



*Friday*

**11:00 - 12:00**

## **Importance of a Team Uniform/Mascot:**

Do Your Clients Recognize Your Value Proposition?

**Jerry Cobb from Schwab**



# Do your clients recognize your value proposition?

Jerry Cobb  
Managing Director  
Business Consulting Services

*charles*  
SCHWAB

# Why do teams wear uniforms and have mascots?

- To identify members of a group with a common purpose.
- To differentiate a team from the competition.
- To indicate that every member has an equally important role to play.
- To symbolize the values of the team.
- To build a loyal team following.
- To bring good luck to the team.

# The case for a referral culture



4% of clients  
are referring



250 existing  
clients or  
households



10 new clients  
from referrals



# The case for a referral culture



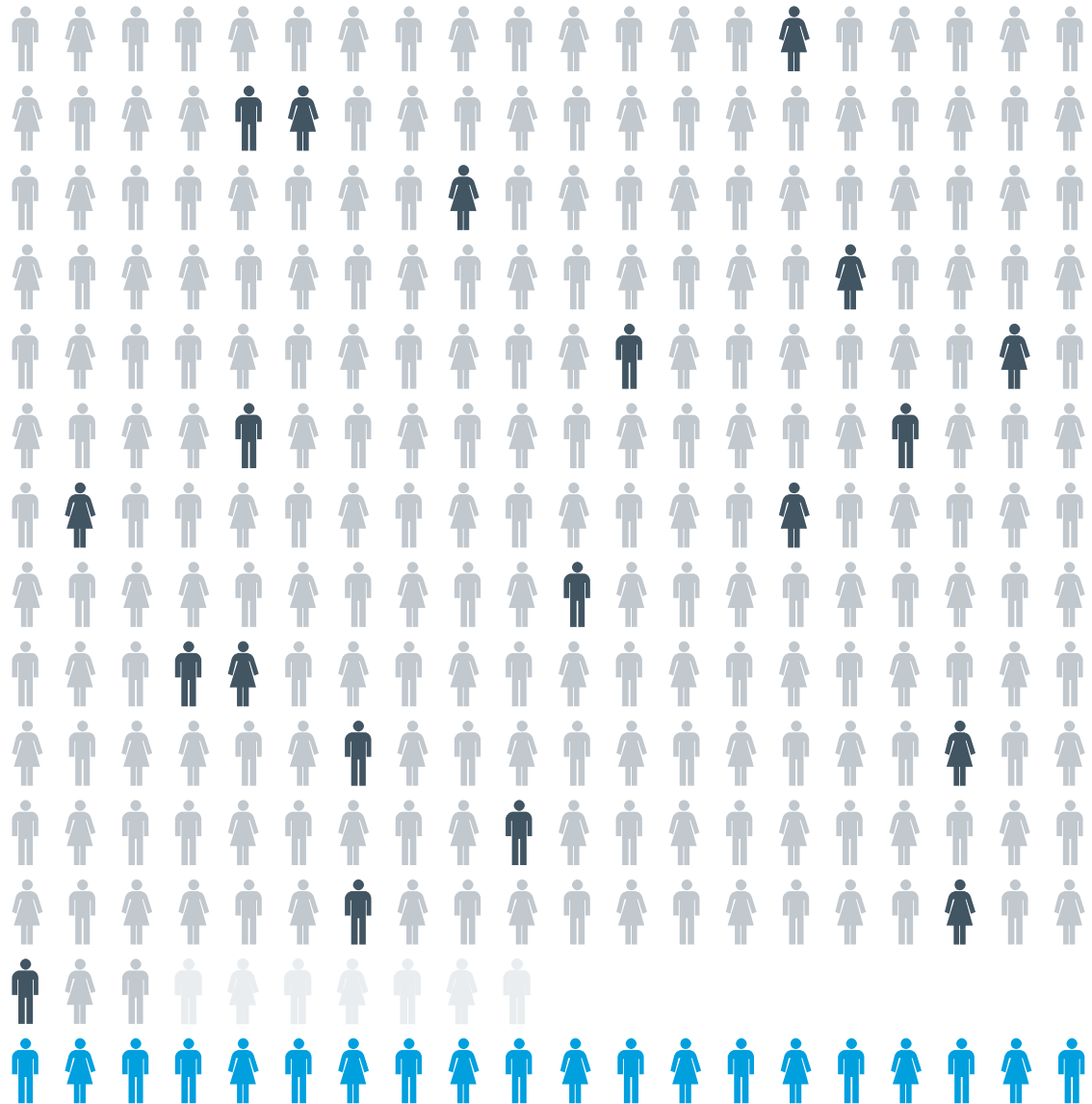
8% of clients  
are referring



250 existing  
clients or  
households



20 new clients  
from referrals



# Client value proposition

ment about the  
ideal clients  
working with

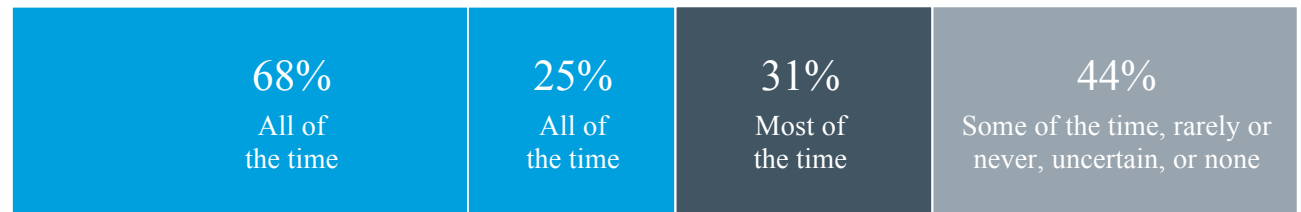
# Client value proposition examples



We provide customized wealth management including charitable giving expertise that helps simplify our client's complex financial lives. We understand affluent women who have divorced or been widowed and help them regain financial independence. Many of our clients haven't managed their finances for quite a while so we provide guidance, education and expertise. Our clients feel informed, confident, and reassured as they enter the next phase of their lives.



68% of client-facing advisors can effectively articulate their firm's value proposition, but only 25% of operational and office staff can.

