

# Storytelling with Charts (STC) Toolkit

The Tutorial Presentation Slides for the STC Toolkit

# Agenda

## Introduction

Chapter 1: STC – An Introduction and General Framework?

Chapter 2: Tuning STC to How the Mind Works

Chapter 3: Vertical Logic and the Vocabulary of STC — A Formula for Life

Chapter 4: Horizontal Logic—Story Structure Through Structured Thinking and Hierarchy

Chapter 5: Storytelling Hacks

Chapter 6: Putting It All Together

Rules Of Thumb

# Stories can add a premium to identical physical goods

## STC Framework Chart and Slide Elements

**amazon**

American Flag 3x5Ft, Embroidered Stars 3'x5' USA Flag  
Outdoor Heavy Duty and Double Edge Sewing



**Price \$5.99**

- *Quality Material: American flag constructed with strong material to withstand any outdoor weather*
- *Embroidered Stars: The stars are embroidered using densely filled rich white thread.*
- *The stripes are sewn together with two rows of double stitches for added strength*

**ebay**

Vintage 1940's Dettras Stantest Bunting 48 Star  
American Flag 3' x 5'



**Buy It Now  
US \$300.00**

- *This is a 48 star, cotton, US flag made with printed stars, and hand sewn stripes. It was made by the Dettra Flag Co. of Oaks, PA. Stantest bunting was introduced in the 1920's and was used until the 1950's.*
- *Bunting was discontinued as a result of the addition of the 49th star in 1959. This flag has been dated 1942-1945 because of the presence of distinctive wartime grommets*

# Learning languages is much harder than learning STC

## Language and STC Analogy

Level	Language Analogy			STC Equivalent	
	Description	Lemmas	Grammar	STC	Experience
<b>Level 1</b>	Basic communication	100	None	3	Rookie
<b>Level 2</b>	Will help you speak a language in a day-to-day setting	800	Some	10	6 months
<b>Level 3</b>	Understand dialogues in film or TV	3,000	Structure	20	2 years
<b>Fluent</b>	Read and understand a novel and news articles	8,000	Advanced	20	5 years
<b>Native</b>	Native speaker	15,000+	Native	20	10+ years

Source: STC team analysis

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**Chapter 1: STC – An Introduction and General Framework?**

Chapter 2: Tuning STC to How the Mind Works

Chapter 3: Vertical Logic and the Vocabulary of STC — A Formula for Life

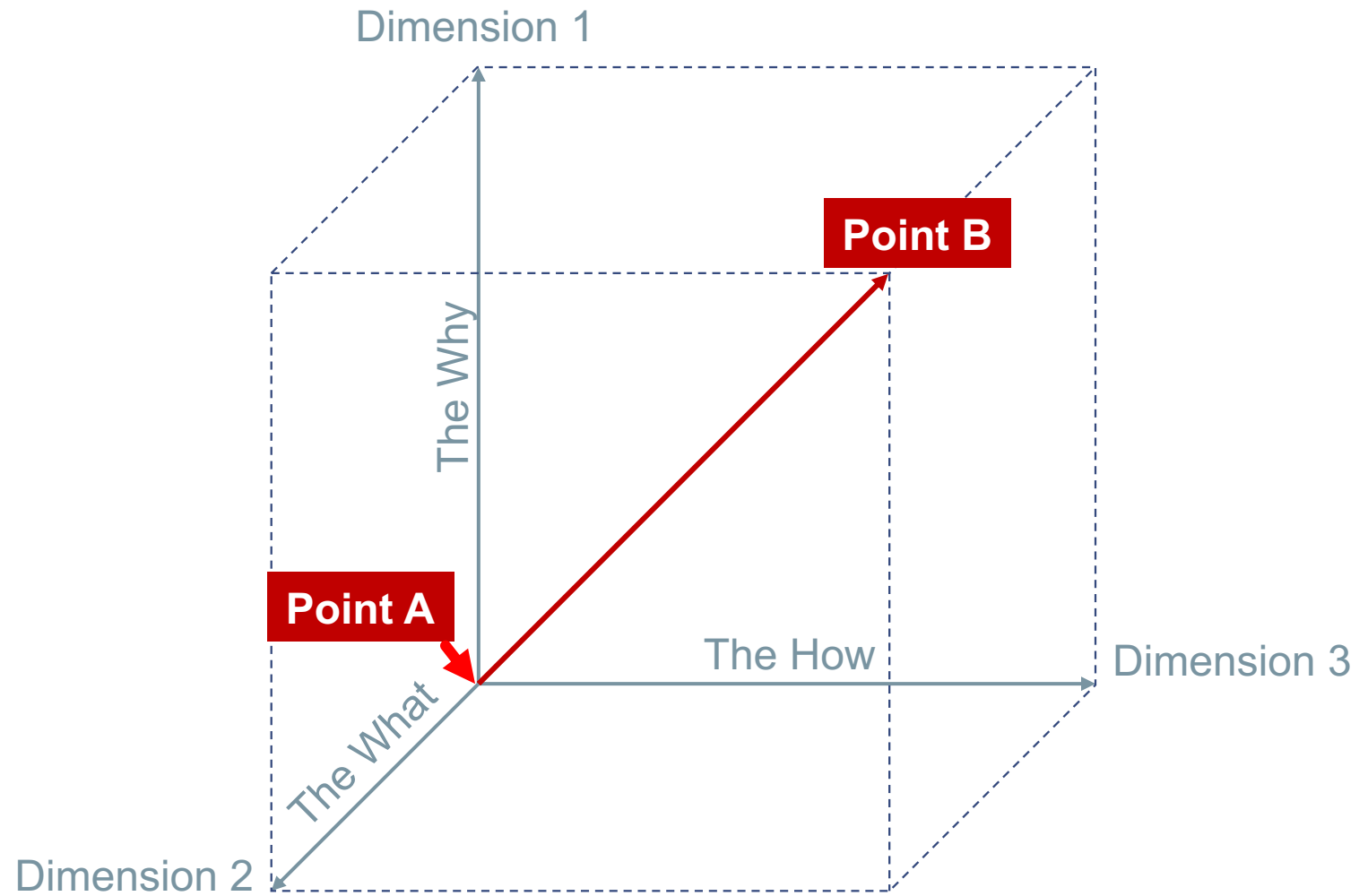
Chapter 4: Horizontal Logic—Story Structure Through Structured Thinking and Hierarchy

Chapter 5: Storytelling Hacks

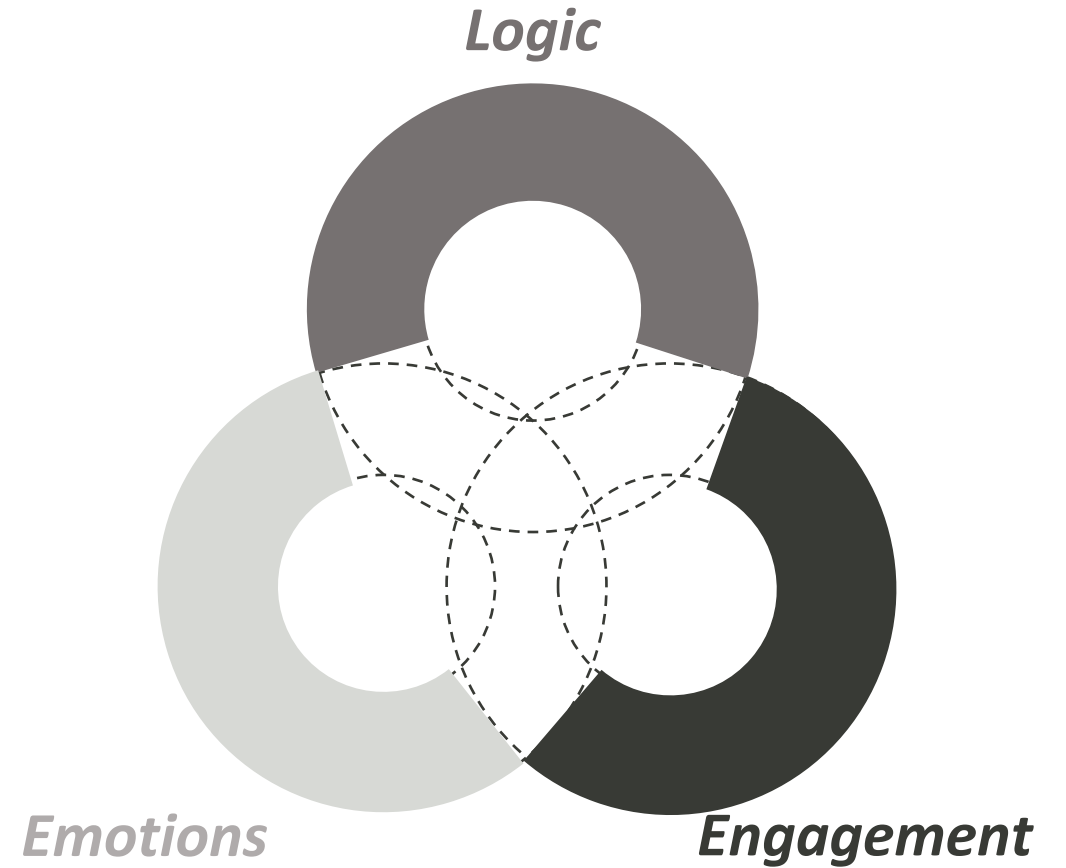
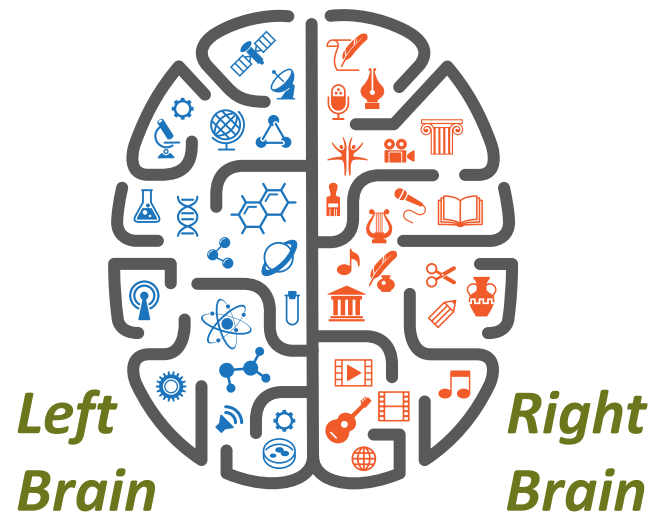
Chapter 6: Putting It All Together

