The most experienced salespeople have usually worked out **how to best answer** their customer's common or predictable **potentially-tricky questions** through a combination of insight, empathy, trial-and-error, and personal experience.

Unfortunately, their less-effective and lessexperienced colleagues often **struggle to respond** to these same questions and can find that their progress ends up stalling as a result.

That's where a collectively-sourced frequently-asked questions workbook can prove invaluable - it reflects the **accumulated wisdom** of the entire sales organisation, and not just each salesperson's individual experiences.

This is one of a number of examples - the SPINCycle questioning framework is another obvious one - where salespeople can **learn from each other**.

The resulting collection of frequently asked questions can be hosted on the organisations' sales enablement system or shared file repository.

Context:						
Predictable, potentially tough to answer questions	Who is likely to ask?	How should we respond?				

Outcome-Centric Selling® | Frequently Asked Questions Workbook

- As a collective exercise across sales and marketing to come up with the most effective answers to our customers' most predictable questions
- To prepare for an upcoming conversation by reviewing the potential best answers to the prospective customer's most likely questions



05.5 **Shareable Anecdote Framework**

It's often observed that many **top salespeople** are also amongst the **most effective storytellers**.

Rather than "pitching", they build rapport and gain the confidence of their prospects by sharing relevant anecdotes that reflect the experiences of other similar customers.

Fortunately, this is a **skill that can be learned**, and when salespeople share their favourite anecdotes with their colleagues the whole organisation benefits.

The key elements on an **effective anecdote** include:

- A customer situation and experience that the listener can relate to
- A recognisable complication that had been preventing that customer from achieving their desired outcomes
- A turning point that took advantage of our unique approach and perspective
- A positive resolution and outcome, plus an unanticipated or unexpected benefit

Customer	
Industry	
Offering	0
Use Case	
Situation	
Complication	
Turning Point	
Resolution / Outcome	

Outcome-Centric Selling® | Anecdote Framework
Use this framework to capture and share the key elements of your customer anecdote

- As a collective exercise across sales and marketing to capture and share the most powerful customer stories and anecdotes
- To prepare for an upcoming conversation by familiarising ourselves with the anecdotes that could most effectively support the messages we are trying to convey

06: Sales Process Design Tools

When many sales organisations talk about their "sales process", they are typically referring to a series of **linear**, **non-reversible steps** each salesperson is expected to follow in order to convert a prospect into an order - often including stages based on a specific sales activity such as "qualifying".

But in the real world, the customer's actual buying decision journey is **far more complicated**. They are more likely to think in terms of (for example) "selecting" or "verifying". More importantly, their journey is **rarely linear** - from any point, they can move **forwards**, **backwards**, go **around in circles** or **abandon the journey** altogether.

And their **buying journey** also looks very different depending on whether they ultimately actually buy anything is **inevitable** or **discretionary**, and whether they are embarked on what they see as a **familiar** or an **unfamiliar** decision process.

Rather than a single **rigid sales process**, sales organisations need a **flexible framework** to accommodate all these variations.

Key Sales Process Design Tools

- 06.1 Customer Decision Journey Checklist
- 06.2 Buying Behaviour Guidelines

06.1 Customer Decision Journey Checklist

Traditionally, most sales organisations have defined their "sales process" in terms of a **linear one-directional sequence** of stages and/or actions that salespeople are expected to follow when managing a sales opportunity.

Recently, more enlightened sales organisations have decided to reflect the **customer's buying decision journey** in their approach to opportunity and pipeline management.