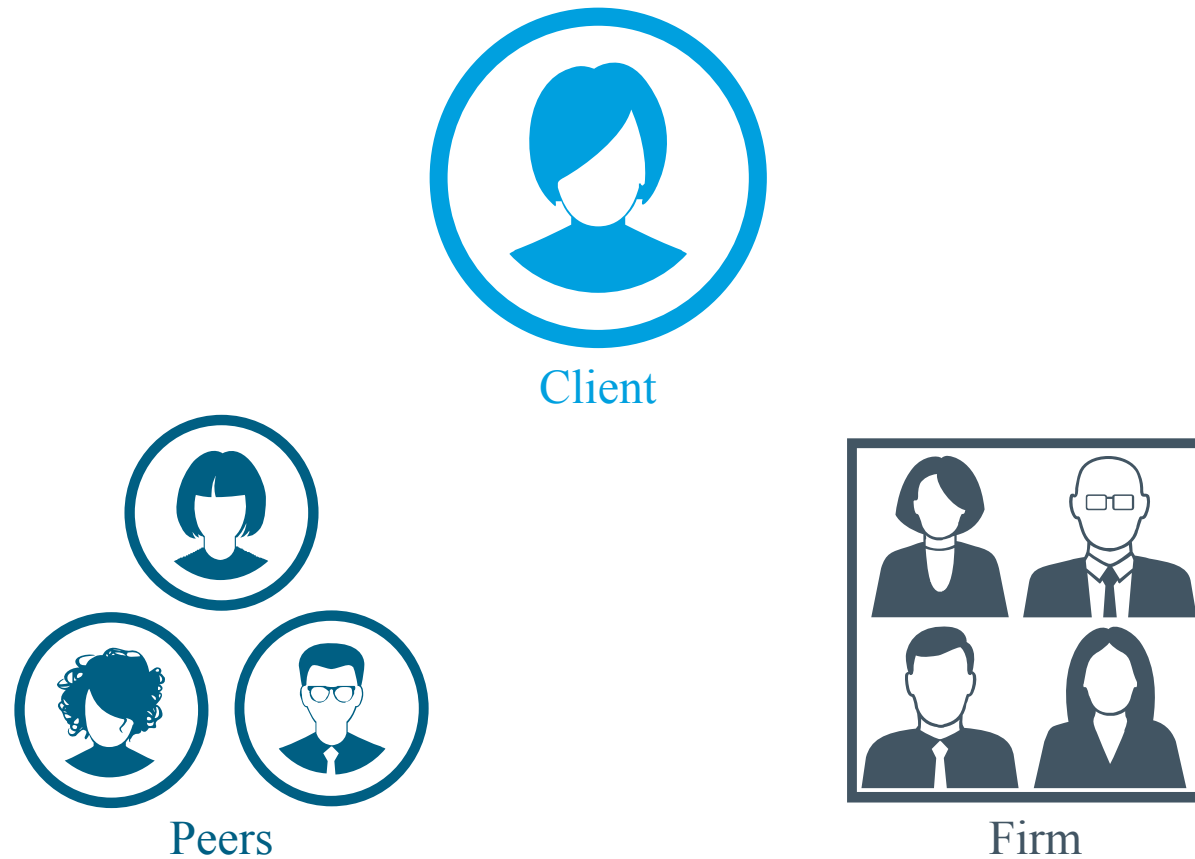


Q10: To what extent can members of your firm effectively articulate your firm's value proposition when speaking with prospects, clients and influencers?  
(Base = Total advisors, current wave = 720.)

Source: The 15th semi-annual Independent Advisor Outlook Study reflecting opinions of 720 independent advisors representing an estimated \$180 billion in assets under management. Responses were gathered during April and May, 2014.



# Trust powers the entire referral cycle



# Referral scenarios

51%

A friend asks for  
a recommendation

49%

A friend describes  
a financial need

Source: Advisor Impact, *Rules of Engagement*, 2014. The report draws on input from more than 1,200 respondents from across the country.  
Responses to the question “What were the circumstances of providing the last referral? Please select all that apply”  
In addition to the 51% and 49% highlighted above, 13% responded “My advisor expressed interest in referrals and I provided a name at that time”



Why do you  
work with  
your financial  
advisor?



I want more  
communication  
with my advisor.  
Mine is too  
busy.



My life is more  
complex now.  
I need professional  
financial advice.

Source: Advisor Impact, *Rules of Engagement*: 2014. The report draws on input from more than 1,200 respondents from across the country.  
Responses to the question "What were the circumstances of providing the last referral? Please select all that apply"  
In addition to the 51% and 49% highlighted above, 13% responded "My advisor expressed interest in referrals and I provided a name at that time"



I'm expanding my business to a new market.



My father is ailing and I've been asked to manage his finances.

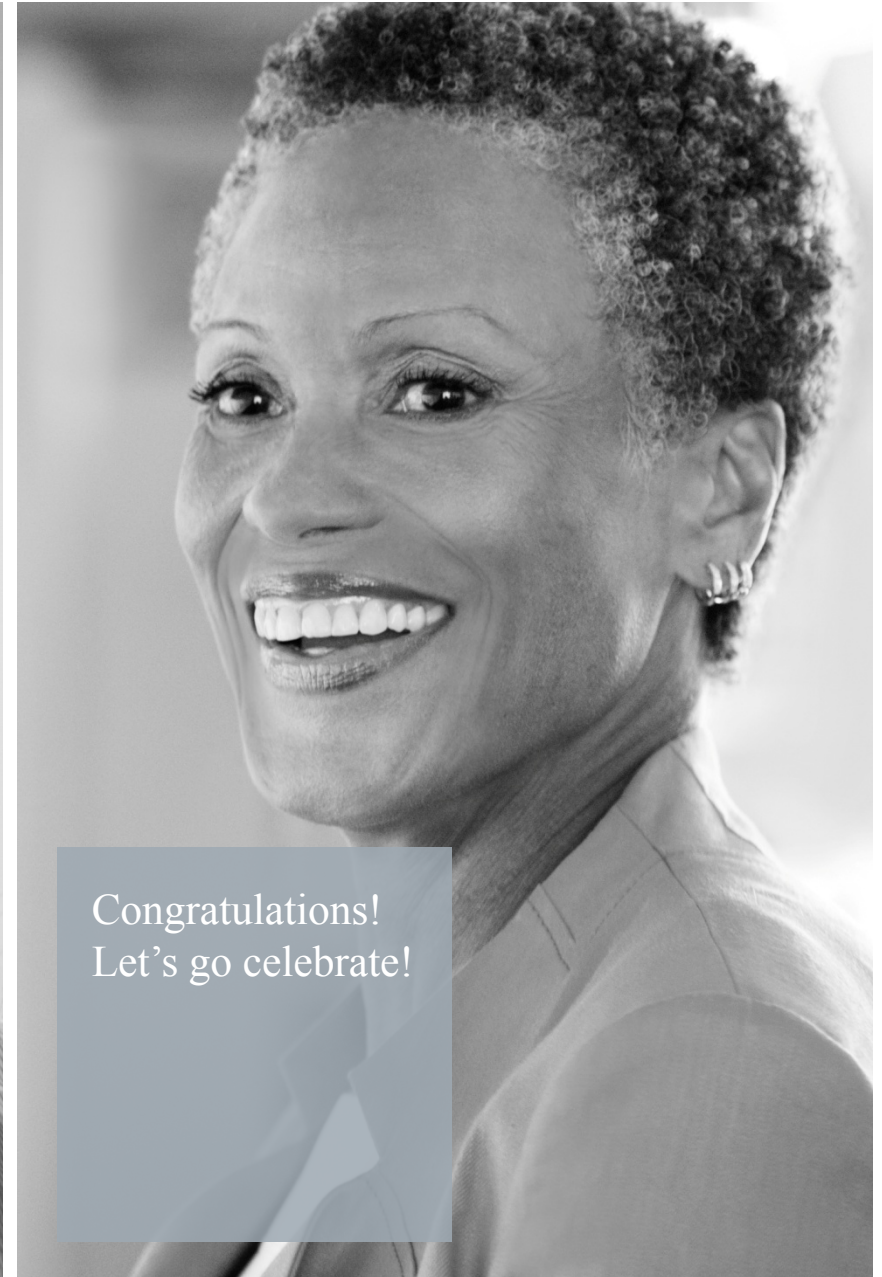


I was just promoted to an Executive VP position!

