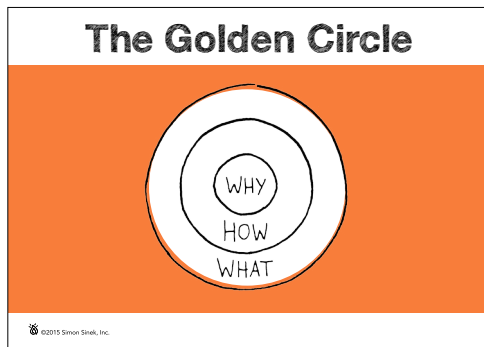


# The Golden Circle Presentation Notes / Page 1

## slide 1



Why is it that some leaders and organizations are able to inspire greater loyalty and engagement among their customers and employees alike? How are they able to achieve and sustain inordinate amounts of success for years on end?

Whether they realize it or not, all great and inspiring leaders and organizations think, act and communicate in the same way... and it is the complete opposite from everyone else.

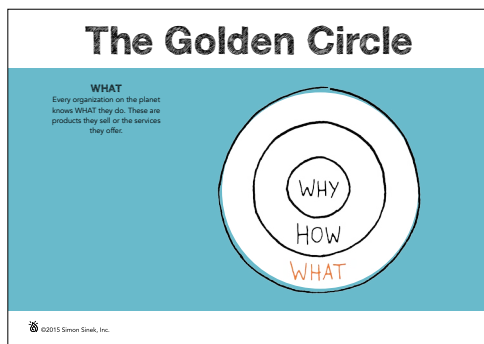
Every single organization on the planet, even our own careers, function on three levels:

1. What we do
2. How we do it, and
3. Why we do it.

When those three pieces are aligned, it gives us a filter through which to make decisions. It provides a foundation for innovation and for building trust. When all three pieces are in balance, others will say, with absolute clarity and certainty, "We know who you are," "We know what you stand for."

This simple idea is The Golden Circle. It is a concept discovered by optimist and author Simon Sinek.

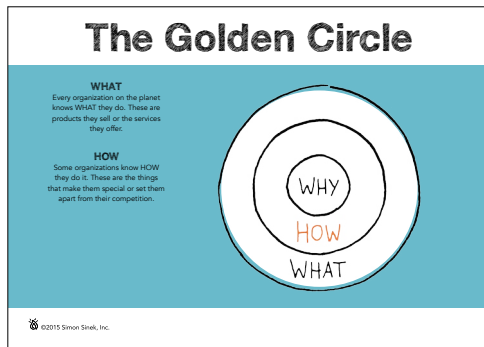
## slide 2



Every organization and individual knows What they do. For an organization, these are the products they sell or the services they offer. For an individual, it is their job title or roles.

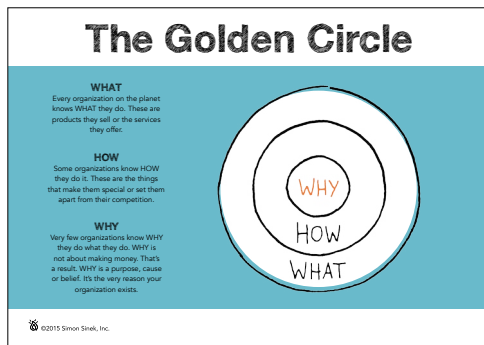
# The Golden Circle Presentation Notes / Page 2

## slide 3



Some organizations and individuals know How they do what they do. They may call it their “differentiating value proposition,” “proprietary process” or “unique selling proposition (USP).” The Hows are an organization’s or individual’s strengths, values or guiding principles. These are the things they feel set them apart from their competition; the things they think make them special or different from everyone else.

## slide 4

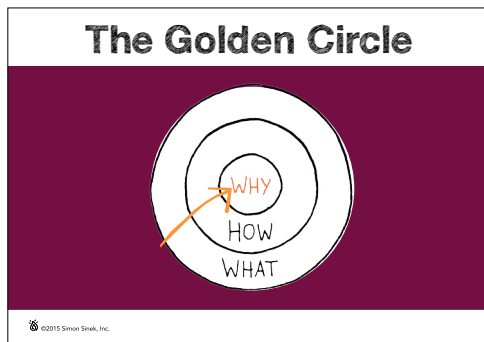


Very few people and very few organizations can clearly articulate Why they do what they do. Why is a purpose, a cause or a belief. It provides a clear answer to the questions, “Why do you get out of bed every morning?” “Why does your organization exist?” and “Why should that matter to anyone else?”

Making money is NOT a Why. Revenues, profits, salaries and other monetary measurements are simply results of what we do.

The Why is about our contribution to impact and serve others. The Why inspires us.