Rules Of Thumb

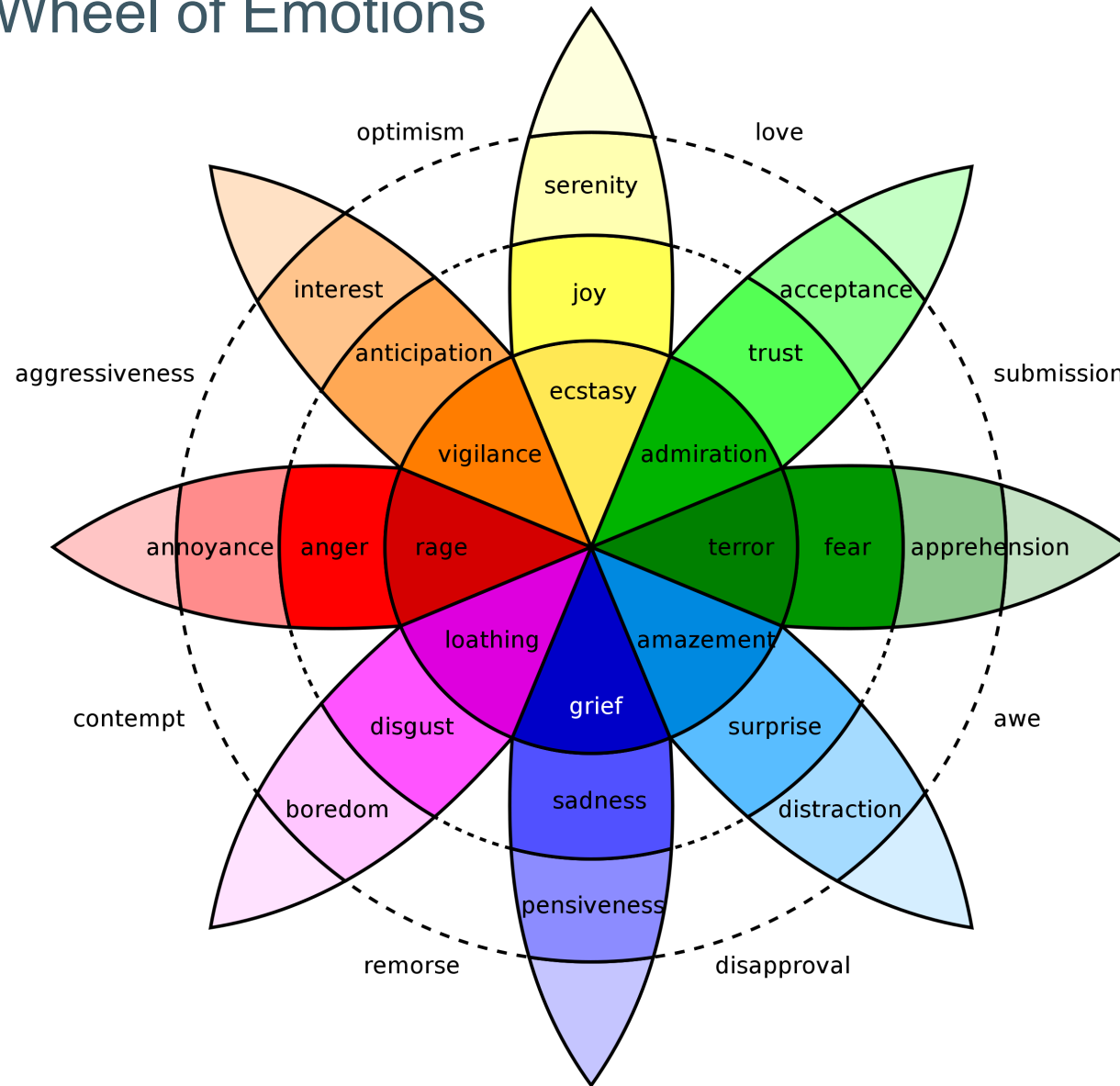
# The 3DF



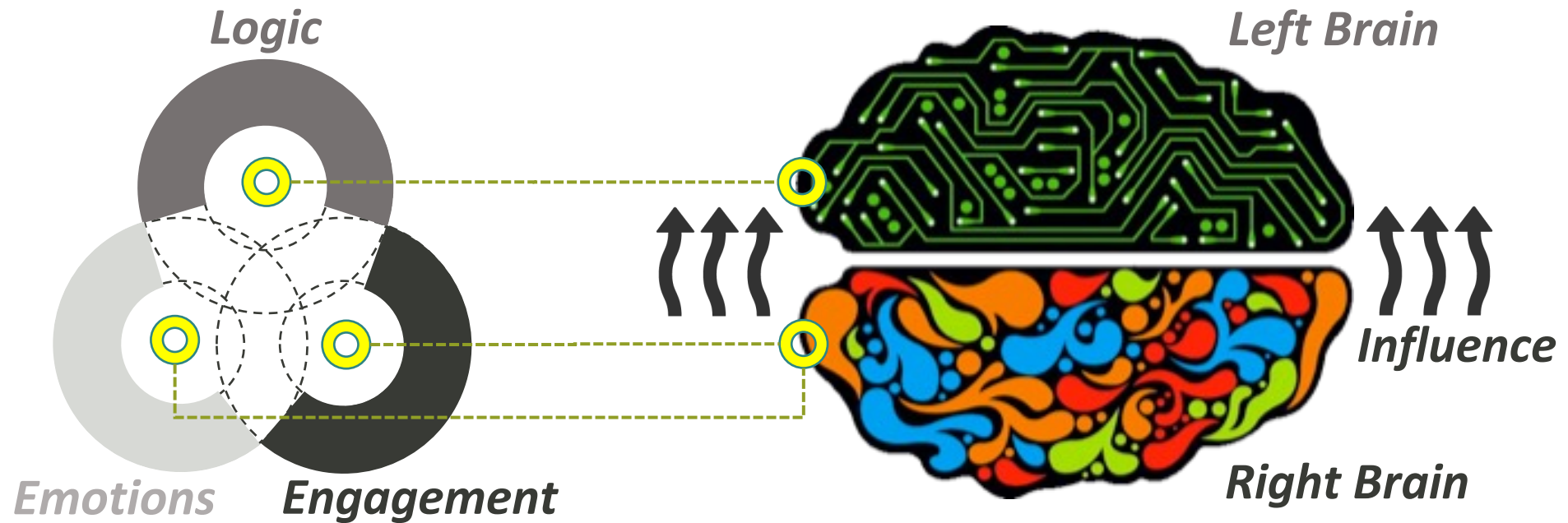
# The Three-Dimensional Framework (3DF) of STC