Financial services need



I was just  
promoted to an  
Executive VP  
position!



Congratulations!  
Let's go celebrate!



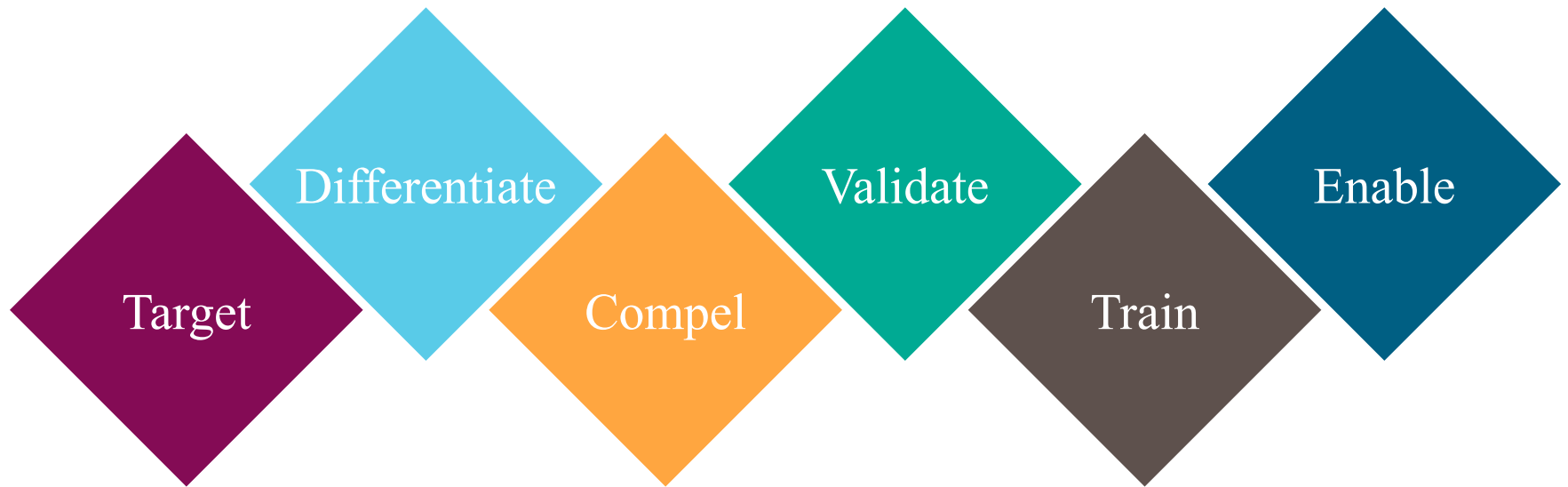


I was just promoted to an Executive VP position!



Congratulations! When I was promoted my advisor helped me with the additional income and the more complex tax situation. He's taken this worry off my plate and allowed me to sleep better at night. I'm happy to introduce you to him.

# Build a firm-wide growth strategy





The specific ideal client  
you want to attract for  
whom your firm does its  
best work



# Defining a target helps attract the right kind of clients





Physicians and dentists who have built their wealth through their practices, and need planning for a secure retirement.

## Clearly defined ideal clients



Executives/professionals who want to ensure that their wealth achieves family goals for generations to come.



Business owners in transition who want to ensure that wealth which results from a liquidity event is transferred in a tax efficient manner and will be sufficient to achieve their life goals.

75%

of advisors **do not**  
have a formal ideal  
client definition

25%

Yes, we have a  
formal definition

61%

Yes, we have a general  
idea but not a formal  
definition

14%

No, we have not  
defined our ideal  
client

# Picturing your ideal client



# Sally Smith



## Demographics

- Age 53
- Divorced
- Children ages 13, 17, and 20
- Former advertising agency account executive
- Net worth: \$7 million
- Investable assets: \$3.5 million

## Psychographics

- Thoughtful and creative
- National Charity League board member
- Financial goals to fund children's education through college, participate in charitable causes, and maintain lifestyle
- Inclined to delegate when investment rationale is explained
- Moderate risk tolerance

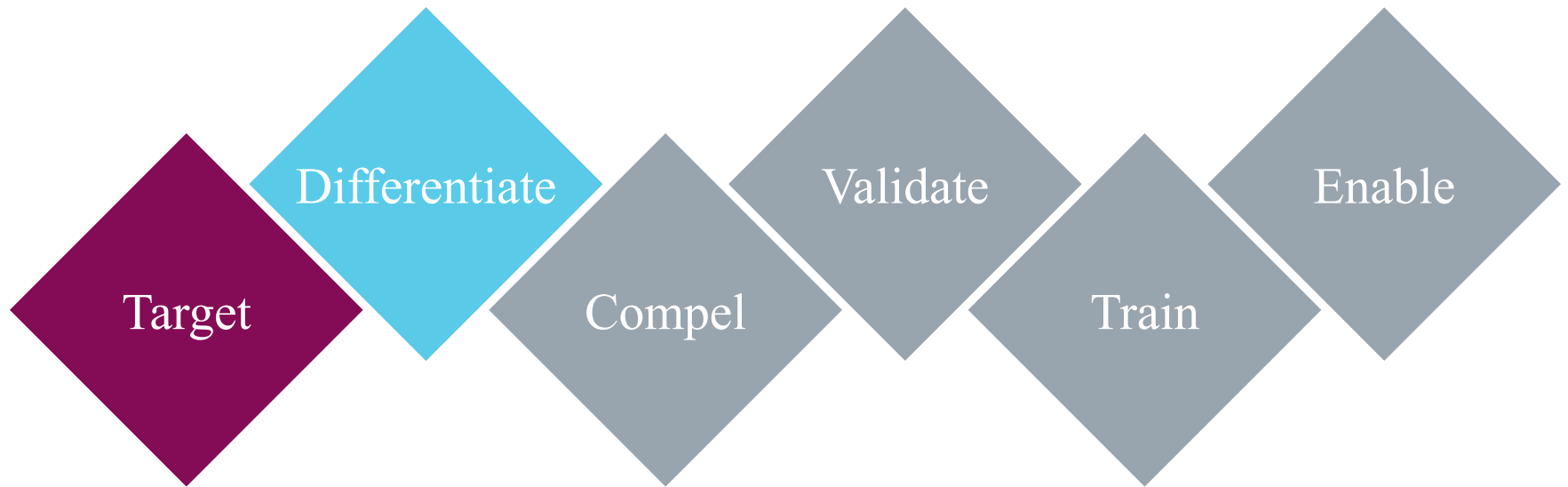
## Relationship

- Seeking help to identify independent financial profile post-divorce
- Providing consultation to assess goals and determine personal objectives

## Services, Products

- Quarterly portfolio reviews
- Guidance on all financial decisions

# Build a firm-wide growth strategy





Differentiate

The difference you deliver  
for clients that makes your  
firm distinguishable  
and attractive