## slide 5



People naturally communicate from the outside-in; they typically go from what is easiest to understand to what is hardest to understand and explain. They tell people What they do, tell them How they are different or better, and then they expect a behavior like a purchase, a vote or support.

Here is how most organizations market and communicate:

What: “Here is our law firm.”

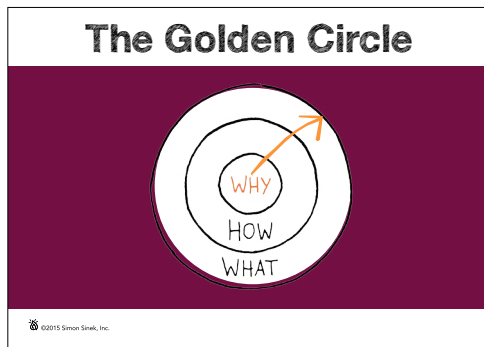
How: “We have the industry’s most intelligent lawyers, who graduated from the world’s top schools. Have you seen our client list? Only from the Fortune 500! And, check out our offices – they are absolutely pristine.”

Behavior: “Come do business with our law firm!”

The problem is that What and How do not inspire action. Facts and figures make rational sense, but people do not make decisions purely based on facts and figures. Starting with What is what commodities do. Starting with Why is what leaders do. Leaders inspire.

# The Golden Circle Presentation Notes / Page 3

slide 6



Leaders and organizations with the capacity to inspire all think, act and communicate from the inside-out. They start with their Why. When they communicate their purpose or cause first, they communicate in a way that drives decision-making and behavior. It literally taps the part of the brain that influences behavior.

Here's an example with the same law firm, starting with their Why:

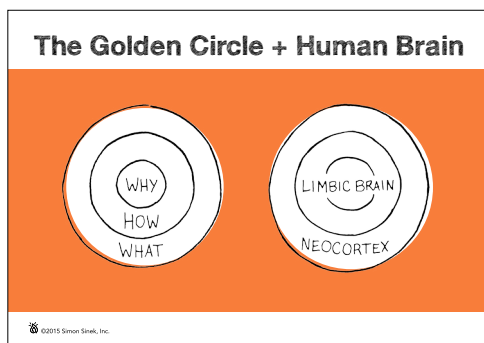
Why: "We believe in servicing the needs of others so that they can focus on the difference they need to make."

How: "We do so by bringing on some of the most intelligent legal professionals who graduated from the world's top schools. We work with top performing organizations, most of which are on the Fortune 500 list, so that we can help them make a larger difference in the world. And, we like to go above and beyond, so we have built pristine offices."

What: "We are a world-class law firm. Come see for yourself."

If the people at this firm actually believe in their Why and think, act and communicate starting with their Why, they will attract people who believe what they believe and who want to be a part of their cause.

slide 7

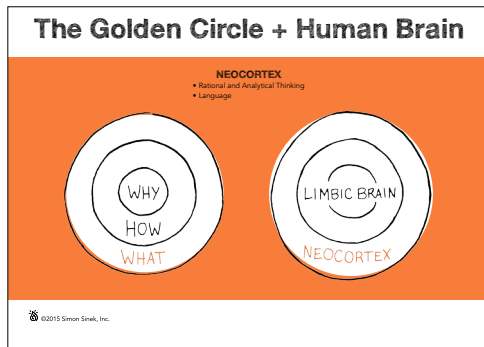


None of this is opinion. It is all grounded in the tenets of biology.

A cross-section of the human brain shows that its layout perfectly correlates with the three major components of The Golden Circle.

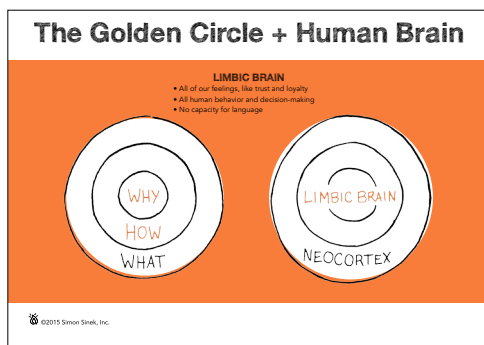
# The Golden Circle Presentation Notes / Page 4

slide 8



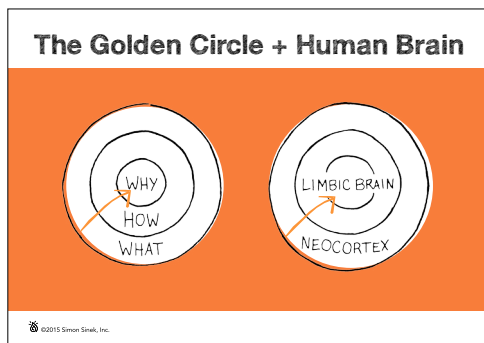
The outside of the brain is the Neocortex, which corresponds with the What level of The Golden Circle. The Neocortex is the newest brain or Homo Sapien brain. It is responsible for all rational and analytical thought and language.