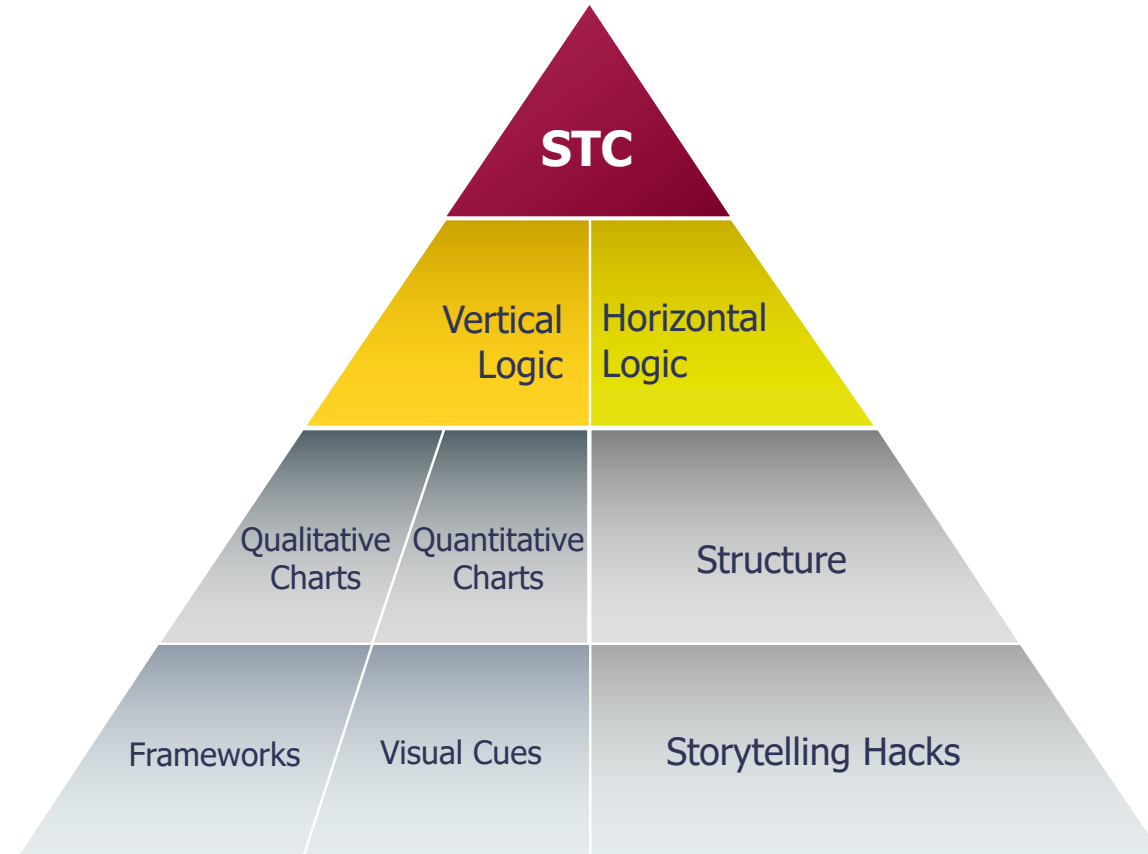
# Robert Plutchik's Wheel of Emotions



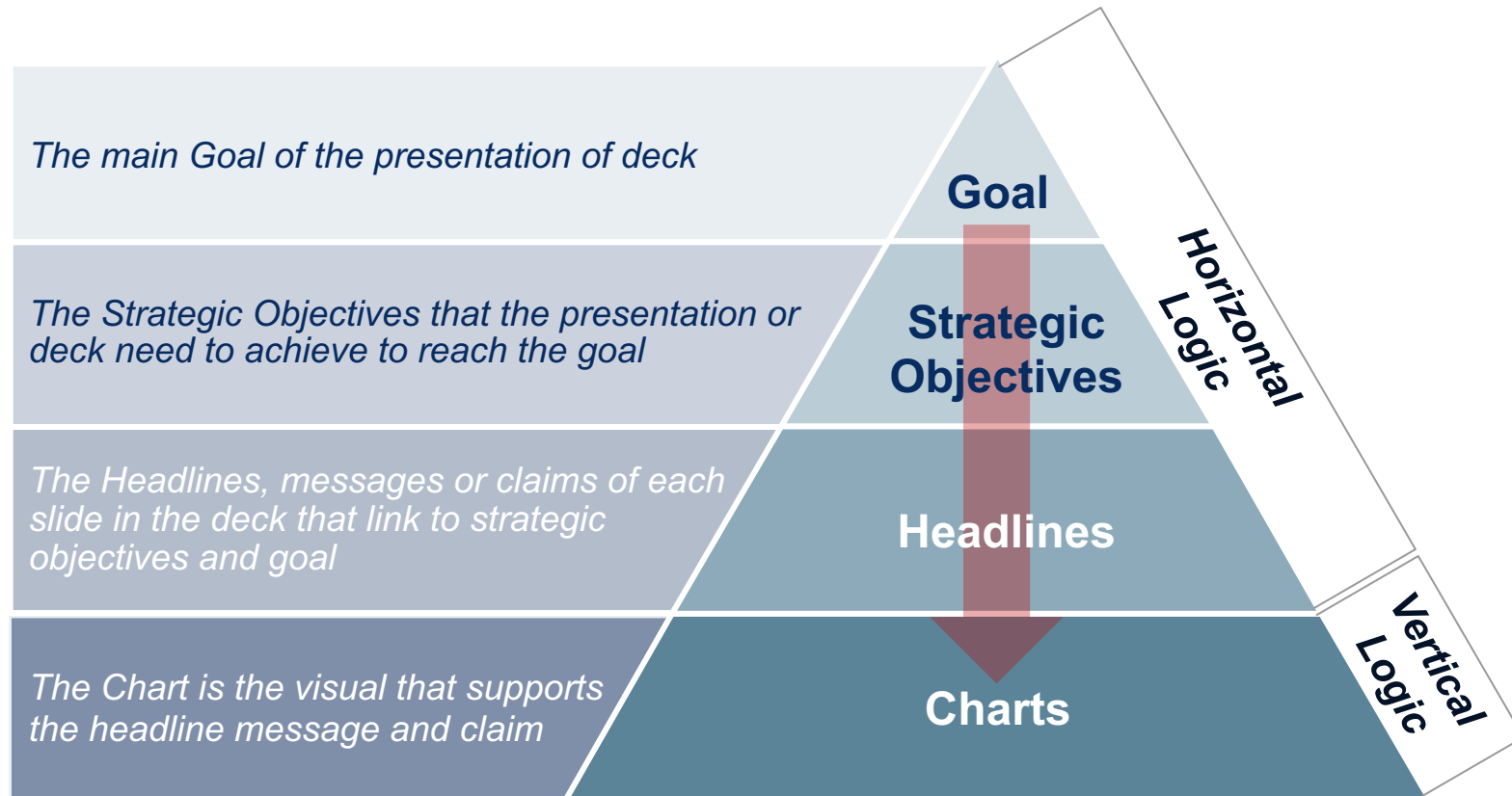
# Cognitive Ease



# STC High Level Content Structure

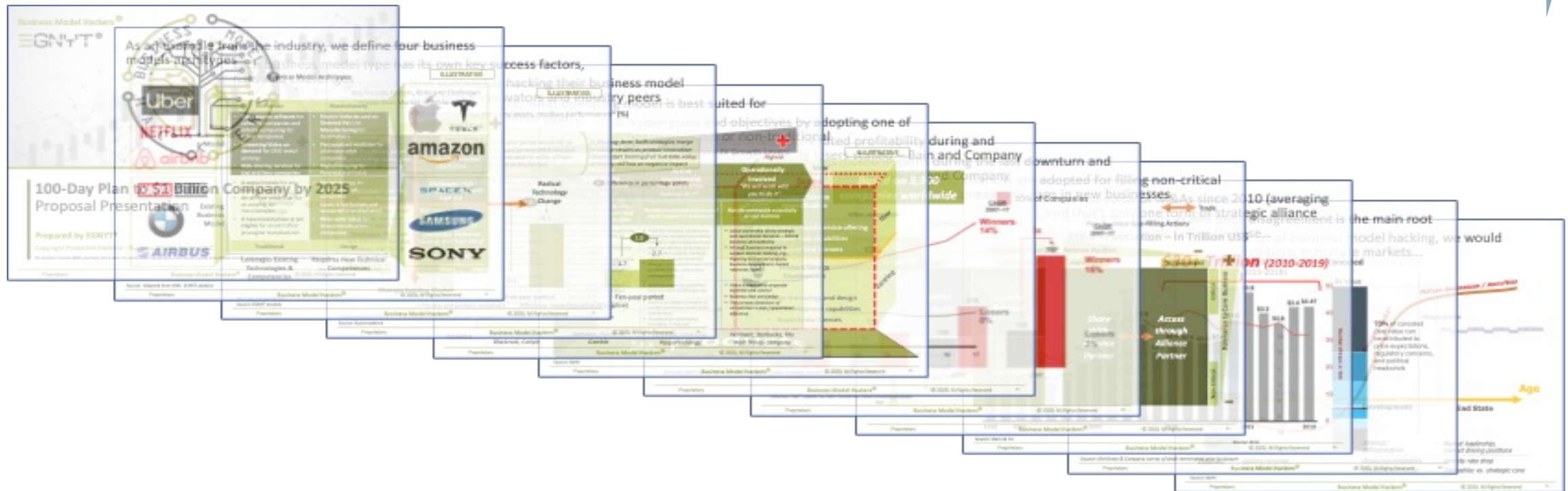


# Horizontal and Vertical Logic Relationship



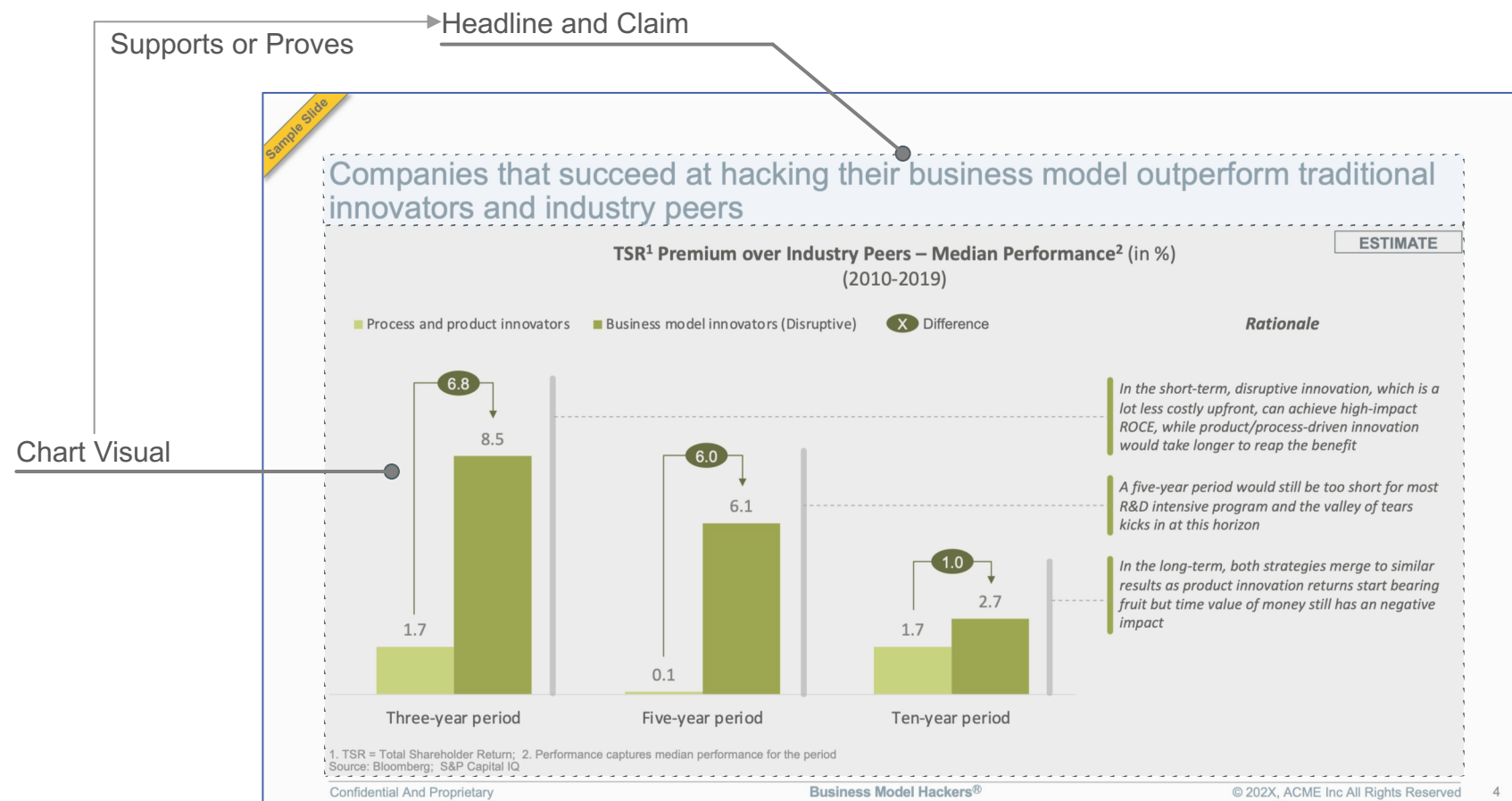
The “Horizontal Logic” reflects the story from the sequence of the headlines in a completed presentation or deck

*Horizontal Logic: If you read your Charts Headlines in sequence individually, they tell the story – Without the need to see the content of each chart*



The “Vertical Logic” is the visualized evidence or story (i.e., the chart) that supports and/or proves the claim in the headline

**Vertical Logic:**  
 Are the individual slides and depict how your headline or claim should be supported by the content in the Chart





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**Chapter 2: Tuning STC to How the Mind Works**

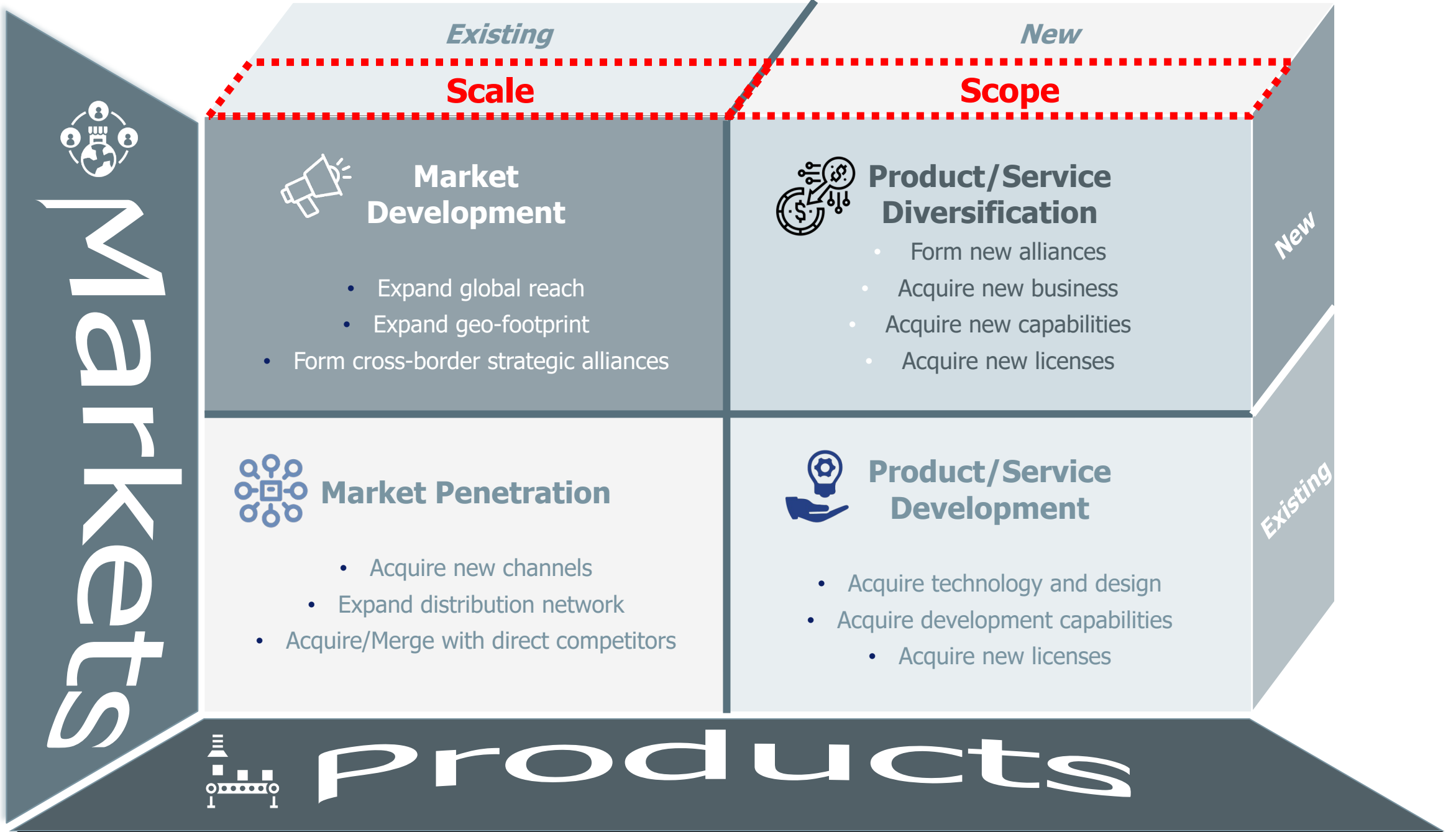
Chapter 3: Vertical Logic and the Vocabulary of STC — A Formula for Life

Chapter 4: Horizontal Logic—Story Structure Through Structured Thinking and Hierarchy