# Sea of sameness



Offer  
attributes



Client value



Value drivers

Confidence

Control

Predictable

Protected

Assured

Good value

Value-oriented  
service

Fee-based  
approach

Unbiased

Flexible

Client-focused

Customized  
service

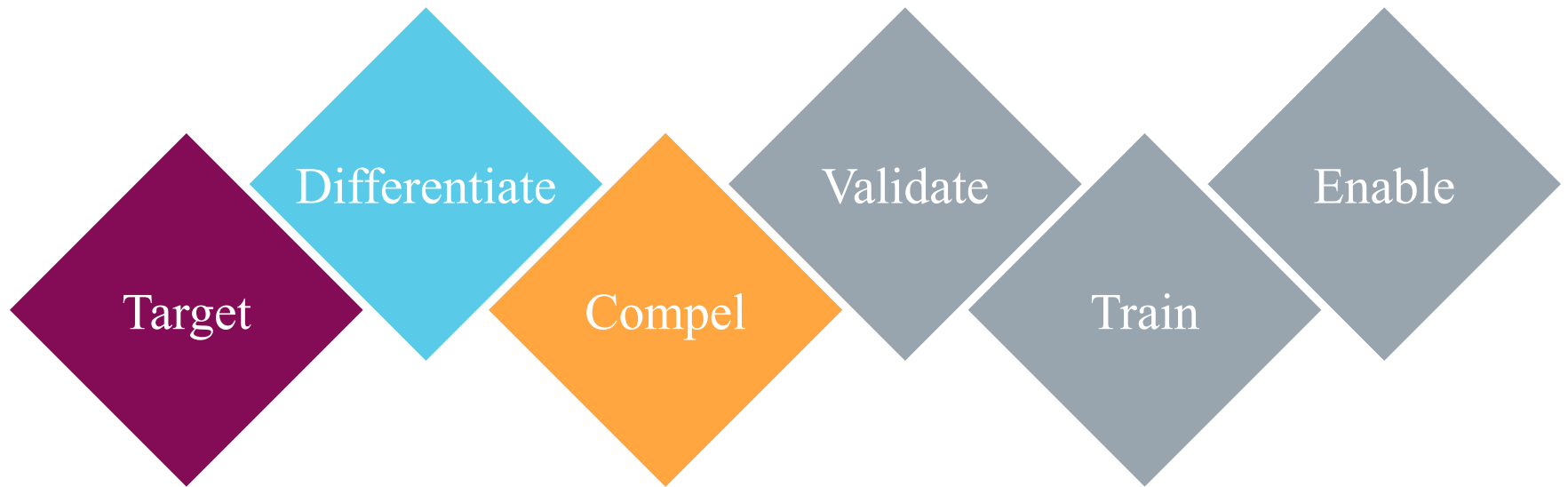
Aligned incentives

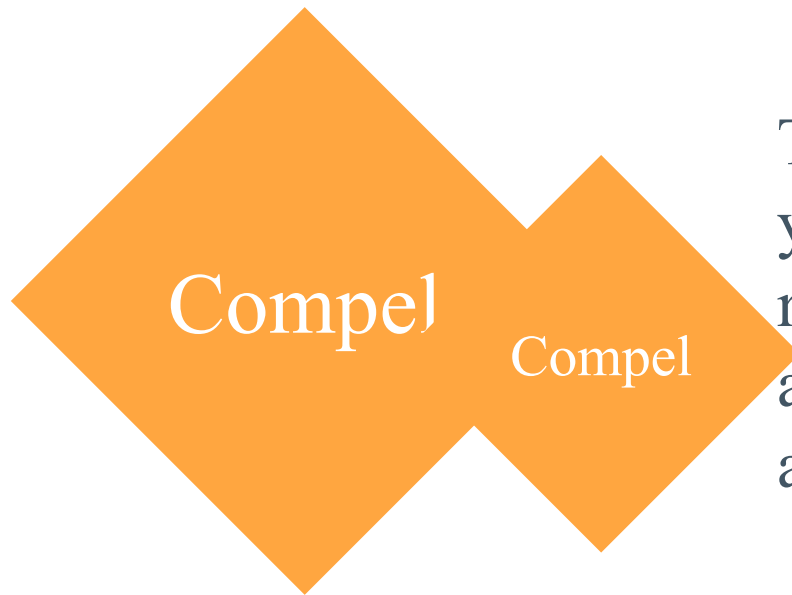
Puts my interest  
first

Focus on my  
needs

Attentive to me

# Build a firm-wide growth strategy





The ability to talk about  
your firm in a way that  
resonates, inspires interest,  
and leads to the desired  
action

If someone asks you  
about your firm and  
what you do, what do  
you say?






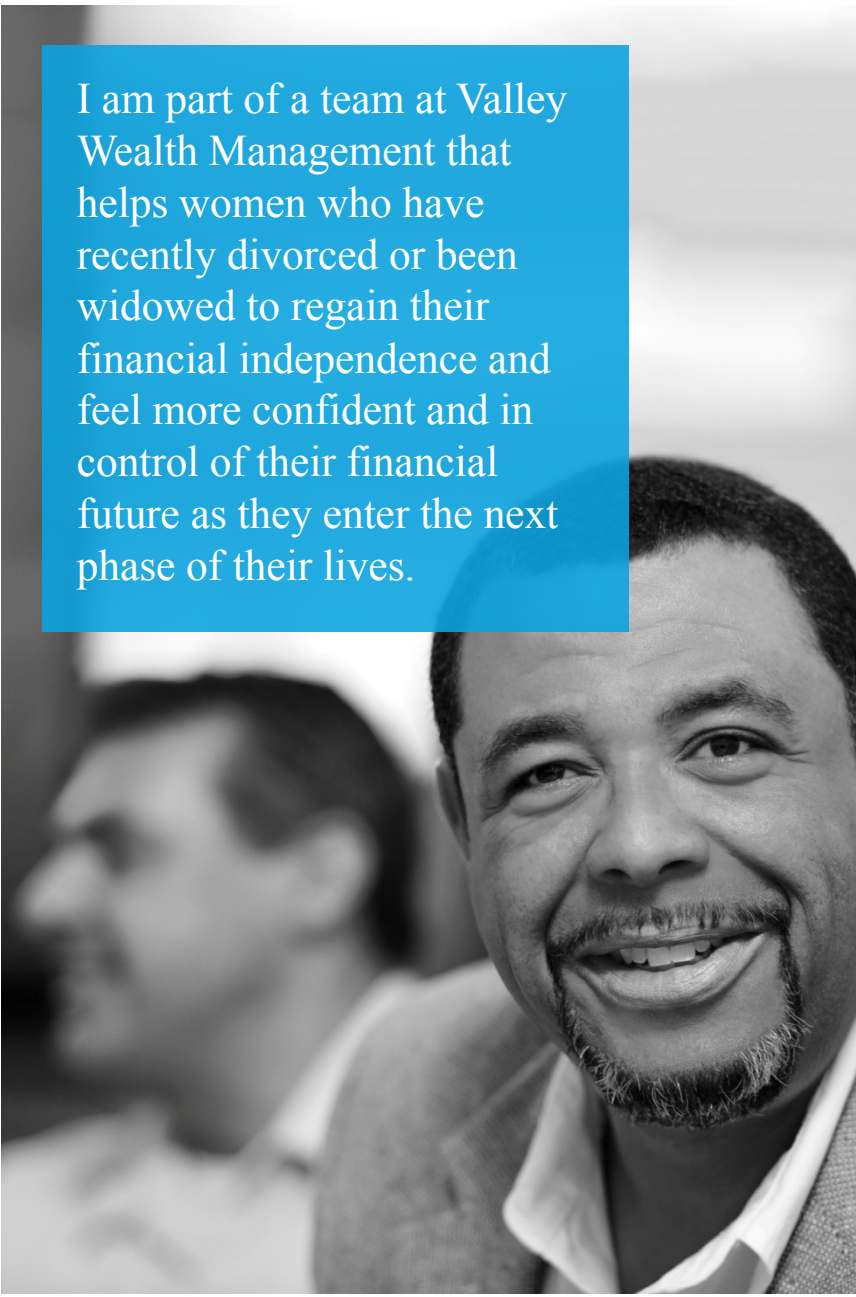
What do you do  
for work?

