Presentation Guidelines

How to present your venture as an investment opportunity

Making the few points that count
Your 12 Slides: The Essence of Your Presentation

1. Cover Page - Venture positioning statement
2. What do you do? – describe succinctly
3. What pain do you relieve? - and the value proposition to the customers
4. Who will buy your product(s)/service(s)? – describe the market
5. How better than others do you do it? - your company vs. the competition. How will you sustain your advantage?
6. How do you sell it? - direct, channel, etc.
7. What is your timetable and what have you already done? What will each step cost? Milestones
8. Who does it at your company? - list the team + credentials + previous endeavors
9. How will you grow the company beyond launch? Financial projections + skills
10. How much money do you need? - prior investments, this round, future rounds
11. What is the value proposition for the investors?- the X factor, the planned "exit"
12. What are the risks?
1. Cover... Business Positioning

- The cover slide should position the venture so potential investors have a framework for listening...
  - Company name (and graphics, if appropriate)
  - One-sentence “what we do” statement (positioning or elevator pitch)
  - Presenter’s name(s)
  - For example:

**PICtage**

A service for professional photographers that increases sales and cuts costs through online:

- Proofing and viewing
- Print-order fulfillment

Presenter: Jason Kiefer, CEO

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**Payment Protection Systems**

Devices dealers install in cars to assure that poor credit risks pay their loans on time:

- Reminds customer payment is due, controls ignition when delinquent
- Cuts dealer’s collection/repossession costs by 80% or more

Presenters:

- Mike Simon – President, CEO
- Ashley Herndon-VP Sales and Marketing
2. What do you do?

- Summarize briefly what your venture does, emphasizing the unique qualities of your product(s) or service(s), but without much comparison to the competition just yet.
- Explain where your product(s) or service(s) fits within the whole solution to the customers’ needs.
- Identify whether or not your customers will see your product(s) or service(s) as the main component of the solution or just a portion of it.
3. What “pain” do you relieve?

- Briefly describe “the pain” that exists in the market. Give a couple of examples, and relate to what “unfair advantage” you have for relieving this pain.

- Important points to cover:
  1. How do you know that there is real “pain”?
  2. Further explain your understanding of the needs in the market. Dwell on this point!
  3. What is/will be the ROI for the customers? How fast will they recoup their investment? (the “value proposition”)
  4. How will you protect your product(s) or service(s) from becoming a commodity?
4. Your Product(s) or Service(s) as a Solution

- Clearly explain your product(s) or service(s) … what it is that customers will be buying?
- Explain where your product(s) or service(s) fit within the whole solution to the customer’s need, as customers see it. For example:
  - Services, technologies or platforms (“enablers”) required to make your product effective
  - System, behavior or procedure conversions required to realize the key benefits
- Identify your value-added (what portion of the whole solution you provide)... and whether customers will see your product(s) or service(s) as being the main component of the solution
- Describe the benefits delivered, justifying the cost of the whole solution vs. the expected benefits.
5. Market...Your Customers

- Define the characteristics of the companies or consumers that need a solution
  - Quantify – number of prospects that have the need
  - Explain how the market is growing and why

- Identify the important 2 – 3 segments of the market; for each...
  - Estimated market size (customers & potential sales)
  - What distinguishes the key segments of the market from each other and from the market as a whole
  - How urgently customers need or want the solution
6. Competitive Position…

Competitors and Barriers

- Address three key barriers to the adoption of your solution:
  - **Big Dogs** – What are huge, well-known companies that have existing products and well-established relationships with your target customers doing? How will they react to your initiatives?
  - **Inertia** – What will it take to get customers to change what they are using/doing today?
  - **Innovators** – What companies might leapfrog your solution with equal or better solutions?

- Explain how you propose to win against the best of these

- In particular, describe your strongest barriers to competition… i.e.: if you are successful, how do you plan to block better-known or better-funded competitors from moving in and taking over.
7. Marketing/Sales/Support

- Briefly explain the expected selling cycle (the time between your making contact with the customer and the customer’s buy decision).

- Describe how you propose to reach your targeted customers – focusing on the initial segments
  - **Marketing** – To raise customers’ awareness of your product(s) or service(s) and stimulate their interest in buying
  - **Sales** – To give buyers (buying decision-makers) a convenient way to find out the details and place an order
  - **Support** – To help customers understand your product(s) or service(s) before buying, (during installation) and in use

- If you rely on indirect channels, explain:
  - Your approach to reaching *them*
  - Whose responsibility it is to raise awareness and generate demand among end-customers
  - Who provides pre-and post-sales support

- Describe special sales incentive programs (if any)
8. Management Qualifications…

Background, Startup Experience

Focus on the management team, in particular:

- **CEO** – Who will run the show?
- **CTO** – Who will develop your core technology/ies?
- **CMO** – Who will find and reach your markets?
- **CFO** – Who will keep track of the $$$?

You may not use these titles or have full-time individuals in these roles but you need to describe how you are fulfilling these functions.

- What individuals or types of individuals are you getting advice from or would you like to find to become advisers?
9. Growth Beyond Launch

- Explain the development status... how much work remains before the product/service achieves full functionality
- What dollar and other resources will it take to get to product/service launch?
- What do you need to do to achieve positive cash-flow and how long it will take to get there?
- What level of revenues and profits do you anticipate over the next 1/3/5 years?
10. What is the value proposition for your investors?

- How much money do you want from them?
- What will you do with it?
- What will they get for it → how will your success reward your investors?
11. The Risks

- Investors need to know what keeps you awake at night:
  - Quality issues?
  - Adoption rate?
  - Costs?
  - Cash-flows?
  - Manufacturing problems?
  - Personnel recruitment, training, retention?
  - The competition?
  - Scaling up?
  - Etc.
- Be open and straightforward. Investors are looking for “win-win” situations.