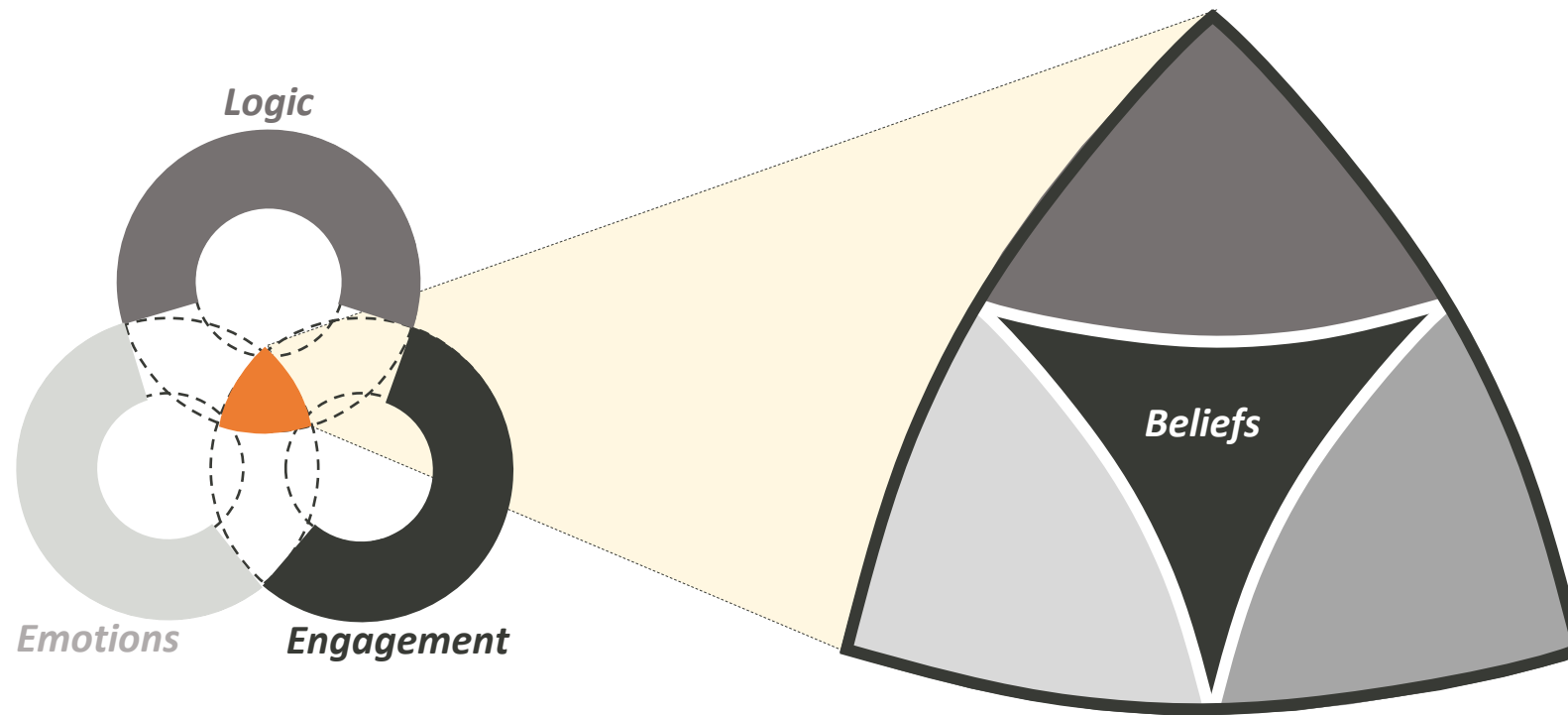
Chapter 5: Storytelling Hacks

Chapter 6: Putting It All Together

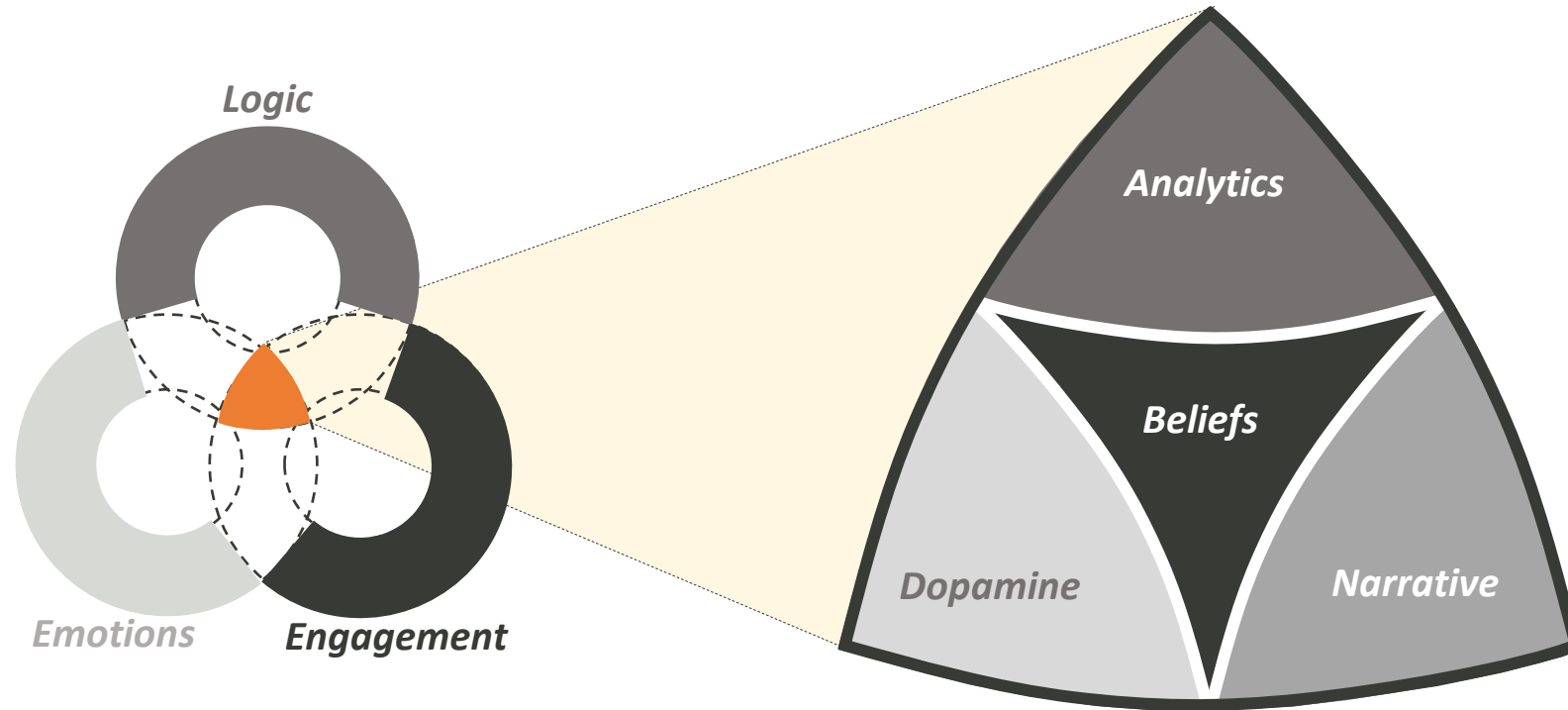
Rules Of Thumb



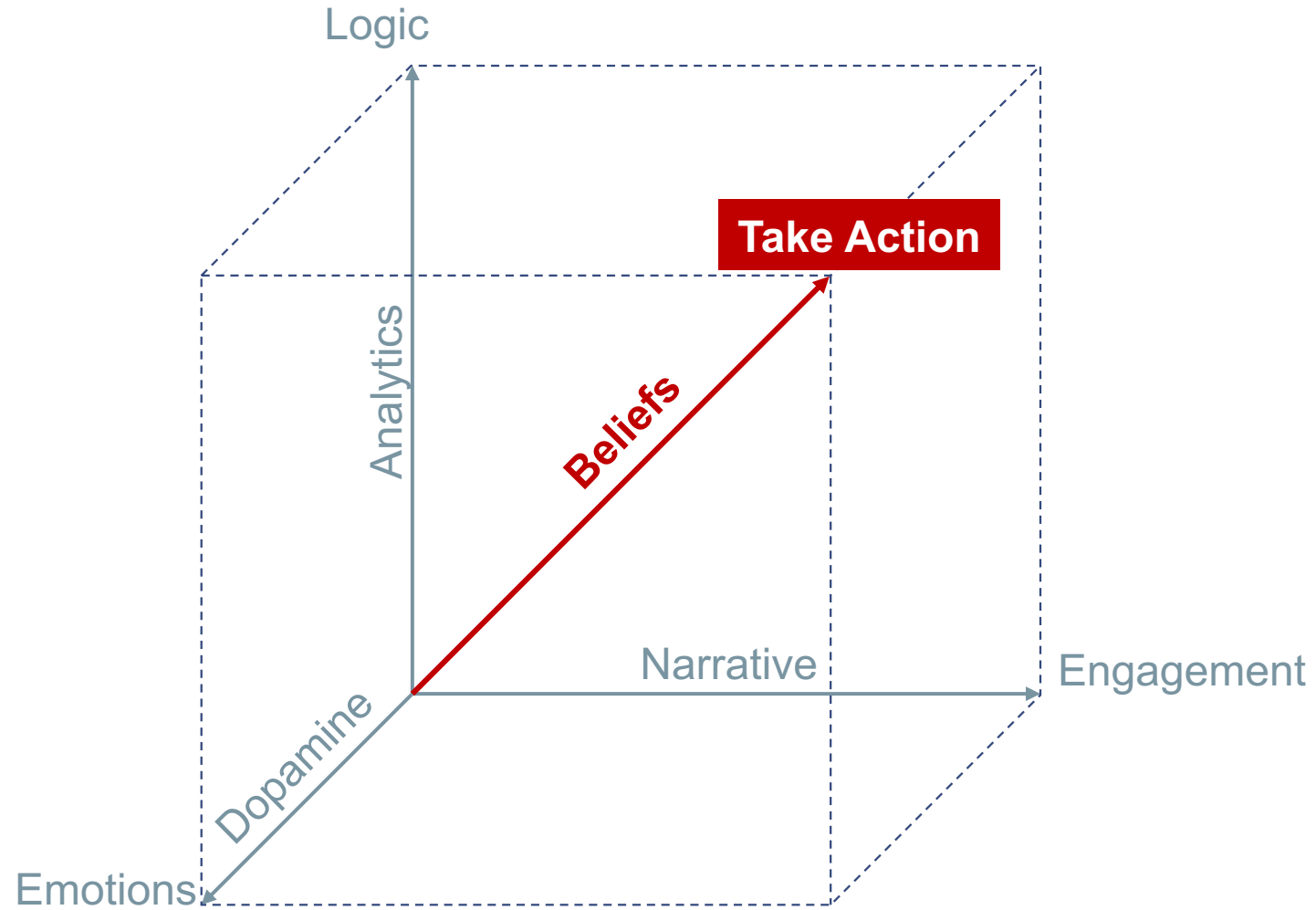
# Beliefs



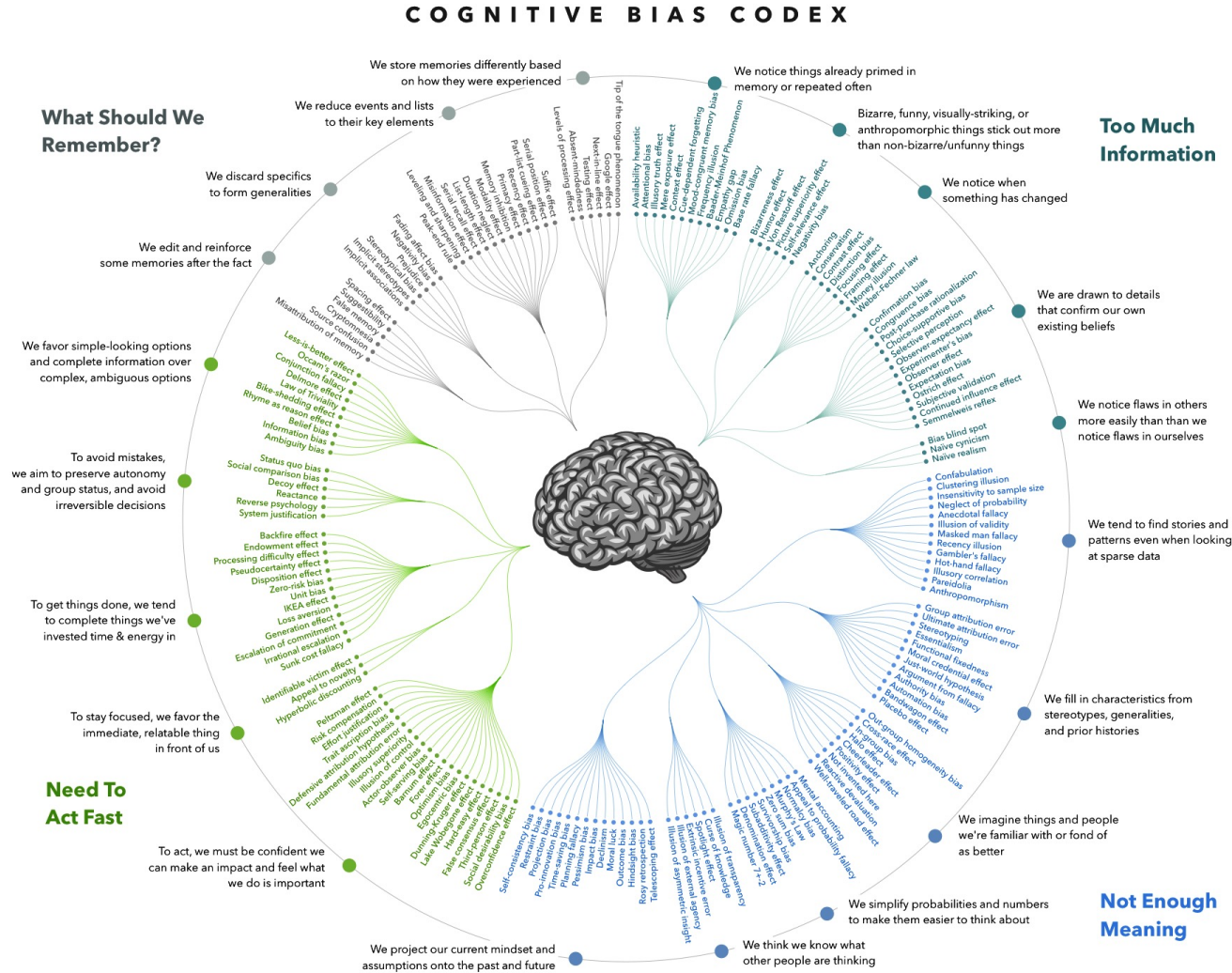
# Analytics, Narrative and Dopamine



# 3DF in 3D visual

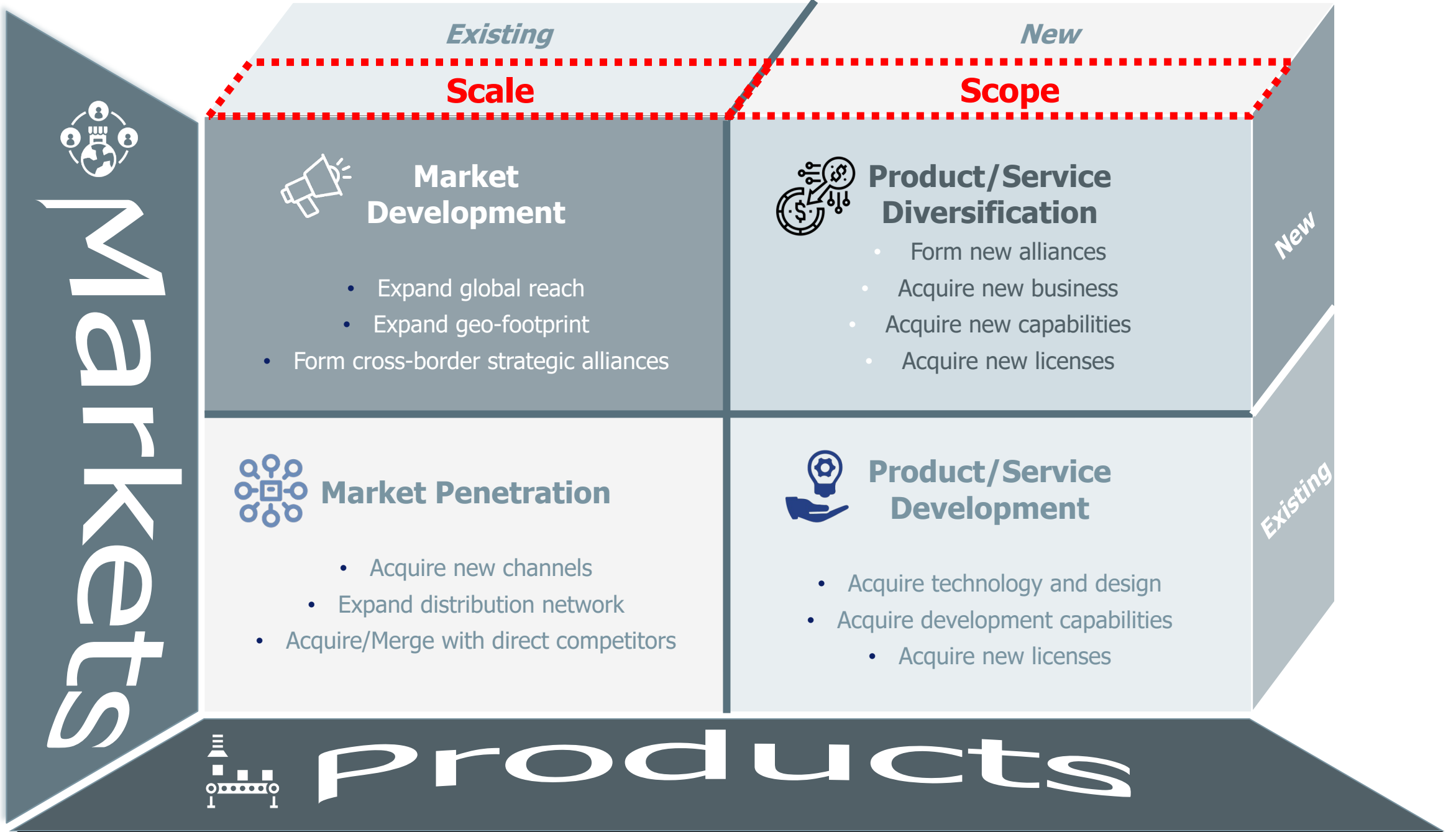


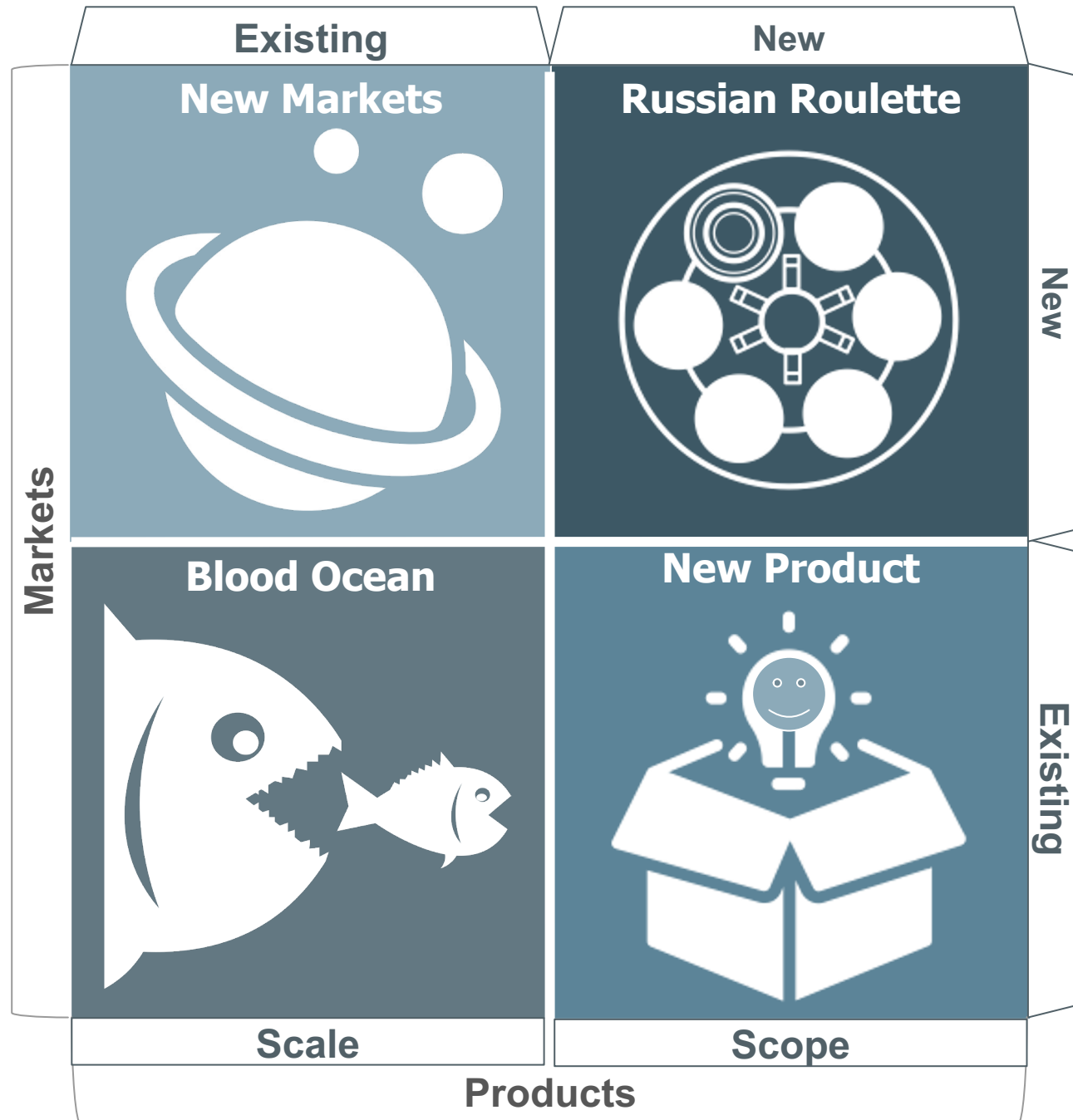
# Cognitive Bias CODEX

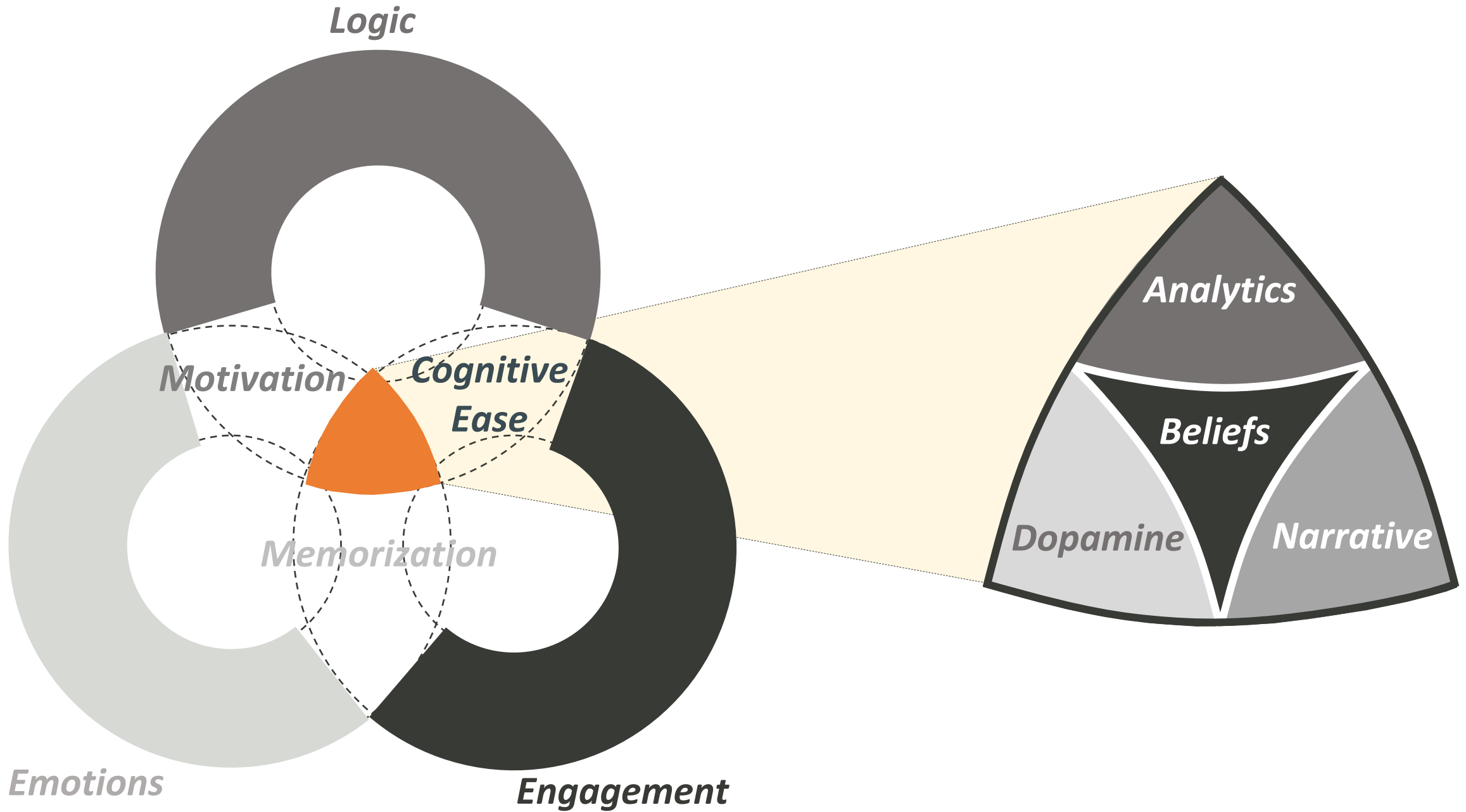