I'm a financial  
advisor at  
Valley Wealth  
Management





What do you do  
for work?



I am part of a team at Valley  
Wealth Management that  
helps women who have  
recently divorced or been  
widowed to regain their  
financial independence and  
feel more confident and in  
control of their financial  
future as they enter the next  
phase of their lives.



Head



Heart

Emotional

Creative

Intuitive

Spacial

Visual

Physical

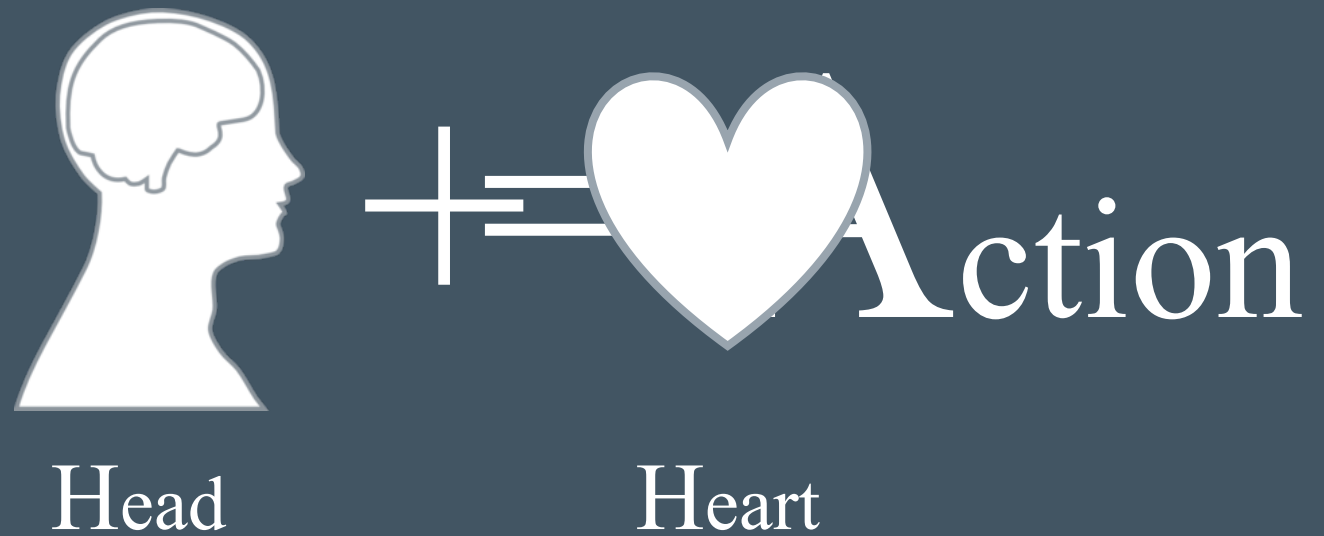
Right  
brain





Relatable  
Powerful  
Memorable  
Natural  
Repeatable

Simple  
Concrete  
Emotional  
Credible  
Unexpected



Think

Feel

Do



+



=

Action

Head

Heart



## The 5 essential story types

### Origin story

Highlights your firm's purpose and values by explaining how and why the firm was started

### Financial situation story

### Firm's offering story

### Referral process preview story

### Outlier client success story

TOMS®

One for One



## The 5 essential story types

### Origin story

### Financial situation story

Explains the type of financial challenge the firm is uniquely suited to solve

### Firm's offering story

### Referral process preview story

### Outlier client success story

## The 5 essential story types

Origin story

Financial situation story

Firm's offering story

Introduces an aspect of the firm's offer that the client may not have previously experienced

Referral process preview story

Outlier client success story



## The 5 essential story types

Origin story

Financial situation story

Firm's offering story

Referral process preview story

Builds trust with clients by showing the care the firm takes in handling a referral

Outlier client success story

## The 5 essential story types

Origin story

Financial situation story

Firm's offering story

Referral process preview story

Outlier client success story

Showcases an example of how you have “wowed” a client

# What makes a great story?



## Structure

Has a beginning, middle, and end.



## Characters

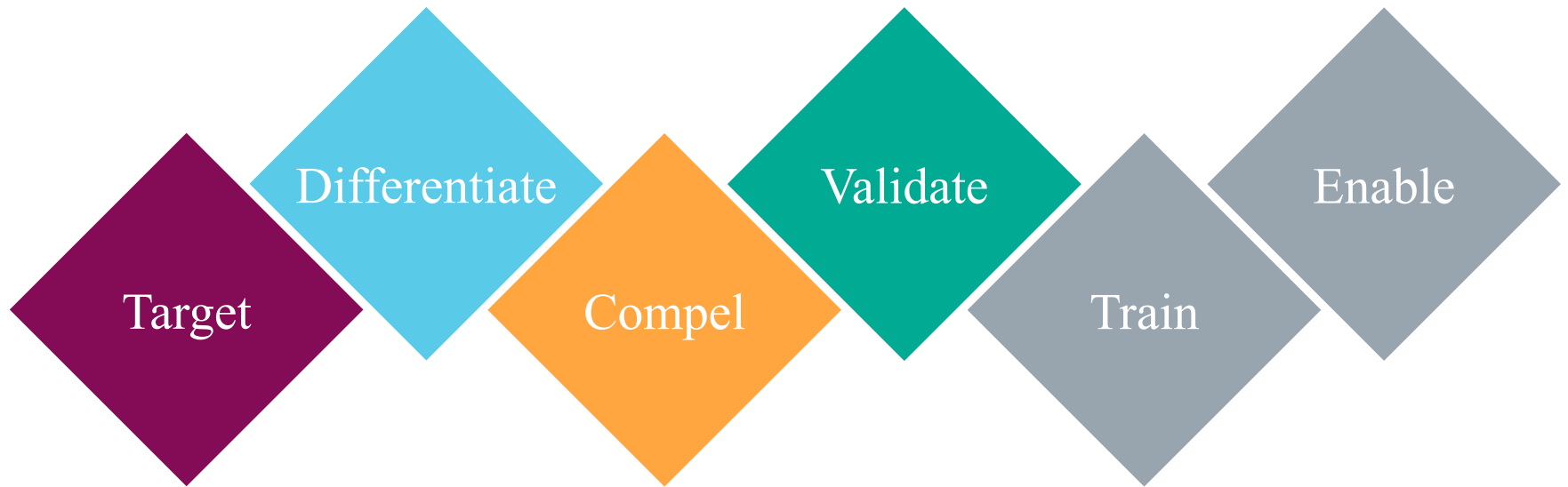
Brings the story to life.



