## INBOUND MARKETING

Attracting Customers With Great Content, 10/11/2011

Colleen Dalton, Follow: @colleendalton Email: cdalton@mammoth-mtn.com

### **AGENDA**

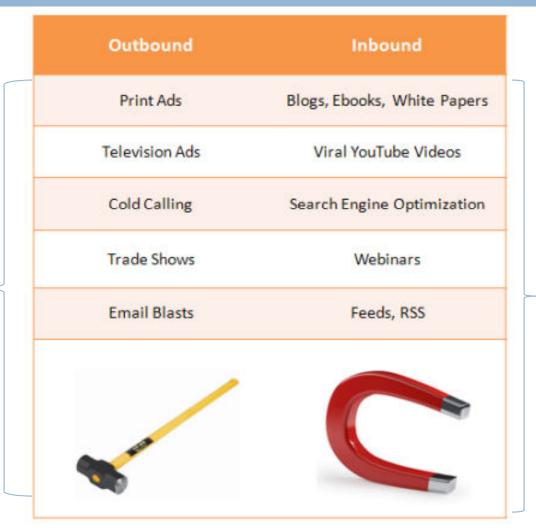
- Inbound vs. Outbound Marketing:
- Inbound Marketing: Three Components
- Key Concept: Give, Don't Sell
- Getting Organized
- Content Targeting within Buying Funnel
- Great Examples
- Brainstorm
- Content Ideas, Tips, Do's, Don'ts

# Inbound vs. Outbound Marketing

- Technology is making traditional (outbound) marketing such as cold-calling, print advertising, T.V. advertising, junk mail, non-solicited email and trade shows less effective and more expensive.
- Inbound Marketing is marketing focused on getting found by customers.
- Learn how to attract highly qualified customers to your business like a magnet instead of interrupting people with various forms of outbound marketing

# Inbound vs. Outbound Marketing

Sell to customers through promotion of features, benefits.



Attract customers through giving away great content.

Earn trust and build an audience that buys later based upon perceived brand value and reputation.

# Inbound vs. Outbound Marketing

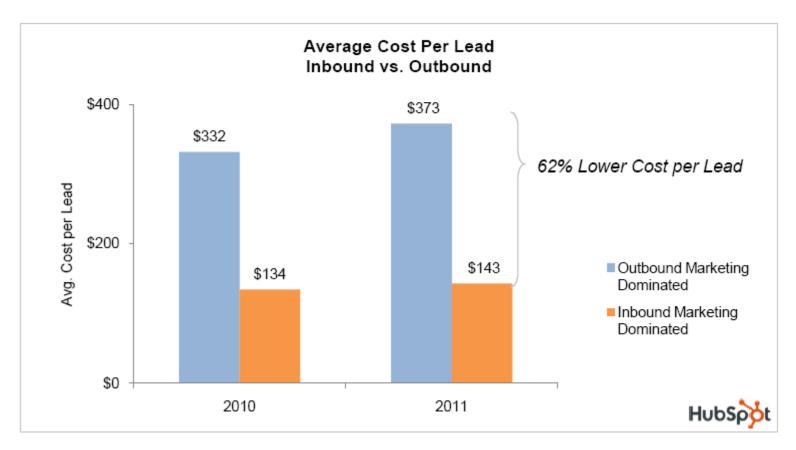
- Outbound Marketing is PUSH
  - The **Model**: based upon interruption, distraction, solicitation.
  - The Budget: usually costs money.
  - The Media Plan: optimizing advertising dollars wisely can be tough.

Challenges: TIVO, Caller ID, Do Not Mail, Email Overload, Rising Costs

- Inbound Marketing is PULL
  - The **Model**: Inbound Marketing is based upon the Law of Attraction
    - ...and I'm not talking about The Secret.
  - The **Budget**: soft costs, time and resources. Some hard costs.
  - The Media Plan is supplemented with a Content Strategy Plan.
    - Customers are researching, needing to find information. Be there to receive them and graciously give away what they are looking for.

<u>Challenges</u>: using your brain versus your budget, being compassionate for your customers and passionate about your products and services.

### Avg. Cost per Lead: Inbound vs. Outbound



According to HubSpot, on average Inbound leads cost 60% less than Outbound Leads, generated by paid advertising – 2009, 2010 State of Inbound Marketing Reports - Two Years of Data.

#### Inbound Biggest Winners: Small Businesses

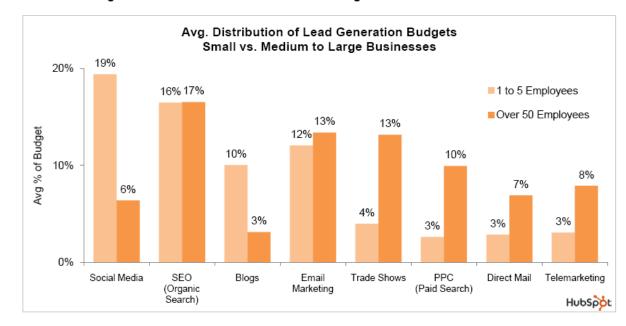
#### HubSpot

#### THE STATE OF INBOUND MARKETING

#### Small Companies Continue to Spend More of Their Budgets on Inbound Marketing

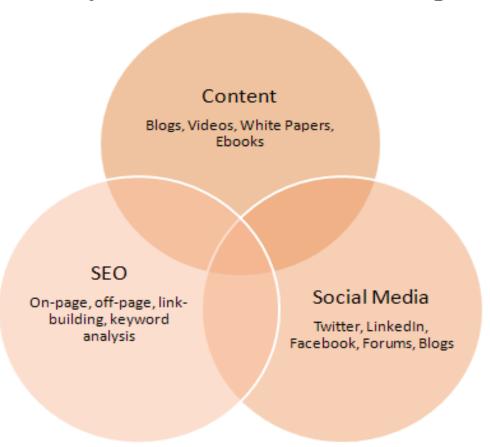
In a continuation of a trend identified in previous reports, small businesses are attempting to level the playing field by focusing on lower-cost inbound lead generation techniques.