# BCG Growth Share Matrix









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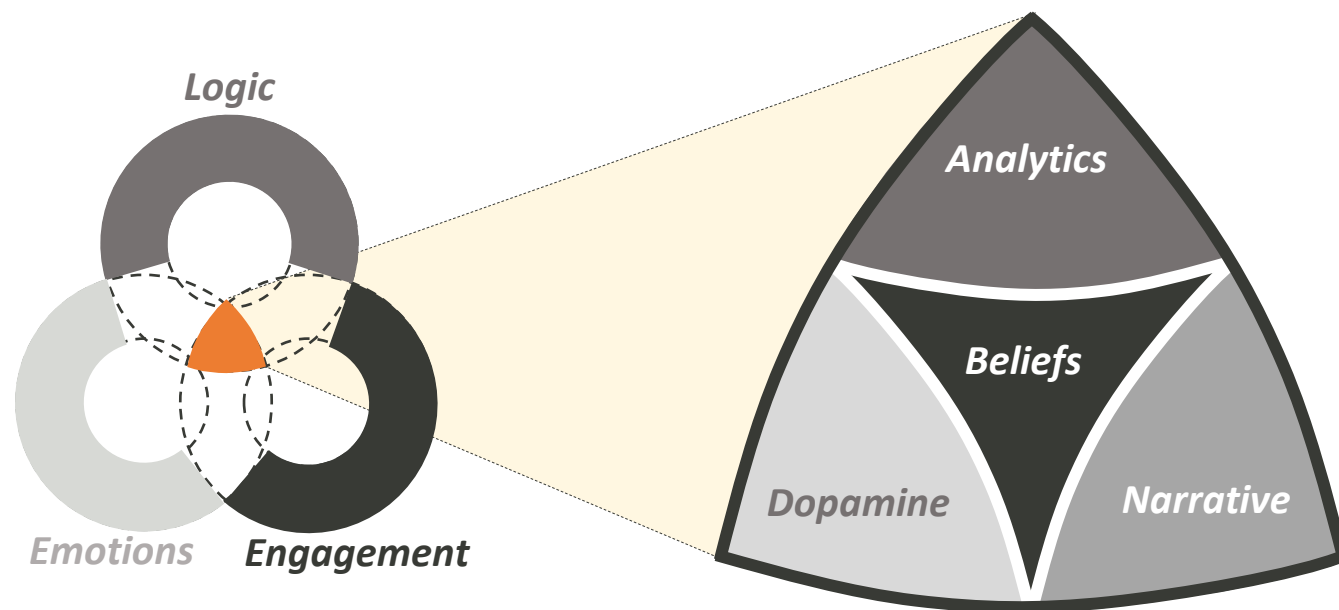
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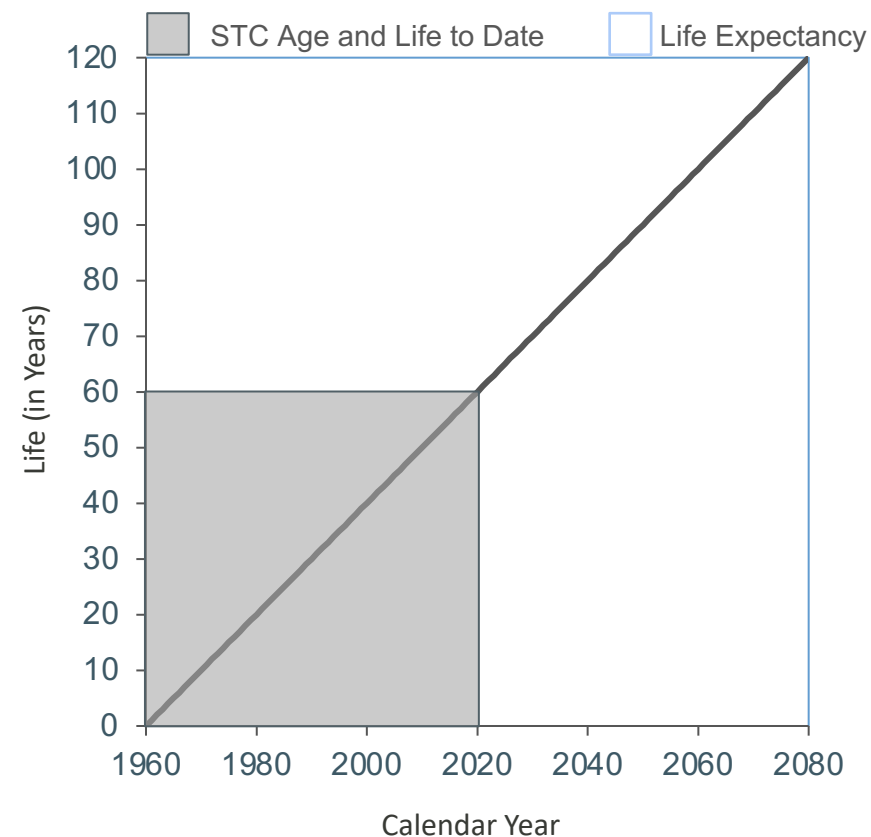
The STC core concept, mechanism and levers thrived for 60 years and will survive another 60, if you apply the “Lindy Effect” to determine its life expectancy

### STC Core Concept and Its Life Expectancy

STC Core Concept, Mechanism and Levers



STC Life Expectancy as Non-Perishable