## Outcome

Conveys the end result and value delivered.

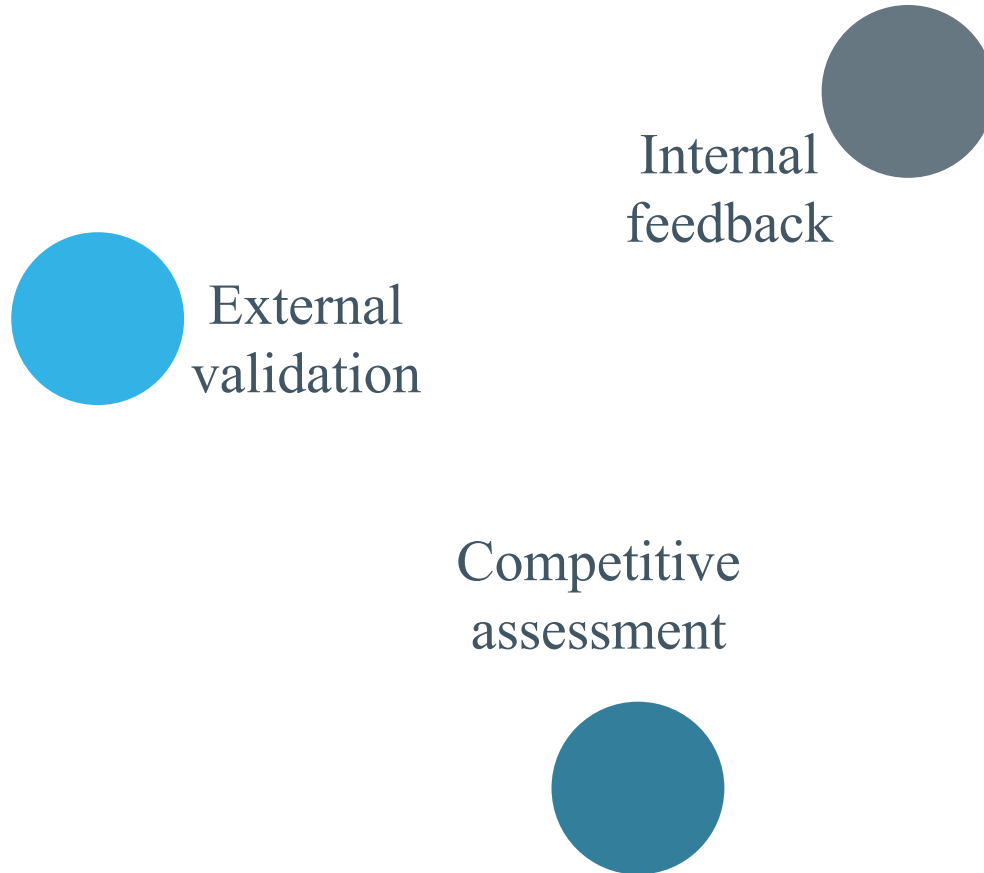
# Build a firm-wide growth strategy



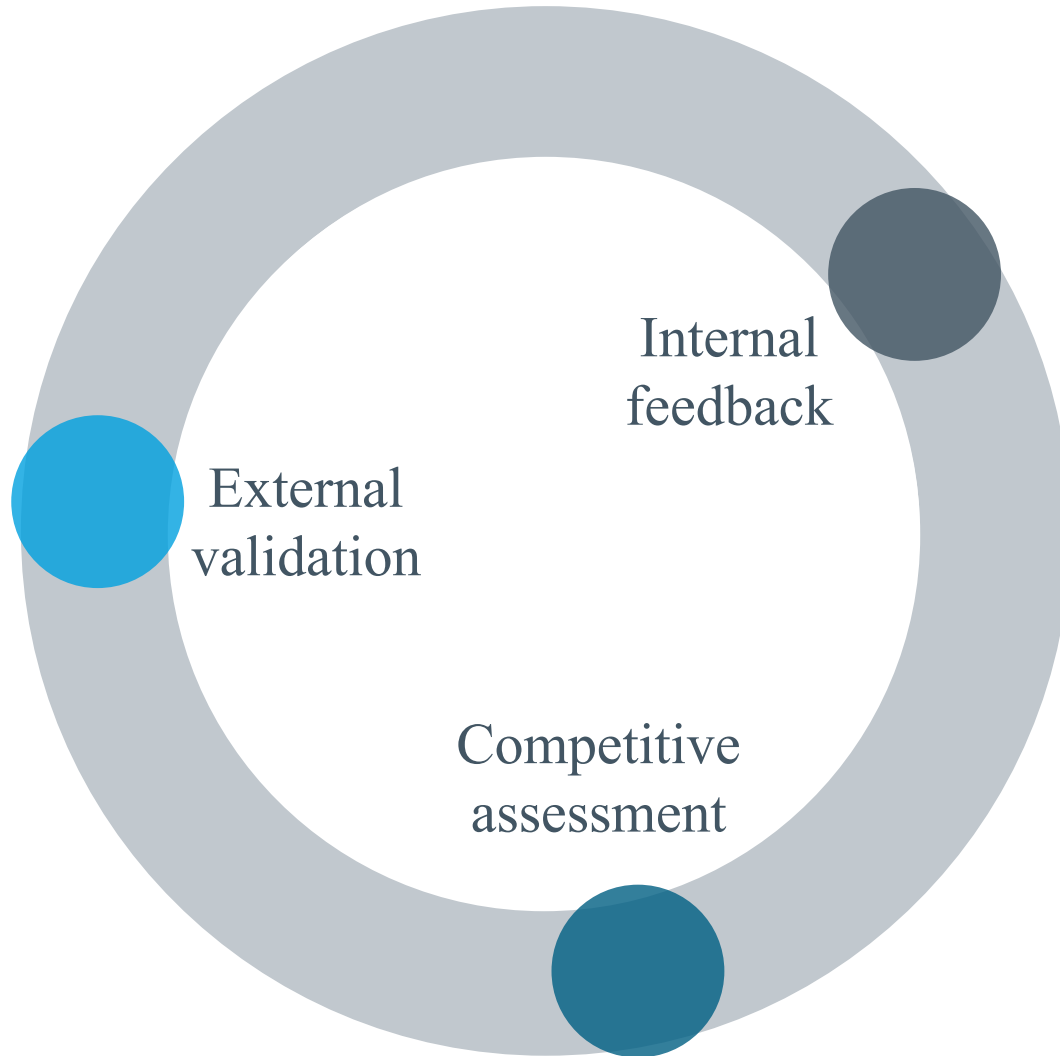


The feedback  
Validate builds  
relationships, increases  
loyalty, and improves  
outcomes