- In 2011, small businesses (1 to 5 employees) plan to spend 49% of their lead generation budgets on inbound marketing.
- In comparison, medium-to-large businesses (50 or more employees) only plan to spend 36% of their lead generation budgets on inbound marketing.
- Small business are only giving 10% of their budget to outbound, while medium-to-large business are allocating 28% of their budget to outbound channels.
- Small businesses plan to spend dramatically more of their budgets on social media and blogs.
- Medium-to-large businesses plan to spend more of their budgets on outbound methods, including trade shows, direct mail and telemarketing.



# Inbound Marketing: 3 Components

#### Components of Inbound Marketing



# Inbound Marketing: 3 Components

Businesses must get found online by the consumers searching for their products and services in the:



# Customer Behavior by Component

#### Search Engines

Enter product/service keywords in Google/Bing

#### □ Blogs

Research, read and get valuable free insights from the experts (your brand) to make an informed decision.

#### Social Media

- Observe friends behaviors with Brands (endorsement)
- Seek opinions, ratings, reviews.

# Customer Behavior by Component



Source: Lee Odden TopRankMarketing.com, SES 2011 (June)

# Customer Behavior by Component



Source: Lee Odden TopRankMarketing.com, SES 2011 (June)

### Inbound Marketing - Leverages All Three

Social media amplifies the impact of your content.



# Inbound Marketing =Content Creation

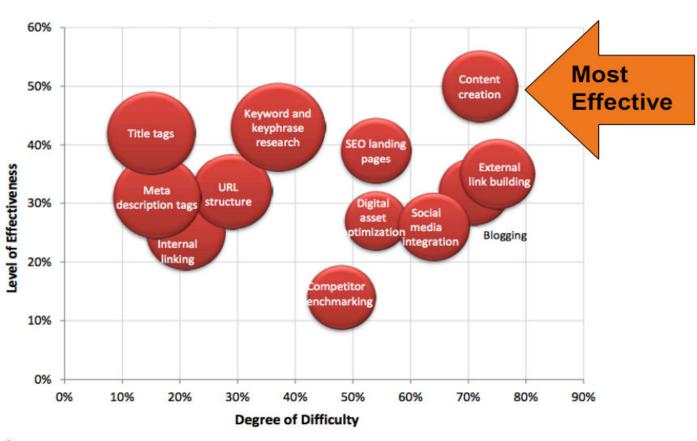
- At the core of inbound marketing is publishing compelling content that attracts inbound links and potential buyers to your website.
- Fundamentally, inbound philosophy is fulfilling research needs with passionate, entertaining, relevant and FREE information.
- HubSpot Founder Dharmesh Shah reports that customers who blog regularly average about six times more inbound leads than those who don't.

## Inbound Marketing: Giving, not Selling

People want access to great insights and great people.

Reveal, make it easy, do not charge, have compassion, ask how you can help – be of service.

# Correlating Content Creation Effort & SEO Effectiveness





Omarketingsherpa Source: ©2011 MarketingSherpa Search Marketing Benchmark Survey Methodology: Fielded April 2011, N=1,530

# Google's Secret Algorithm for SEO?

#### it's all about the content....

- Would you trust the information presented in this article?
- Is this article written by an expert or enthusiast who knows the topic well, or is it more shallow in nature?
- Does the site have duplicate, overlapping, or redundant articles on the same or similar topics with slightly different keyword variations?
- · Would you be comfortable giving your credit card information to this site?
- · Does this article have spelling, stylistic, or factual errors?
- Are the topics driven by genuine interests of readers of the site, or does the site generate content by attempting to guess what might rank well in search engines?
- Does the article provide original content of information, original reporting, original research, or original analysis?
- Does the page provide substantial value when compared to other pages in search results?
- · How much quality control is done on content?
- Does the article describe both sides of a story?
- Is the site a recognized authority on its topic?
- Is the content mass-produced by or outsourced to a large number of creators, or spread across a large network of sites, so that individual pages or sites don't get as much attention or care?



#### http://goo.gl/huekf

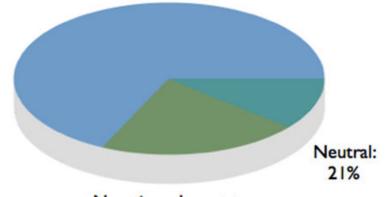
What counts as a high-quality site for Google?

- Was the article edited well, or does it appear sloppy or hastily produced?
- For a health related query, would you trust information from this site?
- Would you recognize this site as an authoritative source when mentioned by name?
- Does this article provide a complete or comprehensive description of the topic?
- Does this article contain insightful analysis or interesting information that is beyond obvious?
- Is this the <u>sort of page</u> you'd want to bookmark, share with a friend, or recommend?
- Does this article have an excessive amount of ads that distract from or interfere with the main content?
- Would you expect to see this article in a printed magazine, encyclopedia or book?
- Are the articles short, unsubstantial, or otherwise lacking in helpful specifics?
- · Are the pages produced with great care and attention to detail vs. less attention to detail?
- Would users complain when they see pages from this site?