1. Perishable are are elements that have an unavoidable organic expiration date, such as humans, light bulbs, canned food; 2. Nonperishable would be those with no organic, inevitable expiration date  
 Source: Antifragile: Things that gain from disorder, Nassim Taleb; Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit

Sketching a single slide in the year 40 BLC<sup>1</sup> was a long and painful process with little room for error

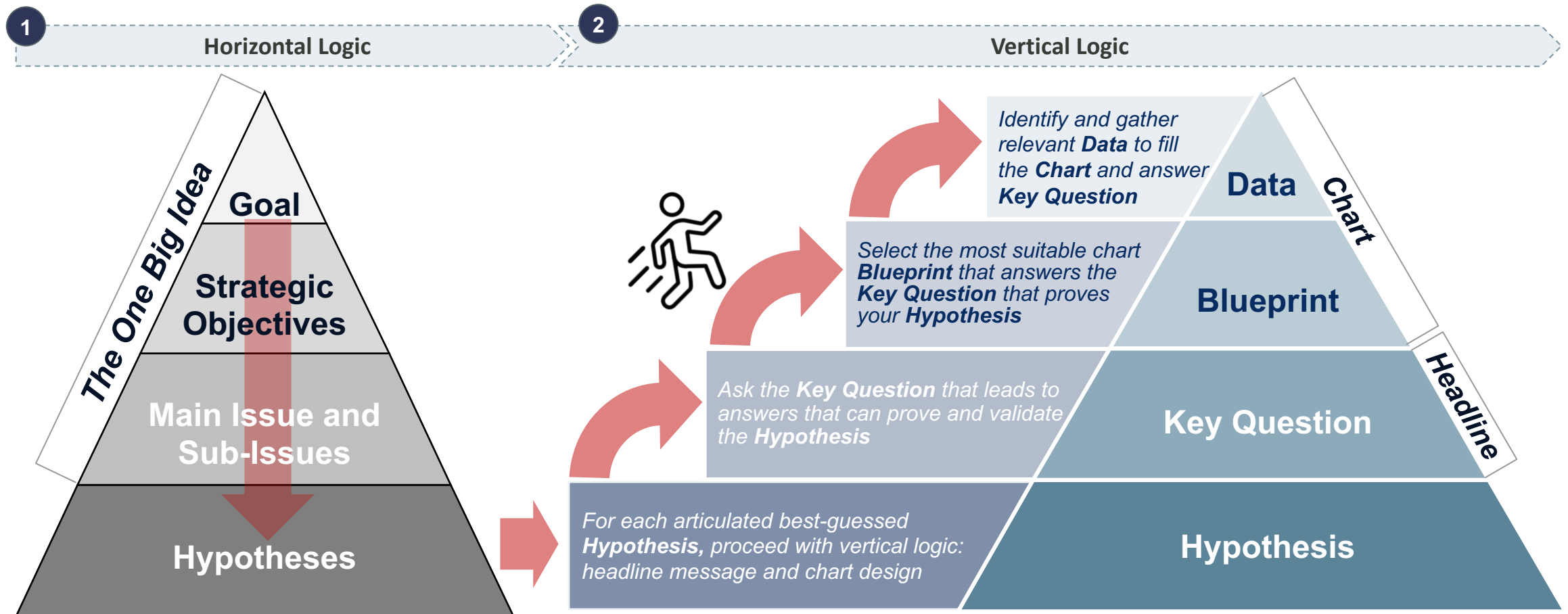
### Slide Deck Development in the Year 40 BLC