This involves defining pipeline stages in terms of the **key phases** in the **buying journey**, recognising that the process can go backwards as well as forwards, and seeking to anticipate and observe:

- What the prospective customer is likely to be thinking and doing during each phase
- What the salesperson needs to know and do during each phase
- Typical customer indicators/verifiers
- Phase-relevant qualifiers
- Progress milestones and exit criteria

	Key phases in the customer's buying decision journey (up to the point of commitment to action)						
Customer Phase	Status Quo	Concerned	Exploring	Defining	Selecting	Verifying	Confirming
What is our prospective customer likely to be thinking and doing?	They appear to be unconcerned about any of the issues we could help them address	They have become aware of an issue as a result of an internal or external trend or trigger	They are actively investigating the issue and researching credible potential solution options	They are assembling their decision team and defining their decision criteria and process	Evaluating short-listed options and seeking consensus regarding a single preferred option	They are eliminating any remaining reservations and negotiating best possible terms	The project sponsor is submitting internal business case for final internal approval
What are the key things we need to be doing?	Systematically raising awareness of the issues we are targeting and their implications	Identifying and engaging concerned prospects as early as possible in their buying decision journey	Determining whether the opportunity is real, winnable, and worth winning	Influencing their desired outcomes and decision criteria, and facilitating their decision process	Convincing the decision team that our approach will deliver their best possible outcomes	Identifying and dealing with any remaining concerns and securing a mutually acceptable deal	Ensuring the project and our proposed approach has the highest possible chance of approval
Typical customer indicators/veriflers		-They show initial signs of interest	- Customer engages in ongoing conversation - Customer confirms issue(s)	- Customer shares more detailed information - Customer reveals decision process	Customer issues RFP (if appropriate/necessary) Customer evaluates short-listed options	- Customer is actively negotiating - Customer requests references/proof points	- Approval process, criteria and timetable shared - Internal business case finalised and submitted
Qualifiers (partial list)	ICP - Organization malches feeal Customer Profile	ISSUES/MPLICATIONS - Does prospect have an - Does prospect have an - Are the implications pofentality significant? TIMINGURGENCY - Where did our "obse date" come from?	MONEY/METRICS - Dot he metrics justify - Dot he metrics justify - Are the economics clear favourable? PROCESS/CRITERA - Is their decision process - clear - Joseph Control - AUTHORITY/INFLUENCE - Who are the decision- makers/approvers? Requality previous factors	CHAMPIONIS) - Who is championing the project? - Who are our championis? - Who are our championis? - What are their offer optionis? - What dither projects are compelling for approval? TIMING/URGENCY - What downing their urgency of anything? Requally previous factors	PROCESSICRITERIA - Is their decision process - Are their decision orderia	PROCESS/CRITERIA - What is their approval process? AUTHORITY/INFLUENCE - What is our relationship with key approvers? CHAMPION - Do our champions have power over legal procurement? - COMPETITION - Are all competitive vendors eliminated? Requality previous factors	PROCESSICRITERIA - When is the project due to be finally approved? COMPETITION - Which other projects are we competing against, TMININGUED Own Loans? - Why do they need to appearing the project of t
Key things we need to know or do (partial list)	Issue-based outreach to key roles in organizations that match our ICP	Inilitate a conversation Start to qualify Is this an inevitable or discretionary purchase? Familiar or unfamiliar decision process?	- Explore their situation - Continue to qualify - Identify key stakeholders - What triggered their - search for a solution? - is our initial contact a potential champion?	- Continue to qualify - Engage key stakeholders - How can we create or amplify their FOMO? - How have they tried to address issue before? - What are their desired outcomes (organisational and personal)?	- Conlinue to qualify - Get shortlisted - Focus on outcomes - Differentiate our approach - Establish urgency - Who has REALLY got the power?	- Continue to qualify - Identify and eliminate remaining risk or doubt - What are their remaining concerns? - How can we establish trust/eliminate FOMU?	- Continue to qualify - Ensure they trust us to deliver - What stands in the way of final approval?
Progress Milestone/Exit Criteria	- We detect evidence of a trigger event	- Customer agrees to actively engage	- Customer passes initial qualification and agrees to advance to next phase with us	- Customer establishes decision criteria and process and agrees to advance with us	Customer informs us we are their preferred option and agrees to advance with us	- Customer agrees all relevant terms and conditions and submits project for final approval	- Customer places a bookable order with us

- As a catalyst for developing a customer-journeycentric sales process that includes customer-activitybased milestones
- To help salespeople to anticipate what their prospect's priorities are likely to be during each phase of their buying decision journey

06.2 Buying Behaviour Guidelines

Each customer's buying decision journey looks very different depending on whether the decision to buy something is **inevitable** or **discretionary**, and whether they are embarked on what they see as a **familiar** or an **unfamiliar** decision process.