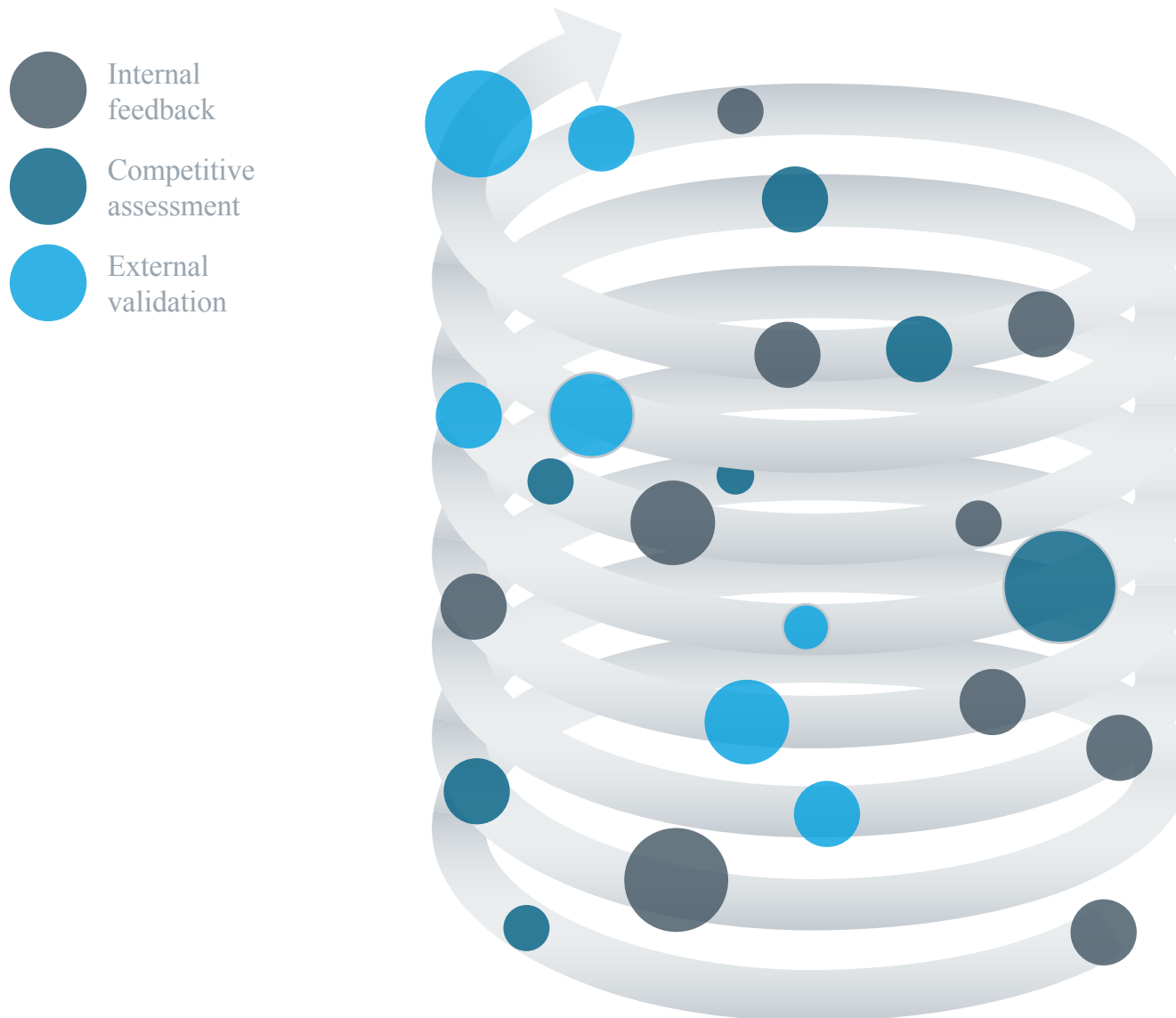
# Importance of gaining insights



# Leverage all three approaches to gaining insight

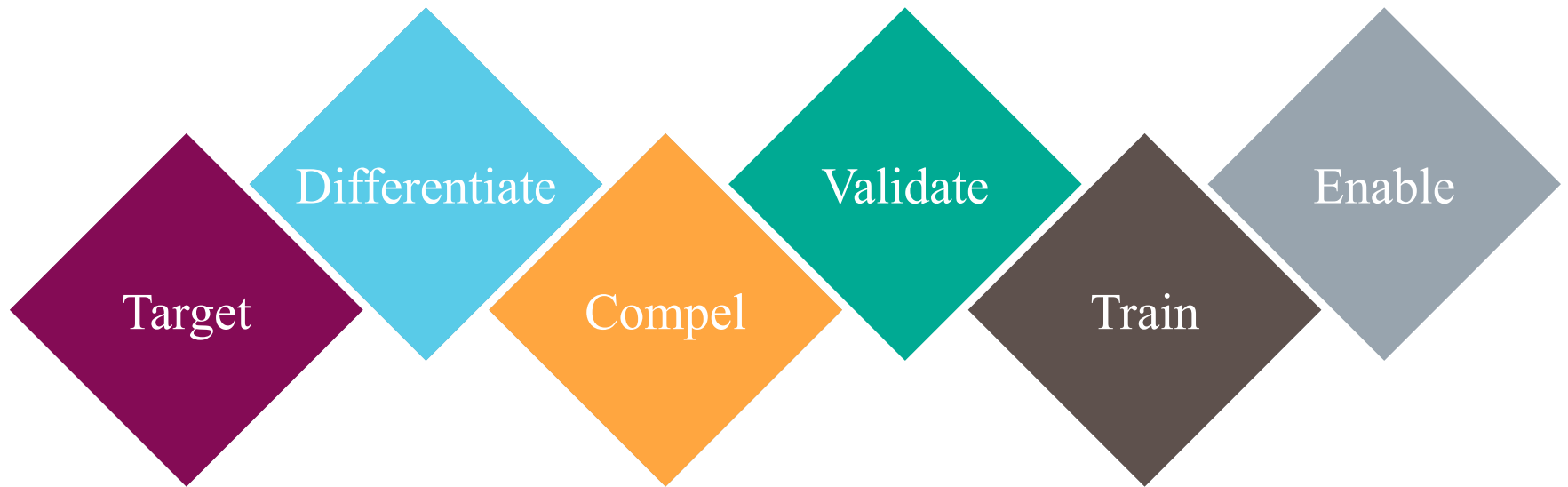


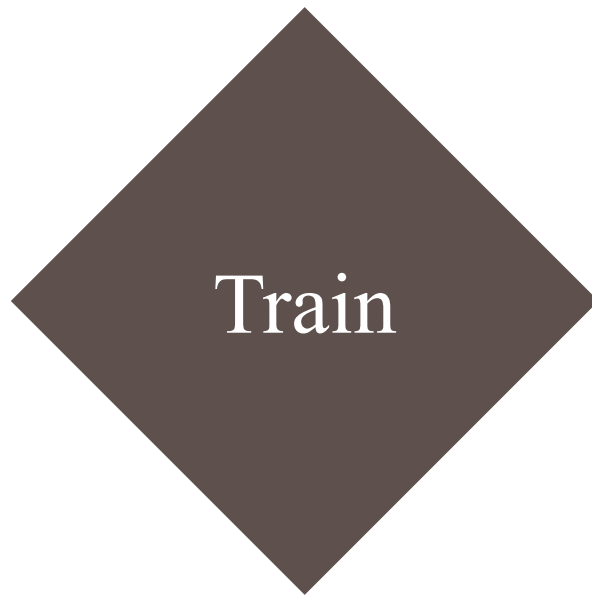
# Continuous refinement through on-going validation