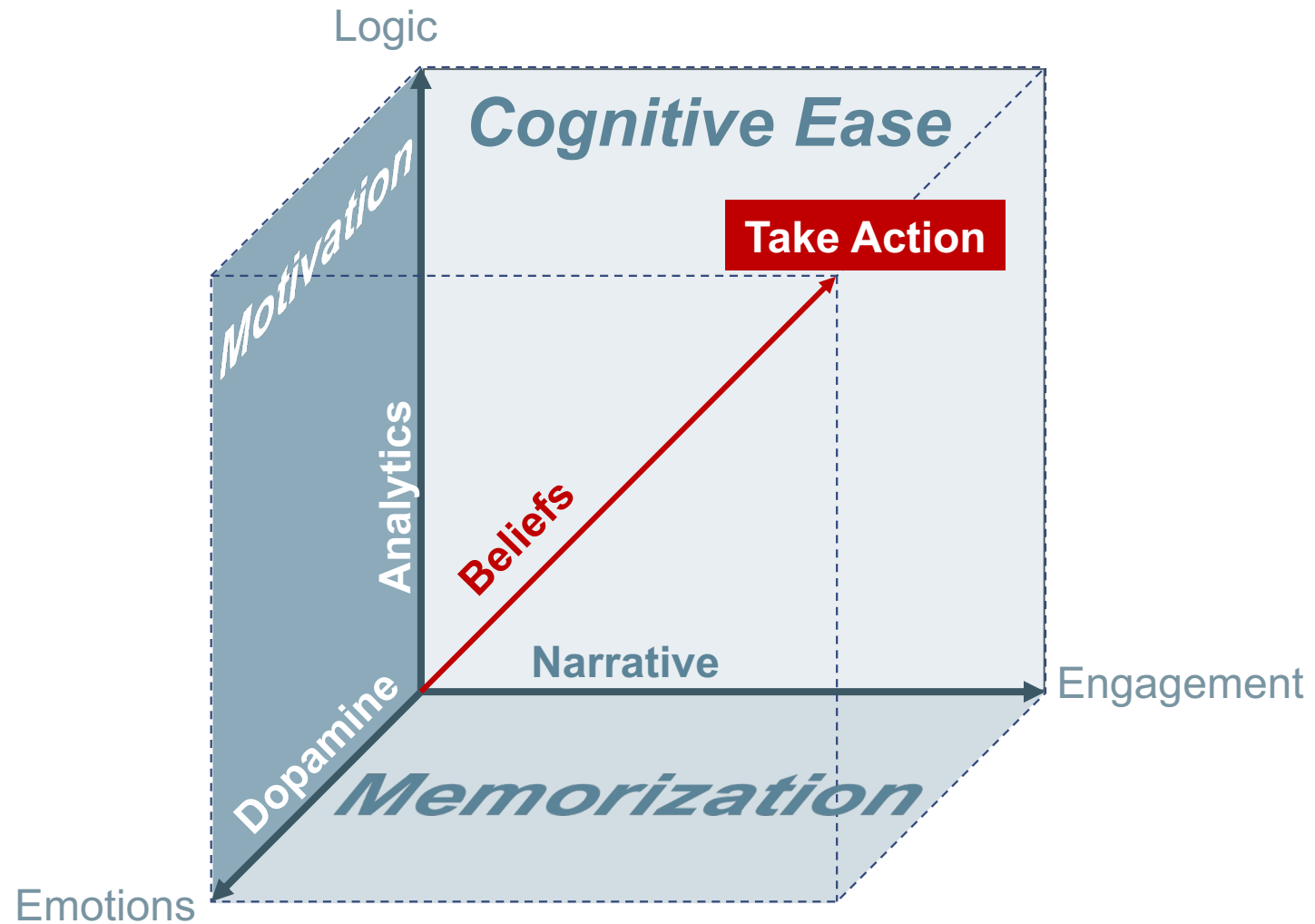


1. BLC = Before Laptops and Computers  
Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit

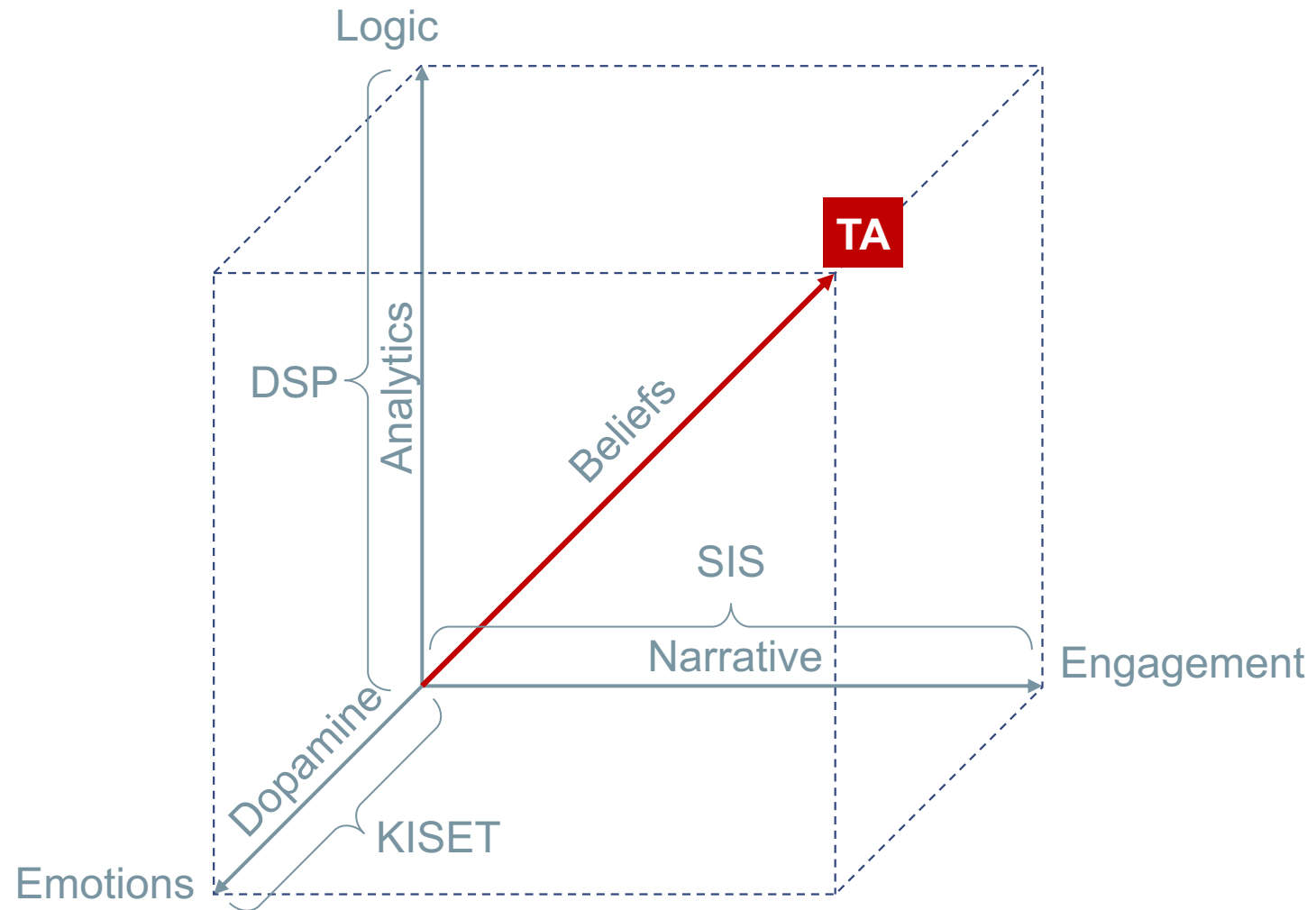
# STC starts with the goal and the strategic objectives and not the data

## The STC Framework Method





# Determine a Solution to a Problem (DSP)



ILLUSTRATIVE

CONFIDENTIAL

PRELIMINARY

DRAFT

ESTIMATE

EXAMPLE

FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

FOR DISCUSSION

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION

DISGUISED

NON-EXHAUSTIVE

PRELIMINARY

CLIENT EXAMPLE

ROUGH ESTIMATE

DISCUSSION DRAFT

REVISED

SAMPLE

CONCEPTUAL

PROPOSED

TO BE COMPLETED

BACKUP

HYPOTHESIS

STRAW MAN

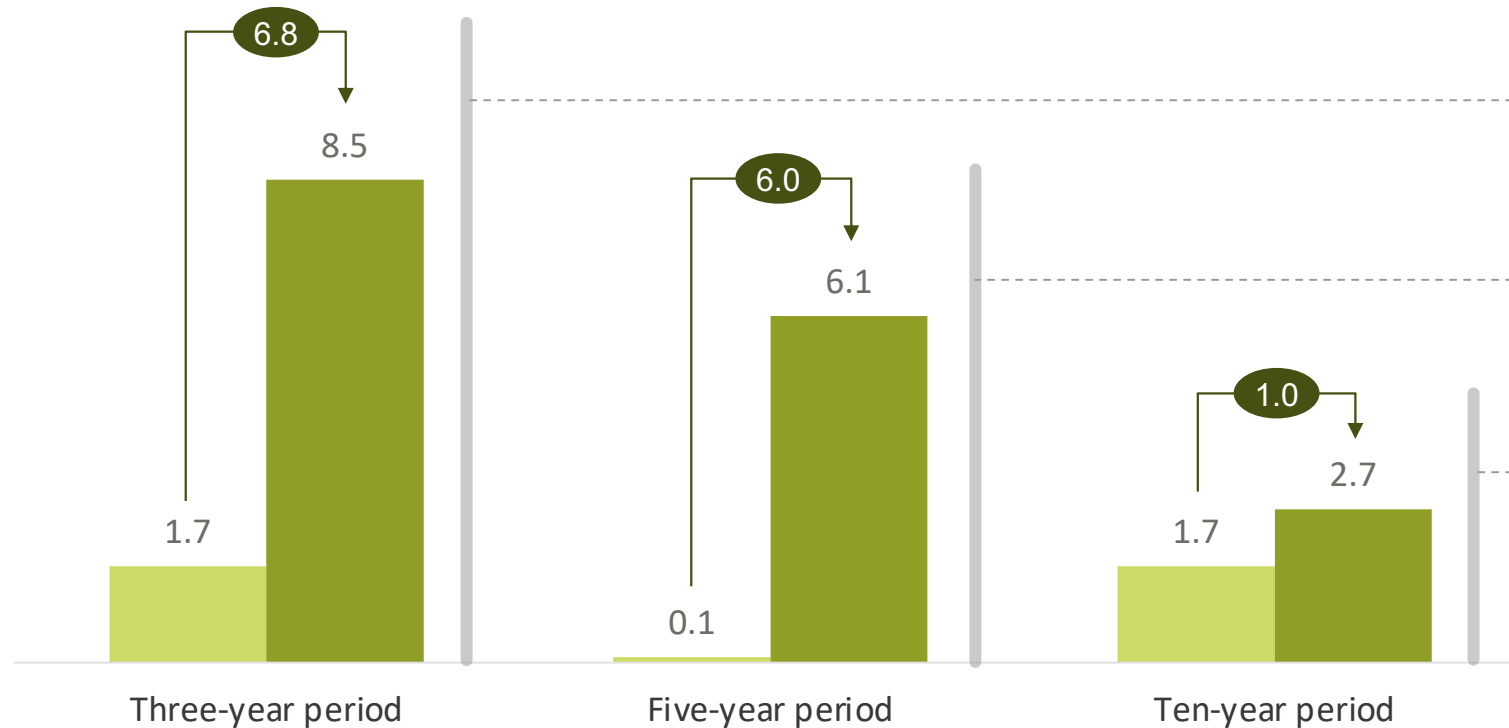
# Companies that succeed at hacking their business model outperform traditional innovators and industry peers

ESTIMATE

TSR<sup>1</sup> Premium over Industry Peers – Median Performance<sup>2</sup> (in %)  
(2010-2019)

■ Process and product innovators ■ Business model innovators (Disruptive) ⊗ Difference

**Rationale**



*In the short-term, disruptive innovation, which is a lot less costly upfront, can achieve high-impact ROCE, while product/process-driven innovation would take longer to reap the benefit*

*A five-year period would still be too short for most R&D intensive program and the valley of tears kicks in at this horizon*

*In the long-term, both strategies merge to similar results as product innovation returns start bearing fruit but time value of money still has a negative impact*

1. TSR = Total Shareholder Return; 2. Performance captures median performance for the period  
Source: Bloomberg; S&P Capital IQ; Business Model Hackers analysis

# There are 15 key elements in a chart and slide that follow the STC framework (1/2)

## STC Framework Chart and Slide Elements

R#	Element	Visible	Must	Definition and Purpose	Design Rule
1	<b>Headline</b>	✓	✓	The main message on a slide extracted from the story	No more than 2 lines
2	<b>Title</b>	✓	✓	The description of a graphic or a chart within a slide	Consistent location across all slides
3	<b>Chart Area</b>		✓	The area in which the chart should fit and not exceed the margins allocated to it - as set by the guides set by this template	The area isn't marked but should be consistent throughout: Its borders should have the same distance from the top and the left
4	<b>Ghost</b>	✓		A text or graphic illustrating position in a story within the story	Can be a text, image or both and goes between the header and chart area
5	<b>Label</b>	✓		Description of highlights and visual cues	Location should be consistent across the entire deck
6	<b>Ribbon</b>	✓		Ribbons can be used to highlight an attribute or something on the entire slide. Can also be used for disclaimer (see below)	It needs to go above the header
7	<b>Disclaimer</b>	✓		Used to clarify and delimit the scope of proof in the chart that is used to support the headline claim or message	Disclaimers can refer to a specific chart or the entire chart area. Multiple disclaimers can be added
8	<b>Callout</b>	✓		A callout is a text or a visual cue designed to stress or highlight a particular message in the chart	Avoid overcrowding the slide

There are 15 key elements in a chart and slide that follow the STC framework (2/2) – see the following pages for positioning visualization

