

# Selling Virtually: Putting the Buyer First

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# Meet Your Presenter:



#### **Eric Bloomberg**

Regional Account Manager LinkedIn

# Agenda

- 1 How the selling landscape has changed
- 2 How to fill pipeline in the era of COVID-19

**3** Uncovering Buyer Needs

# **Conventional Sales Tactics are Falling Short**

Acquisition Tactics are destroying trust and losing deals



X More difficult to reach a prospect than in 2010 Customer Revenue is exposed to more risk



The average number of people involved in purchase decisions

#### Sales Productivity Is stagnating



36%

Sales rep time spent on selling

COVID-19 has accelerated the digital transformation of sales

#### Which method is more important to your customers (% of respondents) 66%



# Before COVID-19During COVID-19Traditional Sales InteractionsDigital-Enabled Sales Interactions

#### Fact or fiction? The four myths of B2B selling

A recent Bain survey, powered by Dynata, of more than 300 B2B buyers and sellers helps dispel some common misconceptions.

Fact

 Field sales reps sell primarily in person
 50% of sales interactions were virtual even before the pandemic due to faster communication and cost effectiveness

Myth

- In-person selling works better than virtual selling
   75% of buyers and 54% of sellers agreed, or were neutral, that virtual is as effective for
- Virtual sales applies only to small deals or accounts
   Signature of the second sec
- Shifts to virtual selling during the pandemic will revert after the crisis
- 80% of buyers and sellers believe there will be a sustained increase in virtual interactions



# YOU MUST PROSPECT

# How to prepare for the call

Purpose	Why are we have a meeting with this prospect? What is the prospect's understanding of why we are meeting?
Outcomes	What are the desired outcomes for the meeting? What is the "Main Thing" that we need to accomplish?
Intelligence	What are the prospect's external pressure and business objectives and how do they relate to the focus of the meeting?
Needs	What does the prospect need in order to meet their objectives and resolve their challenges? What types of solutions/value are we proposing?
Teams	Who is participating in the meeting? What's most important to each participant in the meeting?
Strategy	What is our strategy to ensure a successful meeting and how will you gain commitment from the prospect?

## Hierarchy of business challenges

Existential – "Air"

Competitive landscape

The economy

Disruption / innovation

M&A

2+ year plan

**Example: Potential recession** 

\*Less control, big impact

External Go-to-market Value proposition Product Internal Org design

Strategic – "Food"

1-2 year plan Example: Grow to 40 million Tactical – "Clothes" Systems and tools Activity level Finding candidates Hiring cycles This week/month/quarter

Example: generate 40 leads / day

\*More control, small impact

# During the call: turn your camera on!



Average Close Rate When Neither Party has Camera on

Average Close Rate When One Party has Camera on Average Close Rate When Both Parties have Camera on

## Teach & Learn

#### Building trust

- Human to human
- Make sure
  everyone is
  present and
  ready
- Share the purpose of the call
- Set the agenda
- Explain your goals for the conversation

### Teach & Learn

- Share relevant industry insights
- Learn about business challenges
- Build your narrative and use it here
- Qualify and quantify pain

#### Align

- Summarize
  learnings and
  confirm what you
  heard
- Align customer challenges to SN value proposition
- Introduce the pilot as a way to validate the SN value proposition

#### Prescriptive close

- Discuss the decision-making process
  (who/what/how)
- Prescribe next steps
- Gut check

### Why Teach & Learn

#### Strategic

We understand the prospect's business strategy. Prospect believes that implementing your product aligns with a high priority strategic business objective(s).

#### **Business Case**

Collaboratively create a business case for how we can solve a prospect's problem and create value. Prospect believes that the cost of your product is justified by the projected ROI, tied to their business objective(s).

#### Commercial

We have proposed and aligned on the best commercial option for the prospect's business.

## Teach & Learn – what does it sound like?

#### Existential

How would you describe your competitive landscape?

How has your market changed in recent years?

In your market, we see...

Your competitors are doing...

Come with your own perspective!

#### Strategic

Why do your customers choose you over competitors?

Where is the biggest opportunity in your target market?

Other strategies we typically see are...

Here's how a similar customer approached that...

#### Commercial

How are you solving for X (what your product solves for)

What experience do you have with other vendors?

Here's a feature of our product...

This is how we fit in X

# Happy Hunting.