# Brands initiating social media contact – what works? Content

# Reaction to the brand initiating engagement in social media

Positive—if the brand provides content relevant to me: 68%



Negative—I want to initiate contact with the brand: 11%

Q: Consider a situation whereby a brand that you like follows you on Twitter or friends you on Facebook. What would your reaction be?

# Inbound Marketing: Blogging



THE STATE OF INBOUND MARKETING

#### Introduction

#### Summary

This report is based on a January 2011 survey of 644 professionals familiar with their business' marketing strategy. The key takeaways are:

- Inbound marketing channels are maintaining their low-cost advantage: Inbound marketing-dominated organizations experience a cost per lead 62% lower than outbound marketing-dominated organizations.
- The gap between spending on inbound vs. outbound continues to widen: In 2009, inbound marketing had a 9% greater share of the lead generation budget; in 2011 its share was 17% greater.
- Blogs and social media channels are generating real customers: 57% of companies
  using blogs reported that they acquired customers from leads generated directly from their
  blog.
- More and more business are blogging: Businesses are now in the minority if they do not blog. From 2009 to 2011 the percentage of businesses with a blog grew from 48% to 65%.
- Businesses are increasingly aware their blog is highly valuable: 85% of businesses
  rated their company blogs as "useful," "important" or "critical;" a whopping 27% rated their
  company blog as "critical" to their business.

Source: HubSpot, The State of Inbound Marketing Report, 2011

### Inbound Marketing: Two Types of Content

- GAS: Disposable, Time-Sensitive, Front-of-Mind,
   More Frequent, Keeps the Pump Primed
- ROCKET FUEL: An Investment, Preplanned, High Shelf Life, Longer Reach, Incoming Link-Worthy, Less Frequent, Greater Insights.

Include Both in your Content Calendar

# Inbound Marketing: Blogging

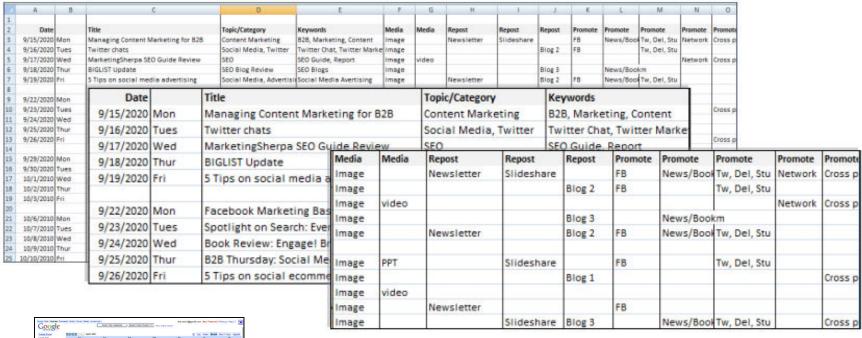
- Own your URL brandname.com/blogpost, blog.brandname.com
- Blog 2-3X per week to build a steady following.
- Consider a Blog before a web site, gather feedback, insights. Get published.
- Measure by performance inbound links, number of visitors, comments and actual leads.

# Getting Organized

#### Create a Content Planning Strategy

- Brand Promise why?
- □ Target Audience who?
- Business Objective what?
- Purchase Funnel where?
- Content Quality Gas or Rocket Fuel?
- Content Production Costs?
- Content Formats (video, text, graphics, images)
- Keywords Targeting? Customer Challenge?
- Content Calendar & Frequency.
- Distribution Channels
- Measurement

### Example: Content Schedule



Description of the control of the co

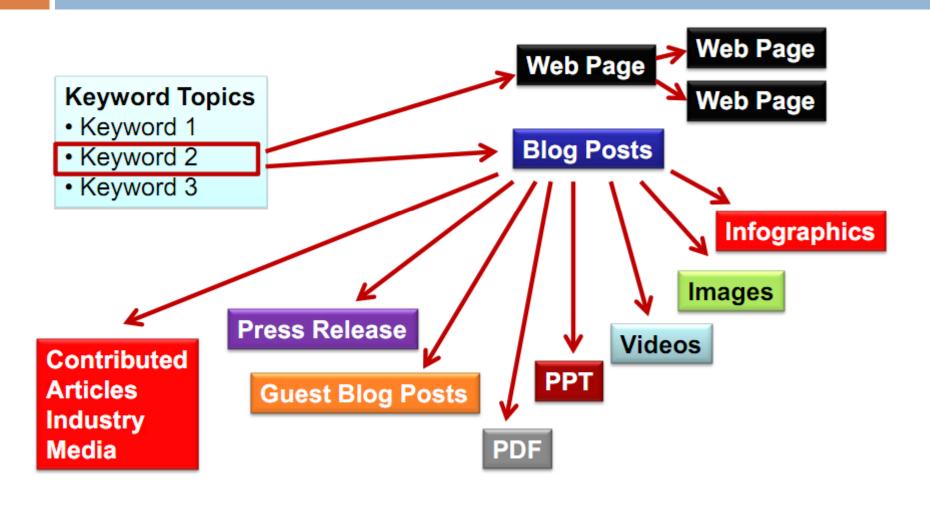
Commit to a Calendar – Schedule Regular Gas and Rocket Fuel content appropriately.