When a purchase is **inevitable**, then the salesperson can focus on promoting the **advantages of their approach** over all other options - but when the purchase is discretionary (i.e., it may never happen), then the salesperson must **also sell the need for change**.

When the customer regards their decision process as being **very familiar**, they are likely to think that they do not need to engage vendors directly until late in the process, but when they recognise that they are entering **unfamiliar territory**, they are more likely to be open to seeking advice earlier in the process.

These two dimensions have a huge impact on how the customer manages their buying decision journey, and on how salespeople should seek to engage with them.

Outcome-Centric Selling® Checklist | Matching our Sales Strategies and Tactics to our Prospect's Buying Behaviour

	scretionary Purchase + Familiar Decision Process: "Marching into the Unknown"	Discretionary Purchase + Unfamiliar Decision Process: "Running in the Fog"			
	y indicators:	Key indicators:			
	At the end of the exercise, customer may or may not commit to take action, AND	At the end of the exercise, customer may or may not commit to take action, AND			
	They have indicated that they believe their buying decision process will be a familiar one	☐ They have acknowledged that their buying decision process will be a unfamiliar one			
Situ	uation:	Situation:			
Our to d	r prospect may end up doing nothing - so (assuming they are otherwise well-qualified) we must help them decide to do something, to act now, and to choose us.	Every aspect of our prospect's buying decision journey is open to influence: they are unsure how to decide what to do and may end up doing nothing - so (assuming they are otherwise well-qualified) we must help them to decide what to do, to do something, to act now, and to choose up.			
Key	y things we need to know and do:				
	Confirm that this is in fact a discretionary purchase combined with a familiar buying process	Key things we need to know and do:			
	Understand their current buying decision process and criteria and if necessary suggest some refinements and improvements	 Establish our credibility as a trusted adviser by coaching them on the key things they need to know and do to make the best possible decision for them (even if that is a decision to do nothing) 			
	Help them to answer the key questions associated with this type of buying decision journey:	☐ Help them to establish their decision group and define their buying decision process and criteria			
	□ Why do they need to act, (rather than continuing on their current path)?	Help them to answer the key questions associated with this type of buying decision journey;			
	Why should they choose us, (rather than any other option)?, and Why should they trust us (to ensure that they achieve their intended outcomes)? Convince them that they need to act before trying to persuade them to choose and trust us	☐ Why do they need to act, (rather than continuing on their current path)? ☐ Why do they need to act now, (rather than later)? ☐ Why should they choose us, (rather than any other option)?, and			
	Create FOMO ^{III} by exploring their issue(s) and the associated implications (including the costs and consequences of inaction) and trying to persuade them of the need to act, and the need for urgency	 Why should they trust us (to ensure that they achieve their intended outcomes)? □ Be prepared to politely disqualify and disengage if we cannot be sure we can help or if we cannot offer the best cotion 			
	Eliminate FOMU ^[5] and establish trust by demonstrating how our approach and capabilities will ensure that they achieve the best possible outcomes	□ Create FOMO(3) by exploring their issue(s) and the associated implications (including the costs and consequences of inaction) and trying to persuade them of the need to act, and the need for urgency			
		☐ Eliminate FOMU ^[7] and establish trust by demonstrating how our approach and capabilities will ensure that they make the best possible decision achieve the best possible outcomes			
Ine	evitable Purchase + Familiar Decision Process: "Painting by Numbers"	Inevitable Purchase + Unfamiliar Decision Process: "Orienteering"			
Key	y indicators:	Key indicators:			
	The customer has confirmed that they must commit to action no later a specified date, AND	The customer has confirmed that they must commit to action no later a specified date, AND			
	They have indicated that they believe their buying decision process will be a familiar one	They have acknowledged that their buying decision process will be a unfamiliar one			
Situ	uation:	Situation:			
	prospect is bound to do something - so (assuming they are well-qualified) we must help them to decide to now (rather than later), and to choose us (rather than any other option).	The customer is bound to do something - but they are not completely sure how to buy, who to buy from, and when to act - As well as promoting why us, we need to address why now and work with our			
Key	y things we need to know and do:	customer to become a trusted adviser and to influence their requirements, buying criteria and decision			
	Confirm that this is in fact an inevitable purchase combined with a familiar buying process	process			
	Understand their current buying decision process and criteria	Key things we need to know and do:			
	Help them to answer the key questions associated with this type of buying decision journey:	 Establish our credibility as a trusted adviser by coaching them on the key things they need to know and do to successfully manage their buying decision process 			
	Why do they need to act now, (rather than later)? Why should they choose us. (rather than any other option)?, and	to successfully manage their buying decision process Help them to establish their decision group and define their buying decision process and criteria			
	 □ Why should they choose us, (rather than any other option)?, and □ Why should they trust us (to ensure that they achieve their intended outcomes)? 	Help them to establish their decision group and define their buying decision process and criteria Help them to answer the key questions associated with this type of buying decision journey:			
a	Establish the need for urgent action before trying to persuade them to choose and trust us	☐ Why do they need to act now, (rather than later)?			
	Amplify FOMO(1) by exploring their issue(s) and the associated implications (including the costs and consequences of delay) and seeking to convince them to act sooner rather than later	Why should they choose us, (rather than any other option)?, and Why should they trust us (to ensure that they achieve their intended outcomes)?			
u	Eliminate FOMU ^[2] and establish trust by demonstrating how our approach and capabilities will ensure that they achieve the best possible outcomes	 Amplify FOMO^[1] by exploring their issue(s) and the associated implications (including the costs and consequences of delay) and seeking to convince them to act sooner rather than later 			
		☐ Eliminate FOMU ^[3] and establish trust by demonstrating how our approach and capabilities will ensure that they make the best possible decision and achieve the best possible outcomes			

