

Title:

7 Ways to Stop "Selling" & Start Building Relationships

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Summary:

Traditional Sales Mindset Vs Unlock The Game™ Mindset Always deliver a strong sales pitch. Vs Stop the sales pitch -- and start a conversation. When you lose a sale, it's usually at the end of the sales process. Vs Sales pressure is the only cause of rejection. Vs Never chase a potential client -- you'll only trigger more sales pressure.

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Article Body:

<p>Sometimes we can all use a friendly reminder to keep us from backsliding into old ways of thinking about selling that lead us down the wrong path with potential clients.</p>

<p>New Thinking = New Results</p>

<p>Maybe it's time to take a different approach. Maybe we need to seriously analyze our sales thinking so we can identify why we're not making more sales. Take a look at the table below and thinkabout your current selling mindset. How would your selling behaviors change if you changed your sales thinking?</p>

<p>Traditional Sales Mindset Vs Unlock The Game™ Mindset</p>

<p>1. Always deliver a strong sales pitch. Vs Stop the sales pitch -- and start a conversation.</p>

<p>2. Your central objective is always to close the sale. Vs Your central goal is always to discover whether you and your potential client are a good fit.</p>

<p>3. When you lose a sale, it's usually at the end of the sales process. Vs When you lose a sale, it's usually right at the beginning of the sales process.</p>

<p>4. Rejection is a normal part of selling. Vs Sales pressure is the only

cause of rejection. Rejection should never happen.</p>

<p>5. Keep chasing every potential client until you get a yes or a no. Vs Never chase a potential client -- you'll only trigger more sales pressure.</p>

<p>6. When a prospect offers objections, challenge and/or counter them. Vs When a potential client offers objections, uncover the truth behind them.</p>

<p>7. If a potential client challenges the value of your product or service, you must defend yourself and explain the value. Vs Never defend yourself or what you have to offer -- it only creates more sales pressure.</p>

<p>Let's take a closer look at these central Unlock The Game™ concepts so you can begin to open up your current sales thinking and become more effective in your selling activities:</p>

<p>1) Stop the sales pitch -- and start a conversation.</p>

<p>When you call someone, avoid making a mini-presentation about yourself, your company, and what you have to offer. Start with an opening conversational phrase that focuses on a specific problem that your product or service solves. If you don't know what this is, ask your current customers why they purchased your solution. One example of an opening phrase might be, "I'm just calling to see if you'd be open to some different ideas related to lowering the risk of any computer downtime you may be having in your company?" Notice that you are not pitching your solution with this opening phrase.</p>

<p>2) Your central goal is always to discover whether you and your potential client are a good fit.</p>

<p>Let go of trying to "close the sale" or "get the appointment"-- and you will discover that you don't have to take responsibility for moving the sales process forward. If you simply focus your conversation on problems that you can help potential clients solve, and if you don't jump the gun by trying to move the sales process forward, you will find that potential clients will actually bring you into their buying process.</p>

<p>3) When you lose a sale, it's usually right at the beginning of the sales process.</p>

<p>If you believe that you lose sales because you make a mistake at the end of the process, take a look back at how you began the relationship. Did you start with a presentation? Did you use traditional sales language like, "We have a

solution that I believe you really need" or "Others in your industry have bought our solution, so you should consider it as well"?</p>

<p>When you use traditional sales language, potential clients can't help but label you with the negative stereotype of "salesperson." This makes it almost impossible for them to relate to you from a position of trust. And if trust isn't established at the outset, honest communication about the problems they're trying to solve, and how you might be able to help them, becomes impossible too.</p>

<p>4) Sales pressure is the only cause of rejection. Rejection should never happen.</p>

<p>Rejection happens for only one reason: Something you said, as subtle as it might have been, triggered a defensive reaction from your potential client. Yes, something you said. To eliminate rejection, simply shift your mindset so that you give up the hidden agenda of hoping to make a sale. Instead, everything you say and do should stem from the basic mindset that you are there to help potential clients. This makes you able to ask, "Would you be open to talking about issues you might be having affecting your business?"</p>

<p>5) Never chase a potential client--you'll only trigger more sales pressure.</p>

<p>"Chasing" potential clients has always been considered normal and necessary, but it's rooted in the macho selling image that, "If you don't keep chasing, it means you're giving up -- and that means you're a failure." This is dead wrong! Instead of chasing potential clients, tell them that you would like to avoid anything that resembles the old cat-and-mouse chasing game by scheduling a time for your next chat.</p>

<p>6) When a potential client offers objections, uncover the truth behind them.</p>

<p>Most traditional sales programs spend a lot of time focusing on "overcoming objections." These tactics only put more sales pressure on potential clients and also fail to explore or understand the truth behind what the potential client is saying. When you hear, "We don't have the budget," "Send me information," or "Call me in a few months," do you think you're hearing the truth, or do you suspect that these are polite evasions designed to end the conversation?</p>

<p>Rather than trying to counter objections, you can uncover the truth by replying, "That's not a problem" -- no matter what clients are "objecting" to --

and then using gentle, dignified language that invites them to reveal the truth about their situation.</p>

<p>7) Never defend yourself or what you have to offer -- it only creates more sales pressure.</p>

<p>When a potential client says, "Why should I choose you over your competition?," your first, instinctive reaction is probably to start defending your product or service because you want to convince them to buy. But what do you think goes through your potential client's mind at that point?</p>

<p>Something like, "This 'salesperson' is trying to sell me on why what they have to offer is better, but I hate feeling as if I'm being sold." Rather than defending yourself, try suggesting that you aren't going to try to convince them of anything because that would only create sales pressure. Instead, ask them about the key problems that they are trying to solve, and then explore how your product or service might solve those problems --without ever trying to persuade.. Let potential clients feel that they can choose you without feeling "sold."</p>

<p>You too can improve your sales effectiveness if you are open minded and willing to try a new and more natural selling approach.</p>