Source: Lee Odden TopRankMarketing.com, SES 2011 (June)

#### **Content Formats**

- □ Video
- □ Podcast (MP3, M4A, .MOV, AVI)
- Webinar (.MOV)
- □ PowerPoint (.PPT)
- □ RSS Feed − XML
- Documents (PDF)
- □ QR Code
- Images, Graphics, Charts, Infographic
- □ HTML, Text

# Content - Keyword Driven



# Content Targeting in Buying Funnel

Less than 4 out of 10 (38%) B2B marketers say they tailor their content to specific stages of the buying cycle, according to MarketingSherpa's 2008-2009 Business Technology Marketing Benchmark Guide.

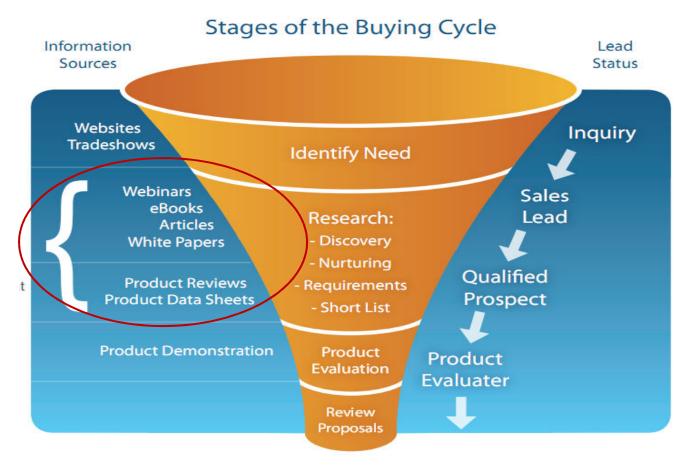
That means that you can gain a big advantage over 62% of your competitors when you create high-value content that addresses the different needs and questions the buying committee asks at different stages of the buying cycle.





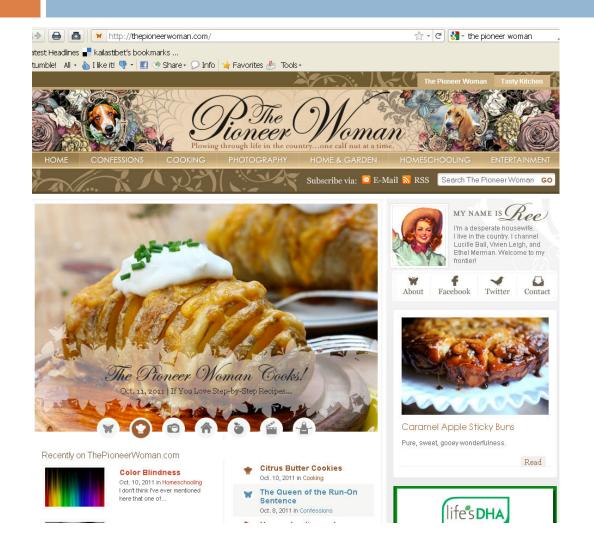
Source: Marketing Sherpa, How to Create High Conversion Content for Lead Generation

# Content Targeting in Buying Funnel



Customer

#### Inbound Success: The Pioneer Woman



- Free Content
- Advertising Revenue



#### Inbound Success: Social Media Examiner

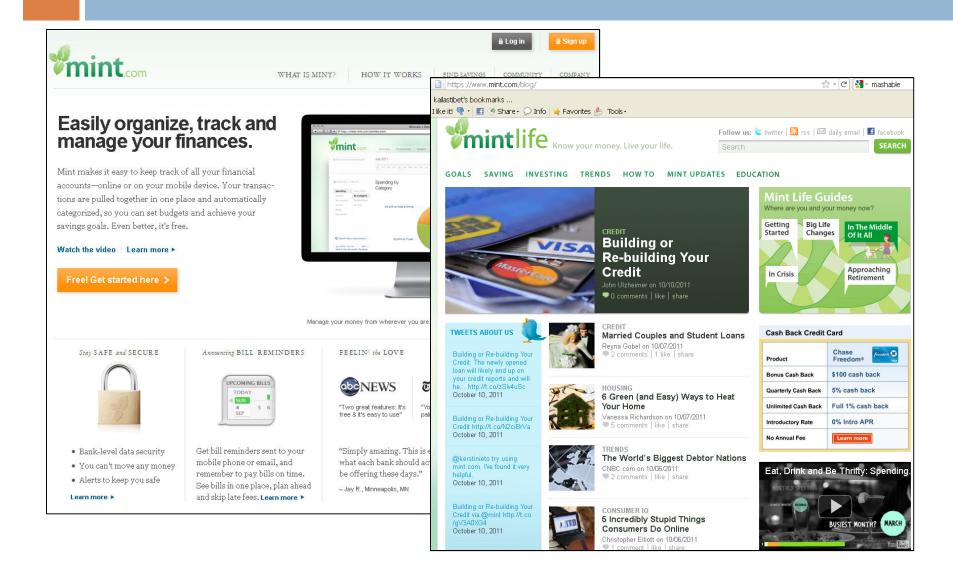


- Builds loyal audience and earns
  - Subscribers
  - Fans
  - Followers

that lead to real B2B customers

■ Video

### Inbound Success: Mint.com



### Mint.com — FREE Personal Financing Management

#### Content Strategy

News and tips posts, link roundups, slideshows, videos, and infographics were all key components in Mint's content strategy, and they were held to a <u>strict editorial standard</u>.