slide 9



The middle two sections, the How and Why, of The Golden Circle make up the Limbic Brain. The Limbic Brain is responsible for all feelings, like trust and loyalty. It is also responsible for all human behavior and decision-making, yet it has no capacity for language.

slide 10

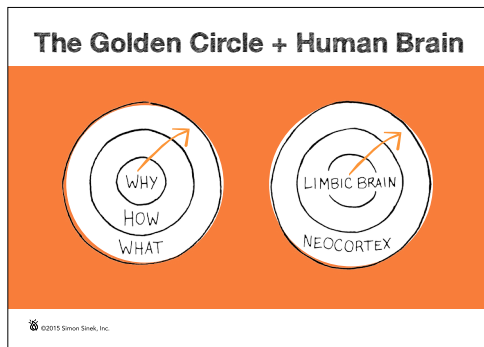


In other words, communicate from the outside-in and people can understand vast amounts of complicated information, like features, benefits, facts and figures. It simply does not drive human behavior.

# The Golden Circle Presentation Notes / Page 5

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slide 11



Communicate from the inside-out and speak directly to the part of the brain that controls emotions, behavior and decision-making.

But, if asked the reason they choose one product or service over the other, the decision-maker often cites the features, benefits, facts or figures. What's the reasoning behind that?

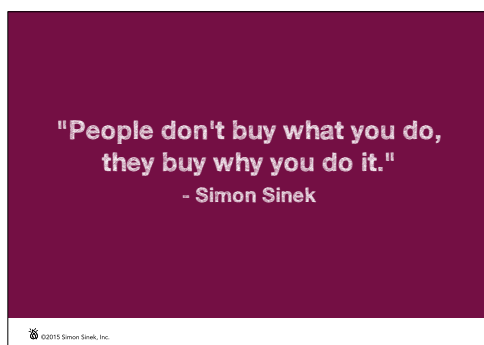
The Neocortex, the thinking part of the brain, is always trying to understand and make sense of the world. This is the reason we think we are rational beings when we are really not. If we were, we would never buy a product or service simply because of how it makes us feel. We would never be loyal; we would always choose the best deal. We would never care about trust or relationships; we would only evaluate the numbers. We know that we don't do that. We do choose one product, service or company over another because of the way it makes us feel.

The Limbic System controls our emotions, feelings and decision-making, but remember it has no capacity for language. We make decisions using our Limbic System and then rationalize that decision with the part of the brain that can communicate with words, the Neocortex.

There is a difference between repeat business and loyalty. Repeat business means that someone is willing to continue to do business with you. Perhaps because of your price, a feature or some sort of convenience. As soon as that convenience is no longer available, the customer complains or leaves to meet their needs elsewhere. Loyalty is quite different. Loyal consumers may choose to suffer some sort of inconvenience to continue doing business with you. They will pay more, travel further, proudly defend and champion your brand, even if your product or service is more expensive, further away or somehow less convenient.

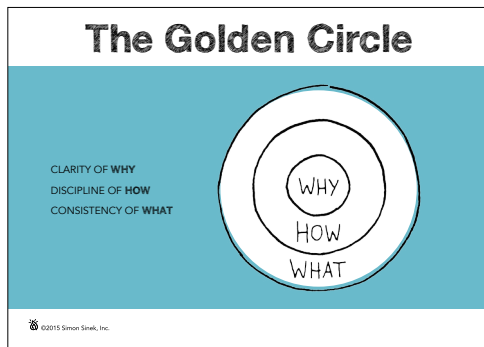
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slide 12



This is the reason we can say that people don't buy What you do, they buy Why you do it and What you do simply serves as the tangible proof of what you believe.

slide 13



For The Golden Circle to work properly, you must have:

1. Clarity of Why,
2. Discipline of How, and
3. Consistency of What.

No one section of The Golden Circle is more important than the other. The most important thing is a balance across all three.

### WHY:

If you don't know Why you do What you do, how can you expect anyone else to know? For others to know your Why, you must first have clarity of your own Why.