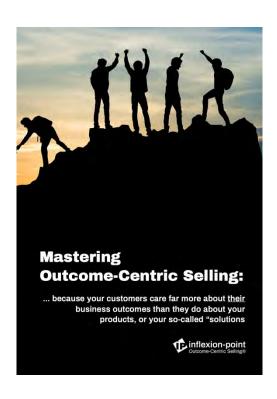
[1]: FOMO = The Fear of Missing Out (i.e., the bad things that could happen if they fail to take action) | [2]: FOMU = The Fear of Messing Up (i.e., the bad things that could happen as a result of a poor buying decision)

- To help salespeople to diagnose the specific nature of each customer's buying decision journey
- To guide salespeople in how they need to manage the different types of buying decision journey



07: eBooks/Guides

You may also find the following eBooks and guides helpful:



Mastering Outcome-Centric Selling offers a comprehensive introduction to the essential building blocks of Outcome-Centric Selling®.

It is recommended reading for any business executive, sales leader or salesperson who wants to learn more about the concept and to see how to put the principles into practice.

The guide explains why having an outcome-centric perspective is so relevant to today's increasingly complex B2B selling and buying environments.



Qualifying With IMPACCT is the essential guide to the IMPACCT opportunity qualification framework - an evolved version of MEDDIC, and a key building block of the outcome-centric selling approach.

To download these and many other useful resources, please visit the resources page of the Inflexion-Point website at https://www.inflexion-point.com/resources



08: In Conclusion

We hope that this guide has helped you to better understand and appreciate the **power** and **potential** of both the outcome-centric selling approach and its supporting sales toolkit.

If you are an **existing** individual or corporate customer of Inflexion-Point, you are entitled to have direct access to the relevant sales tools in a customisable format that allows you to tailor each tool to your organisation's specific circumstances and requirements.

If you are a **potential** individual or corporate customer, we would be pleased to explain your options for licensing the sales toolkit and the associated training programmes.

To find out more, please email us at info@inflexion-point.com or <u>book a zoom call</u>. We look forward to the conversation.

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