#### Content Credibility – lead to sales

By establishing itself as a smart resource that was easy and accessible to the financially curious, Mint was able to <u>leverage its content credibility to</u> <u>convert readers into buyers of its actual product, highly personalized</u> <u>financial products</u>

#### Brand Value - lead to \$170 Million Sale to Intuit

Mint.com connects with more than 16,000 US financial institutions and supports more than 17 million individual financial accounts. By May 2011, Mint had more than five million users

# Inbound Marketing - Blog Success

- Mint is consistently lauded as a pioneer in successful blog content marketing. Big takeaways:
  - Dedicate resources to content (whether paying outsourced/contributed writers or in-house editors).
  - Enforce <u>high quality editorial standards</u> on all content types (writing, illustration, video).
  - Share content through social channels.
  - Remember consistency and patience in building up an audience.

### Video Content

- YouTube is the leading video search engine and second or third search engine overall.
- If you aren't doing video marketing, you are missing out on opportunities to reach your potential customers.

### Video Content - Production

Go Professional, Hire Out





Higher Quality, Higher Cost
Depends upon Brand business
objectives, customer position in the
buying funnel, value of product/service.

Example: new car.



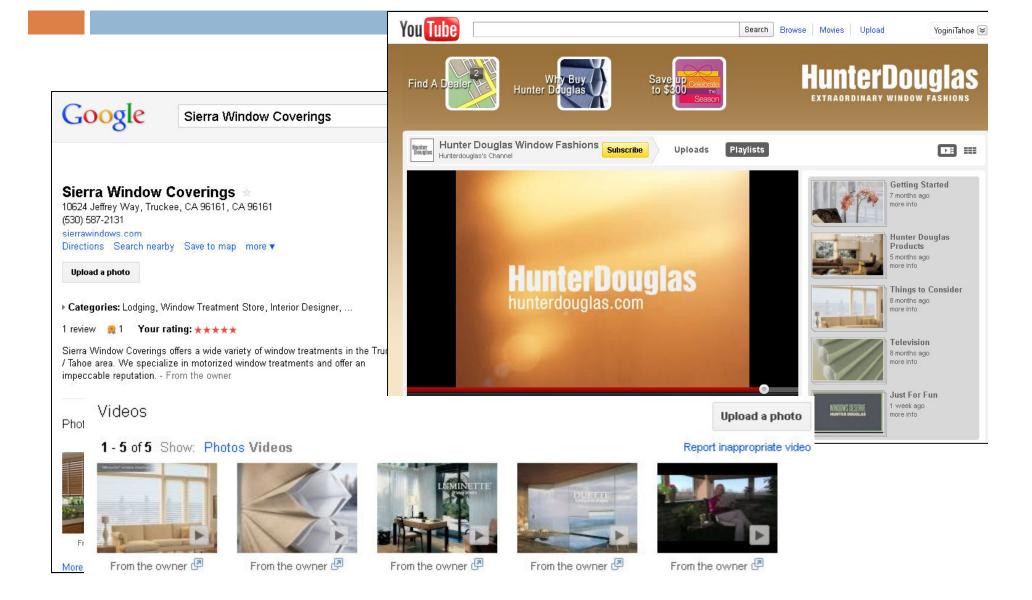




Lower Quality, Lower Cost
But might be just right for your Brand.
More disposable, personable,
potentially even more credible.

Example: used car

### Video Content for People with No Time



### Blog Content for People with No Time

Search Technorati - Ry Audience Ry Tonic **Technorati** Women Technology Business Entertainment Lifestyle Sports Politics Videos Blogging » "Like" Technorati on Facebook Find Blog Blog Directory Top 100 Tags People Write for Technorati State of the Blogosphere Android Technorati Blog Soapbox Ads by Google ADS on Blogs Top Tech Blogs Would You Go Back To School service th If You Qualified For A Grant? Home / Blog Directory / Living / Family See If You Qualify! Living (50657) □ (1) Retwe 33 34 35 36 37 42 43 44 45 comment Living / Family blogs Show: Blogs / News Sites / Both What is authority? Code Name: Mama Blog. Ohange -1 Recent: Ink Garden TOP 100 LIVING Looking for a way to customize stationary or gifts with Top 10 movers your own photographs? I'd like to introduce you to .. Top 10 Risers Top 10 Fallers Hobo Mama: A natural parenting ... Bipolar Disorder -Change -3 160 Recent: Working from home, Part 2: Answers to TOP 100 LIVING Ask Me Anything 1 Free Your Parenting This is a continuation of my answer to an Ask Me Anything question about how Sam & I came to be 64 **(1)** Health for Life 3. \*\* RATURAL DATEMENT WEEK WEEK WAS Natural Parents Network Family Auth: 904 33 Change -1 **6 Recent: Teaching Children to Shop Responsibly** 3D Ultrasound pictures, TOP 100 LIVING The author's son tries to find organic fair trade chocolate. Kids are ripe for conversations about right **6** Anger Management TouchstoneZ: Mindful Parenting ... Family Auth: 897