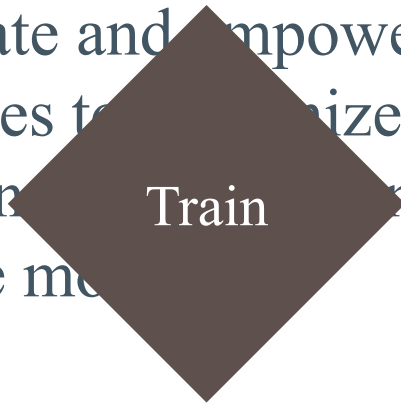


# Build a firm-wide growth strategy





To educate and empower  
employees to organize,  
create, and deliver an  
referable me



# Train to align



Get everyone on the same page with messaging



Recognize referable moments and trigger phrases



Institutionalize the process

# To create a firm-wide referral culture, every employee needs to know...

The type of client the firm serves best



Ideal client persona

The firm's stories and how to tell them



Singular concept



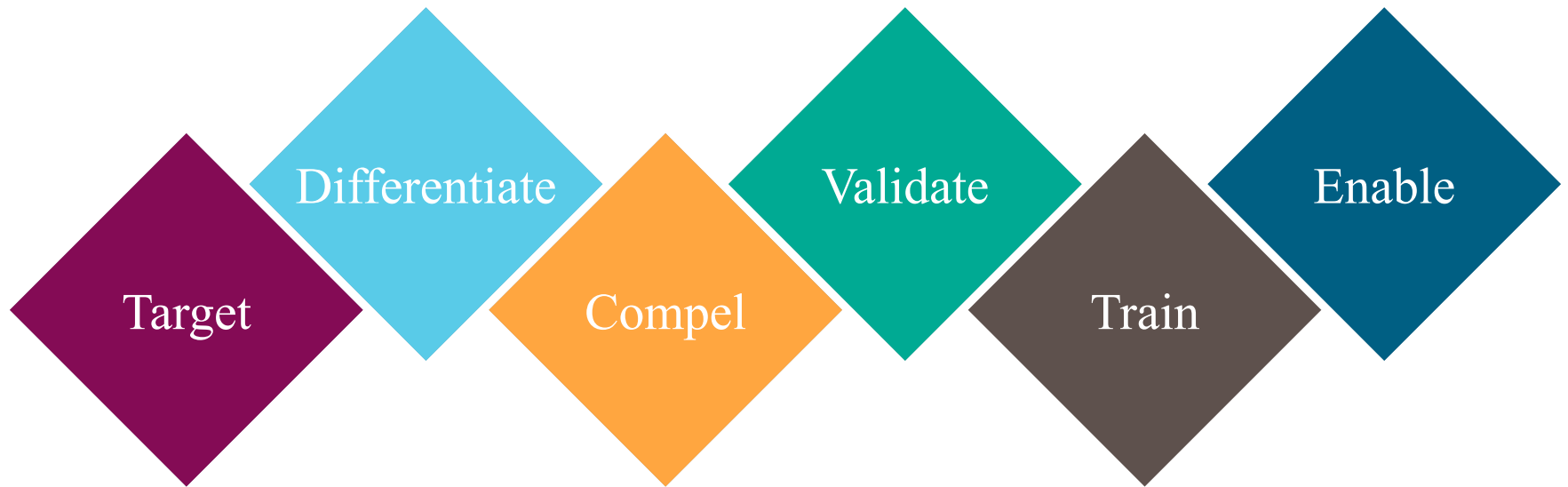
Client value proposition

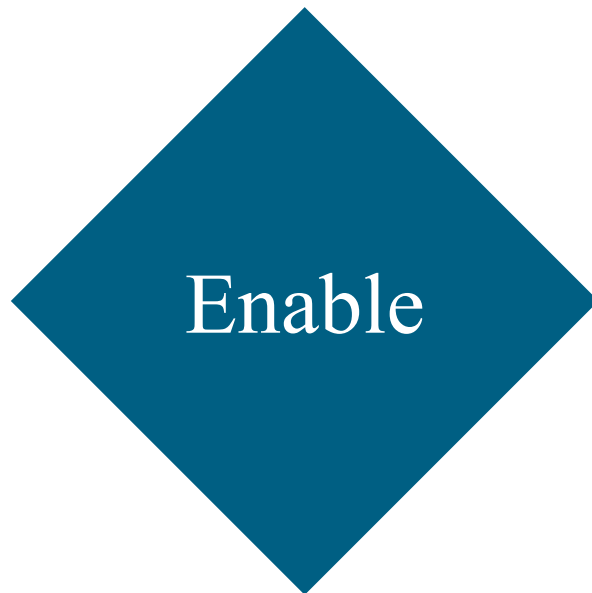
What clients value most and the benefit the firm provides

The 5 essential stories



# Build a firm-wide growth strategy





The actions and c  
that support ongoing  
wide referral success





# Expectations and goals

Communicate  
expectations

Determine  
numeric goals

Establish  
behavioral goals

# The difference between growth and sustainable growth



Hunting



Farming

# Thank you

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### **About the 2016 RIA Benchmarking Study from Charles Schwab**

Schwab designed this study to capture insights in the RIA industry, based on survey responses from individual firms. The 2016 study provides information on topics such as asset and revenue growth, sources of new clients, products and pricing, staffing, marketing, technology, and financial performance. The study is part of Schwab's Business Consulting Services, a practice management offering for RIAs. Grounded in the best practices of leading independent advisory firms, Business Consulting Services provides insight, guidance, tools, and resources to help registered investment advisors (RIAs) strategically manage and grow their firms.

The 2016 RIA Benchmarking Study from Charles Schwab, fielded January to March, 2016. Study contains self-reported data from 1,128 firms. Schwab did not independently verify or validate the self-reported information. Participant firms represent various sizes and business models categorized into 12 peer groups—7 wealth manager groups and 5 money manager groups, by AUM size. Each participating advisory firm submitted only one set of responses.

**The Charles Schwab Generation Now Study** for RIAs was conducted for Schwab Advisor Services™ by Egg Strategy, a strategic research firm. The study, which was released in 2014, included 40 participants, men and women ages 30-45 with earned or inherited investable assets of \$500,000 (excluding real estate and business holdings), or a house-hold income of at least \$150,000. The term Generation Now reflects the immediate opportunity that this incoming cohort of high-net-worth investors may represent for RIAs. All data was self-reported by participants and not validated or verified. Egg Strategy is not affiliated with nor employed by Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. Investors participated in this study between March, 24 2014 and April, 11, 2014.