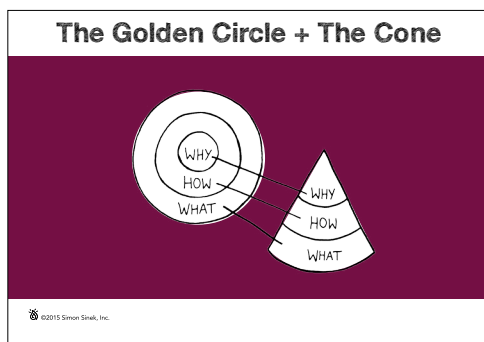
### HOW:

The actions that you and your people take to bring your cause to life must be aligned with your values, guiding principles, strengths and beliefs.

### WHAT:

And everything you say and everything you do must be consistent with what you believe. After all, we live in the tangible world. The only way people will know what you believe is if you say and do the things you actually believe.

slide 14



The Golden Circle is not just a communication tool; it also provides some insight into how great organizations are structured. If we imagine The Golden Circle as a three-dimensional model, it's a top down view of a cone.

The cone represents a company or an organization, an inherently organized system. At the top of the system, representing the Why, is a leader. She or he articulates the Why and points to a vision of a better future. The next level down, the How level, includes the people who are inspired by the leader's cause. They give their blood, sweat and tears to build and bring the vision to life. The What, at the bottom of the cone, are the things the organization says and does that breathe life into the Why. They make it tangible. An organization communicates its Why through everything it says and does; the marketing, the products and services the company provides ... everything.



We become leaders  
the day we decide  
to help people grow,  
not numbers.

Simon Sinek

### Leadership is a Choice

- No one wakes up in the morning and says “I can't wait to go to work and be ‘managed’ today... please manage me today!”
- What we need are true leaders!
- We call them leaders because they Go First. We call them leaders because they take the risk before anybody else does. We call them leaders because they start with a core purpose, articulate a vision of the future and choose to sacrifice so that colleagues may feel safe and so that others may gain...
- And when you do, the natural response is that the people will sacrifice for us.
- Imagine a world where a vast majority of our people wake up every day inspired to go to work, feel protected while they're there and go home at the end of the day with a sense of pride and fulfilment at having contributed to something bigger than themselves. The common denominator is culture.
- If you have a great culture where people believe what you believe, where everyone is important and no one is jealous, then people will move heaven and earth to bring your bold vision to reality.
- But we must take care our colleagues and customers... Take care of the person to the right of you, and the person to left of you... To know that if you should fall, if you make a mistake, if you stumble, if you take a calculated risk and fail, then a colleague will have your back.
- Great leaders may let a colleague fail, but they will never let a colleague be a failure!
- This is caveman stuff... Alone we're pretty useless, we can't lift heavy weights, we can't solve complex problems.
- But together, anything is possible. Thank you!

WhysWhy.com



Heath Slawner



@heathcliff

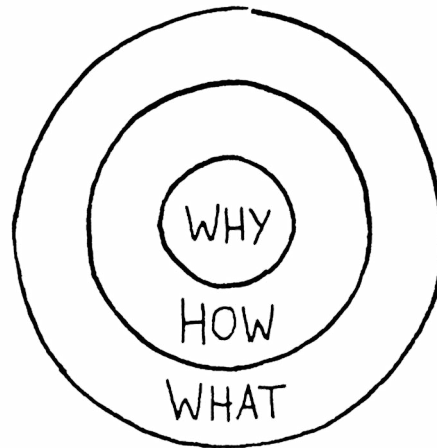


@HeathSlawner

[HeathSlawner.com](http://HeathSlawner.com)

[StartWithWhy.com](http://StartWithWhy.com)

## Origin of The Golden Circle



In 2006, Simon Sinek owned and operated his own marketing firm. Although his business was financially successful, he had lost his passion for what he was doing. He knew What he did and he knew How he did it different or better than others. However, he had no clarity as to Why he was doing it. With no purpose behind his work, he began to burnout and he became depressed.

The tips and advice he received from others, like, "Do what you love!" were not working. He became obsessed with finding the missing link - his Why. This is the driving inspiration that is there when everything is right and missing when at our worst.

Through personal reflection and sharing what was becoming clear with others, Simon found his Why – to inspire people to do the things that inspire them so that, together, we can change our world. He began to use his Why as a filter, choosing only to do things and get involved with projects that would bring his Why to life. His passion restored to levels he had never experienced before.

What do we do when we find something we love? We share it with the people we love. Simon started sharing this little idea and his discovery with his friends. His friends started making crazy life changes for the better, inspired by Simon's discovery and articulation. Friends would invite him to their apartments in New York City to tell their friends about The Golden Circle and they would share the concept with others. This was the beginning of the Start With Why movement.

The ideas The Golden Circle illustrates are certainly not new. Simon did not invent purpose. What he has been able to do is capture this idea, that has been around for millennia, in a way that is simple, easy to understand and actionable. It is our hope that people use and share these ideas with others so that, together, we can change our world.

Inspire on!