☑ http://fouchstonez.com

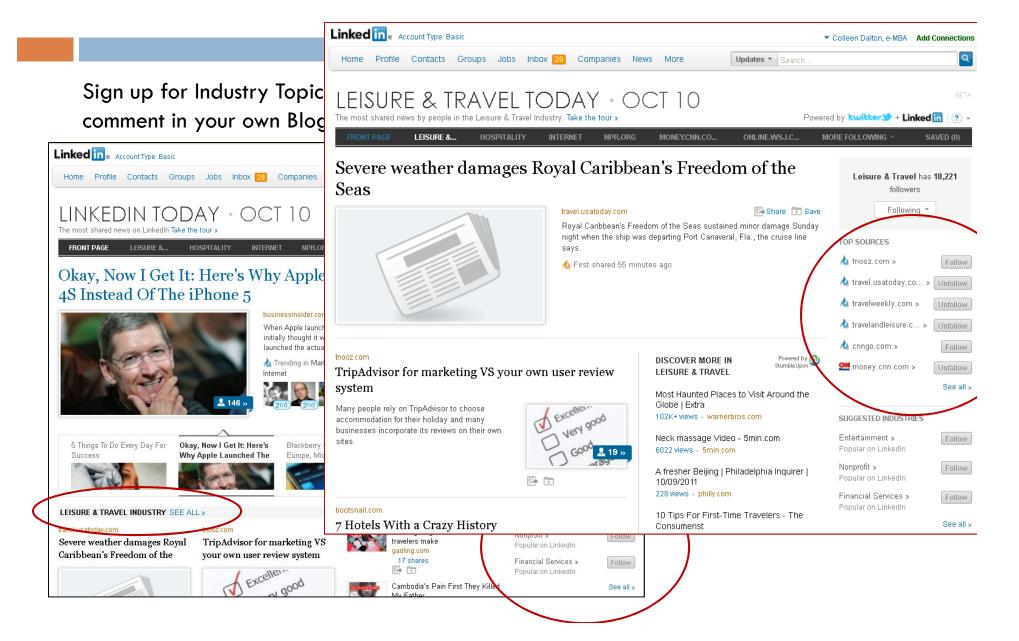
Recent: This Week's Warm Link Hugs: 9 October

**(1)** 

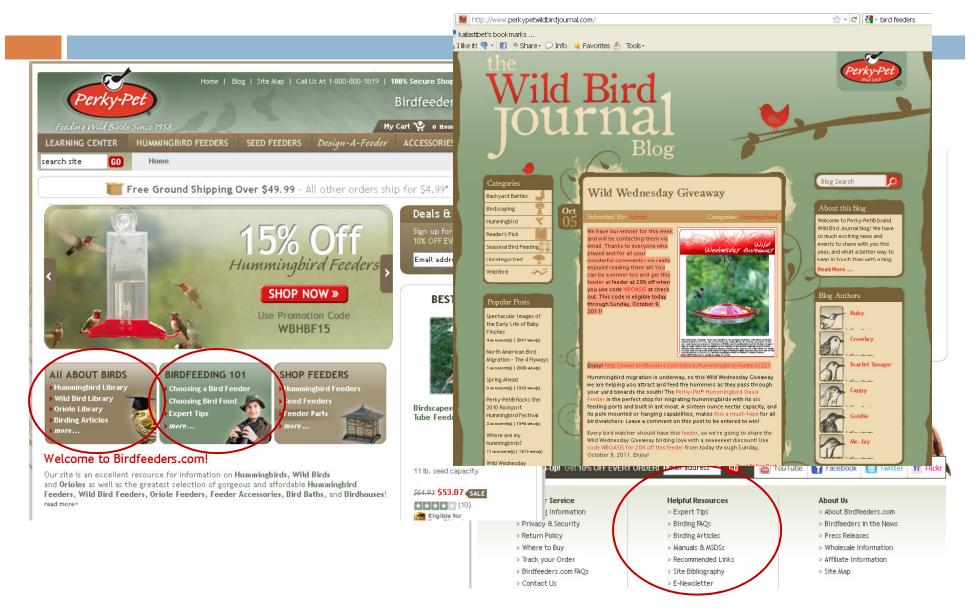
Baby care

Change -3

### Blog Content for People with No Time



### Inbound Success - Bird Feeders



# Content Topics – Writing Tips

- Write something worth reading
- Include keywords
- Always have a call to action, engagement
- Provide a link for further information
- Have an interesting, engaging, creative personality.
- Truly Magnetic Content is unique, useful, well executed, begs for more, makes smart use of the channel and the format.
- Rate Your Content! Breakthrough, Excellent, Good job, Me too, and Failure.

## Content Topics – More Tips

- Produce content with the goal of being seen as a "thought leader" rather than simply for the sake of having large quantities of content.
- Publish diverse types of content, and don't confine yourself to a single topic.
- Don't just produce content about yourself; create content that's helpful to your audience.

### Example: Skittles



Skittles is extremely smart in using posting small, brand-coherent pieces of content, like the piece here "How would would you store and protect one million Skittles? It's sort of an emergency". A highly likeable and shareable piece of Skittles content (proven by the fact it received over 8000 likes and over 4500 comments). Instead of merely doing Facebook campaigns (which they do, to drive awareness and increase their number of followers), this approach makes sure they interact with at least a part of their Facebook followers on a regular basis, gradually engaging, and making sure they keep popping up in user newsfeeds.

