

Creating Your Elevator Pitch

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There are more 'good' deals than money, but there is way, way more money than there are great deals.

What makes a great versus a good deal?

- A huge market
- A sustainable competitive edge
- A great business model
- A great, not a good, CEO

What's a great CEO?

 A great people person
 Someone who has good judgment out on the front line, in the trenches, where it counts

Every CEO is a CEO for the first time



Why aren't you getting funded if you have a great deal?

If you have a 'great' deal, and you are not getting funded, then:

- It's not due to a lack of money
- It's not due to the fact that you don't have a great deal (unless you are deluding yourself)
- It's all in the articulation

When the sale really takes place:

The first 10-15 seconds The next 75-80 seconds The next half hour/hour

It's not in the business plan

Keys to a great elevator pitch:

- The first 10-15 seconds
- What you do
- Something that independently authenticates the importance of what you do
- The objective: "Tell me more"

The Pitch

- The 'SALE' takes place here; not in the Business Plan
- The Pain and the Solution
- Give examples that illustrate potential of the opportunity
- The Return
- Establish that there will be a 'next' conversation

Key points of your pitch:

- An iterative process
- Practice, practice, practice
- Enthusiasm
- Be authentic
- Fake it until you make it

Your Personal Coach

- Listening to their thoughts
- An iterative process
- Being totally frank
- Assume not communicating
- 'To your bones'

Remember, at some point in time somebody might have mentioned to Columbus,

"Did you ever think of asking Queen Isabella" ...

and the world changed, right there, in that moment.