## Content Topics - Clues

- Look at the top 20 most popular keyword search terms in your Analytics (external and internal). Look at top 10 most visited pages.
- Ask Customers "How can we help you?"
  - Surveys, Polls, Interviews.
  - Create content based upon answers to unique customer questions.
- Ask front line staff (chat, phone, counter) "What are they asking? What are their needs?"
- Read the most popular blogs for your target audience.
- Setup Google Alerts on your most valuable Keywords.
- Network, network, network. Informal, antidotal feedback and inquiry through conversations with customers.

# Content Topics – Keyword Tools

- Google's Keyword Suggest
- Google Adwords
- Google Discussions
- Answer Sites: Yahoo Answers,
   Quora, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitte
- Digg, StumbleUpon
- How are customers talking about your Brand?



#### CR4 - Thread: Temp Inside a Solar Thermal Panel

cr4.globalspec.com/thread/.../Temp-Inside-a-Solar-Thermal-Panel 💽

9 posts - 7 authors - Last post: Feb 5

Recipes

Patents

Fewer

Any time

Past hour

Past week

Past month

Custom range...

Past year

Past 24 hours

My evacuated tube **solar thermal panels** can be configured to consistently reach 300F (150C) year round. However I usually set them up to run ...

#### When building **solar thermal panels** what is best? Single Double or ...

answers.yahoo.com > ... > Environment > Other - Environment

Solved - 1 answer - Aug 5, 2008

Top answer: imagine how hot your car can get sitting in the sun with the windows closed and increase that because you will have more effective window space. ...

Solar power for hot water use, worth installing? - Jul 3, 2008

Are solar panels worth buying? - Jul 3, 2008

How many solar panels would it take to replace two nuclear power ... - Jul 3, 2008

How does solar thermal work? - Jun 27, 2007

More results from answers, yahoo, com »

### Brainstorm Blog Topics - Coffee Shop

- Teeth Whitening Tips
- Same Taste, Less Wired Going Decaf
- Five Tips How To Talk To That Guy in Line
- Coffee Shop Wireless Camping Do's & Don'ts
- Behind the Scenes with The Coffee Roaster
- □ How The Beans Got Here So Fresh
- Top Ten Confessions of a Starbucks Addict
- Coffee Grinds & Composting So Dark, Rich
- Natural Easter Egg Dyes Coffee Grinds & Beets!
- Lines Happen. Tai Chi Techniques No One Will Notice.

It's not a sales pitch, it's helping people.

## Content Topics —Tone & Intention

- You CARE about solving their problems, providing them with access to great people and valuable insights. No longer "sell, sell, sell".
- Be very empathetic to customer's needs.
- Ultimately, customers are seeking recognition and a sense of accomplishment through self-empowerment and research. Be there for them!
- Ideally, they are proud to be associated with your brand and need affirmation "I made the right choice, I did not get "taken".

# Brainstorm! Keep it Simple

KEYWORD(s)	CONTENT TOPIC — Title Ideas	CONTENT FORMATS	CUSTOMER NEEDS
Keywords: Solar Thermal Power.	How to Find Federal and State Rebates	Recommended Links to .GOV Blog: Table/Graph Widget/Calculator Infographic	To Save Money To Buy To Protect the Environment
Long Tail: Are Solar Panels Worth Buying?	How One Neighborhood Joined Together	Video Story: Interviews	Validation Inspiration Empathy

# Inbound Marketing — Long Tail



Google how to change fluorescent light bulb

#### Search

About 3,040,000 results (0.16 seconds)

#### Everything

Images

Maps

Videos

News

Shopping

Books

Places.

Blogs

Flights

Discussions

Recines

#### How to install or change fluorescent bulbs in recessed office ...



www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rkUhU6InIk 🗐 Dec 3, 2009 - 1 min - Uploaded by davep42 -Block all www.youtube.com results

This video shows you how to install or change fluorescent bulbs in ... Wow! this helps a ton, I spend so Long trying to get the ...

#### Home Repair & Maintenance: How to Replace a Fluorescent ...



www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtl\_IBlogAs [47] Sep 29, 2008 - 1 min - Uploaded by expertvillage

Replace a fluorescent lightbulb taking care not to break the bulb. Learn how to replace a fluorescent lightbulb using the ...

#### Home Repair & Maintenance Tips: How to Change a Ballast in a ...



www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgmlGkdYrVw [47] Nov 9, 2008 - 4 min - Uploaded by eHow

Change a ballast in a fluorescent light using an electrical tester to check for safety, and by twisting it 30 degrees to loosen the ...

More videos for how to change fluorescent light bulb »

### Content Examples - Unleaded Gas

- Announce a new product or upgraded service.
- Post photos of events, parties, people.
- Share a relevant experience, a story.
- □ Write "How To"
- Create Lists of Ideas
- Talk about Poll Results & Insights
- Quizzes, Trivia and Contests
- Provide lists of useful links, APPs, resources.

### Content Examples - Rocket Fuel

- Conduct an interview with an Expert
- □ Review a Book
- □ Write a Book
- Identify Trends
- Conduct a Webinar
- White Paper, Case Study (PDF)
- Survey Results & Insights (press release)

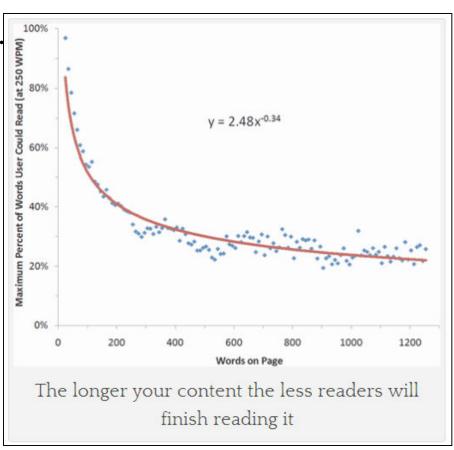
### Case Study vs. White Papers

- □ The core elements of a Case Study include:
  - The specific problem Real Scenario/Real Company
    - How the San Diego Zoo Segmented & Targeted Kids
    - How Portland Oregon Capitalized on Social Media
  - Why solution X was selected. Research.
  - The Actual Results & Lessons Learned
  - 1) Pilot, 2) Test 3) Prove 4) Scale

- □ The core elements of a White Paper include:
  - General business challenges
  - A discussion of the solutions
  - Business benefits

### Content: Get to the Point, Quickly!

- Strong, Intriguing Headlines & Subtitles.
- 2. Express Urgency.
- 3. Communicate Impact.
- 4. Help, do not Sell!
- 5. Use Counts in Headlines (Top 5).
- 6. Headline = 65 Characters.
- Use Search Keywords.
- 8. Write at an 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading level.
- 9. End with an action item.



## Content Headlines - Examples



#### 2 ways to build quality back links you probably never heard of

by Ilias Chelidonis on OCTOBER 7, 2011 in BUSINESS & MARKETING, HOW TO GUIDES, INFOGRAPHICS, SEO

Building quality (and not any) back links is key ingredient of a successful search engine optimization strategy because it helps to bring in traffic as well as increase your overall website quality. The new Google panda algorithm pays less attention to page rank but quality back links are still one of the main ranking factors. [...]

READ FULL STORY • 0 COMMENTS AND 2 REACTIONS



#### 30 factors that affect your SEO ranking

by <u>Ilias Chelidonis</u> on OCTOBER 3, 2011 in <u>HOW TO GUIDES</u>, <u>INFOGRAPHICS</u>, <u>SEO</u>

I am sure all of you have heard about Google Panda. The most exciting thing about this project is that it took its name from the Google Engineer who architected the new algorithm. Why am I saying this? Because what Google did with the Panda project is to force

all these website owners who were posting content just to [...]

READ FULL STORY • 0 COMMENTS AND 12 REACTIONS



#### 6 tools to create polls and quizzes on Facebook

by Ilias Chelidonis on SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 in GENERAL

Although promotions and contests are great ways to engage your Facebook fans with your brand, polls and quizzes can also help you keep your audience excited. They do not require a considerable amount of time for planning, are easy to set up and you can learn a lot about

your fans habits and demographics. Example [...]

### The 7 Second Content Test

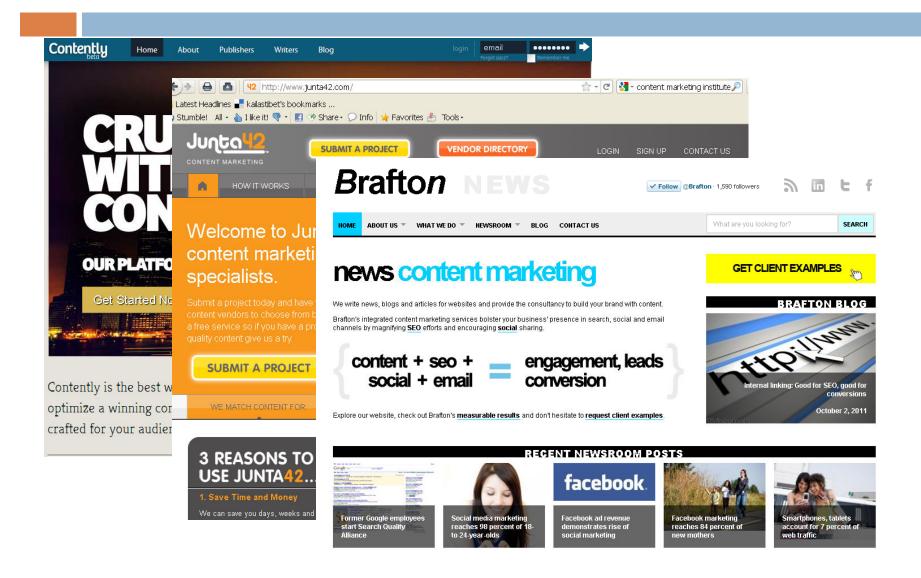
- □ Where am I?
- What can I do here?
- Why should I do it?

Your web page or blog content must be able to answer at least two of these three questions within seven seconds of a customer arriving on your page. Give your content this test!

Otherwise, they will hit the back button and select other Search Results that gives them the information, research and recommendations they want.

Tip: Title, very short paragraph, bullets with subtitles. Period.

# Outsourcing Content Creation



## Summary

- Inbound vs. Outbound Marketing:
- Inbound Marketing: Three Components
- Key Concept: Give, Don't Sell
- Getting Organized
- Content Targeting within Buying Funnel
- Great Examples
- Brainstorm
- Content Ideas, Tips, Do's, Don'ts

## THANK YOU!

Colleen Dalton

@ColleenDalton, LinkedIn: /ColleenDalton Email: cdalton@mammoth-mtn.com