## STC Framework Chart and Slide Elements

R#	Element	Visible	Must	Definition and Purpose	Design Rule
9	Page #	✓	✓	Is a must on every page except the first page	Format and location should be consistent throughout
10	Source	✓	✓	The source of the chart or the data in the chart should go on every slide. Every chart should have a source, i.e., if you have 2 charts from different sources, include the 2 sources	Consistent location, font, size, format at the bottom of the page but above the footer if there is one. Separate different sources with semicolons
11	Footnote	✓		This is a useful field to explain or justify specific elements, figures, analysis, etc. in the chart area	Use only when clarification or qualification is needed. Usually comes before the source field listed in numerical order and use 10pt font or less
12	Note	✓		Unlike the footnote, the note typically refers to the entire chart and not specific elements within the chart.	Comes after the numbered footnote if there are any
14	Footer	✓		A footer is only needed for branding, or adding disclaimers, copyright and confidentiality marks	It's recommended but may crowd out the slide
15	Margins		✓	The position and the space and margins between the elements in the chart including the headline, the title, and the source/note field	Positions of titles, internal charts (i.e., for a single chart or multiple charts), margins, spacing between elements and the spacing from the top and the left should be consistent throughout

1. **Headline Area** (Fits maximum 2 lines aligned to the left)

2. **Chart Title Area** (Can be split up into 2, 3 or 4 titles one for each chart, can be centered or left-aligned)

**3. Chart Area**

1. xxxx 2. xxxx 3. xxxx

Note: Use font 9

Source: Include a source for every chart that you use; Separate each source with a semicolon followed by two spaces

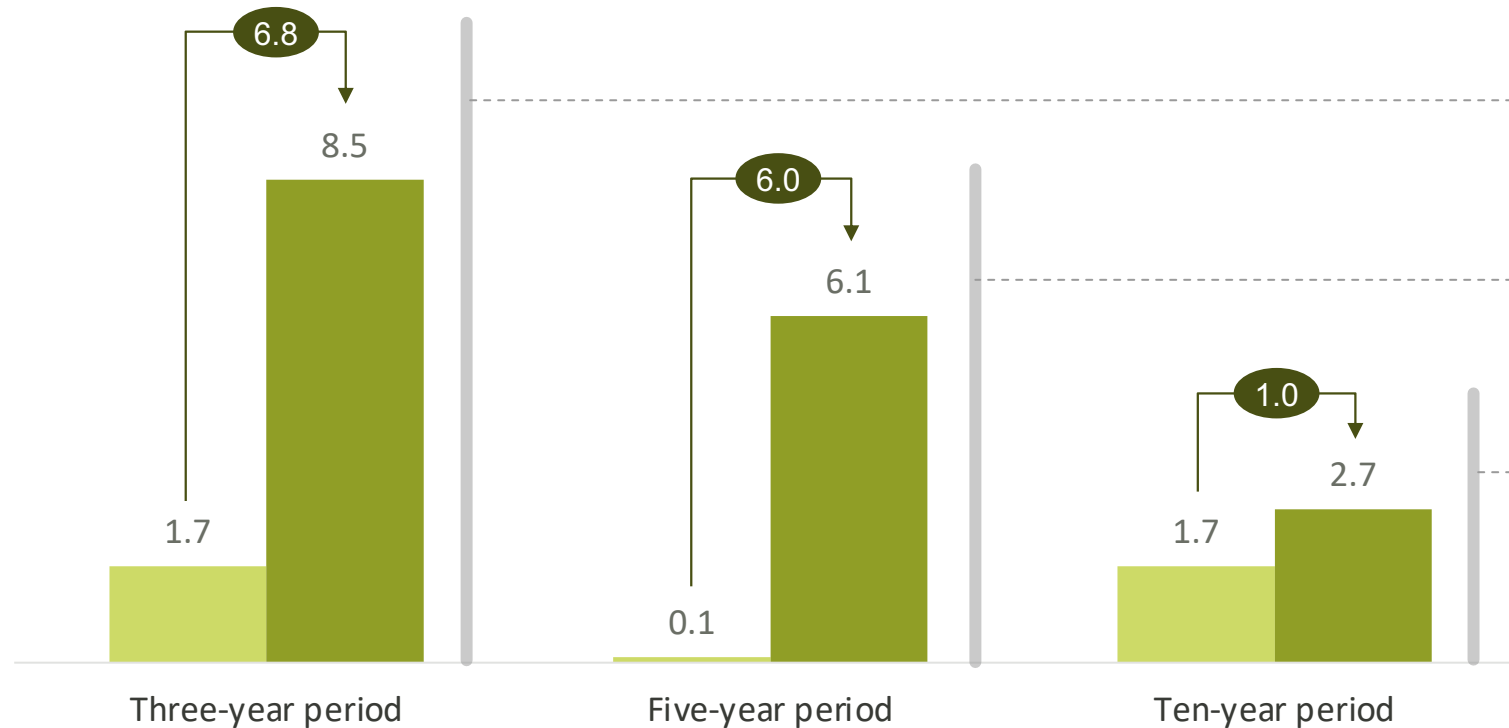
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# STC Framework Additional Chart and Slide Elements Sample Slide Illustration

6. Ribbon

Sample Slide

## Companies that succeed at hacking their business model outperform traditional innovators and industry peers

4. Ghost Area

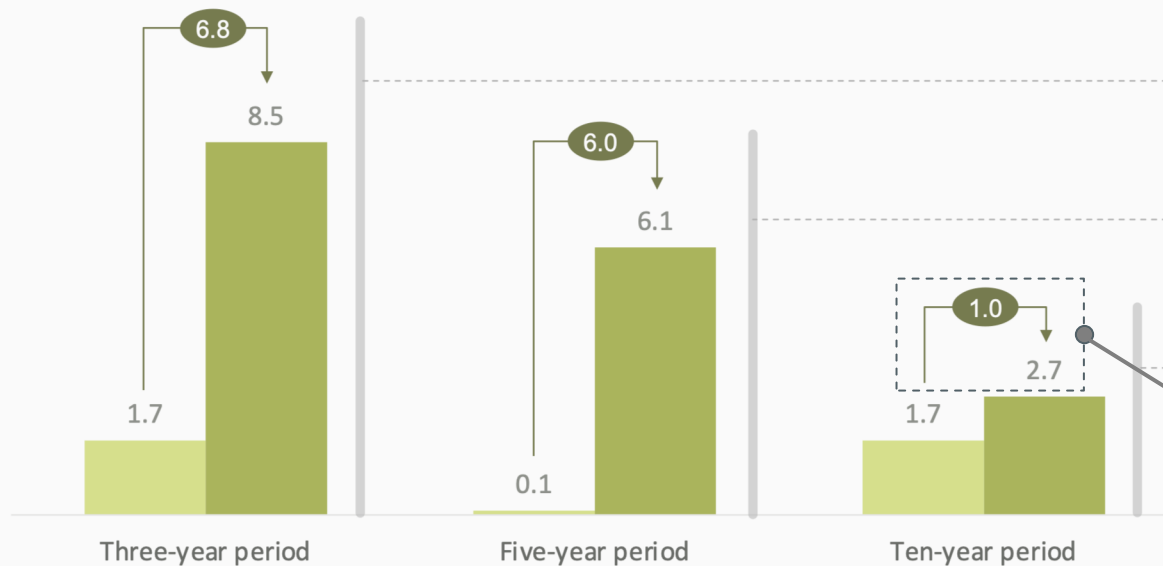
TSR<sup>1</sup> Premium over Industry Peers – Median Performance<sup>2</sup> (in %) (2010-2019)

ESTIMATE

7. Disclaimer

4. Label

■ Process and product innovators ■ Business model innovators (Disruptive) ⊗ Difference



Rationale

- In the short-term, disruptive innovation, which is a lot less costly upfront, can achieve high-impact ROCE, while product/process-driven innovation would take longer to reap the benefit
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- In the long-term, both strategies merge to similar results as product innovation returns start bearing fruit but time value of money still has a negative impact

8. Callout

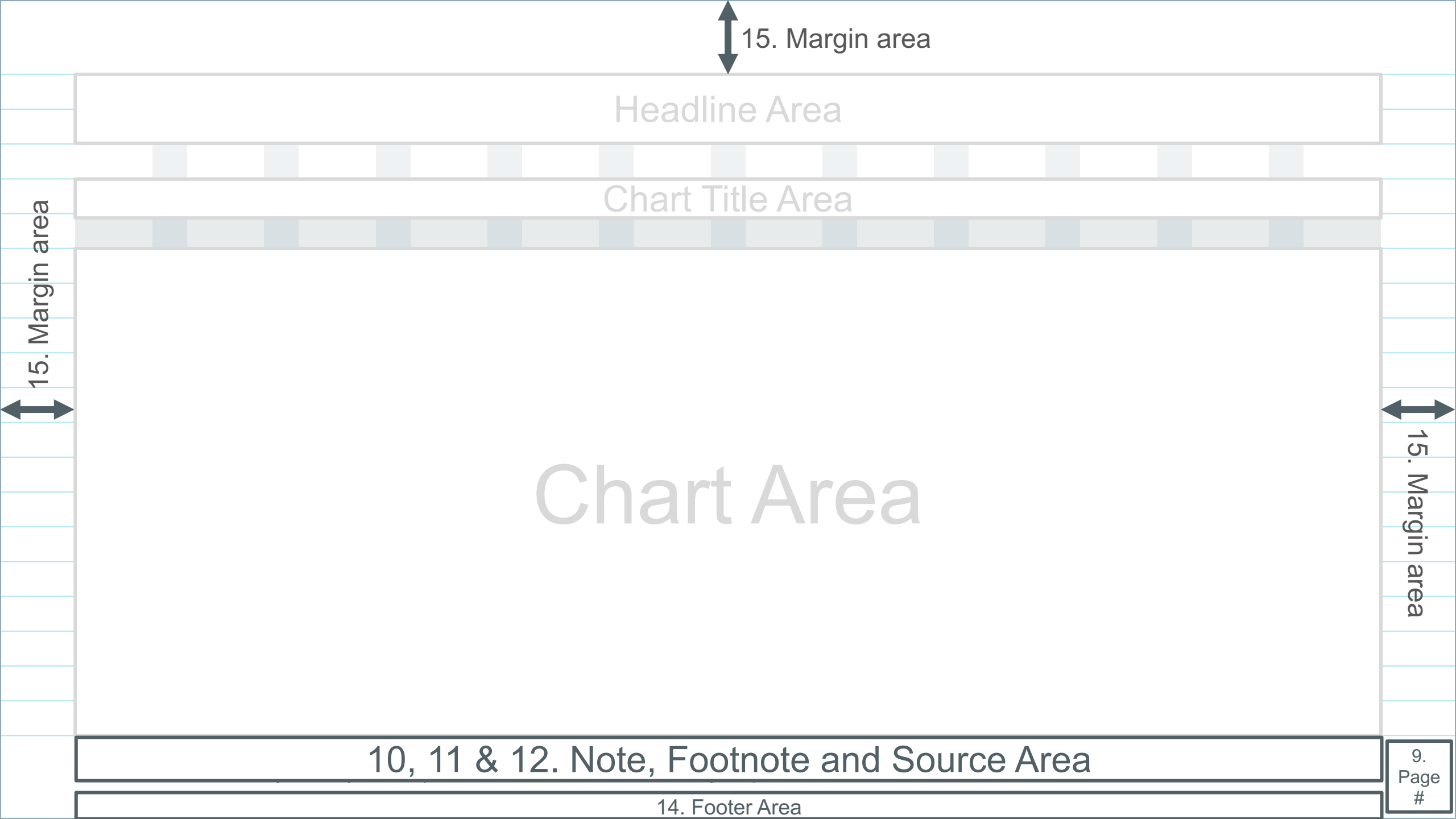
1. TSR = Total Shareholder Return; 2. Performance captures median performance for the period  
Source: Bloomberg; S&P Capital IQ

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4



15. Margin area

Headline Area

Chart Title Area

Chart Area

15. Margin area

15. Margin area

10, 11 & 12. Note, Footnote and Source Area

14. Footer Area

9. Page #

In addition, there are 8 best practice design rules for the slides in a deck that is in compliance with the STC framework

## STC Framework Best Practice Design Rules

R#	Element	Visible	Must	Definition and Purpose	Best Practice Design Rule
1	<b>Date (for Data)</b>	✓		If you have data on the slide, the date of the data is essential to indicate on the slide	If the data is not actual, or consists of a mix of actual and estimate, the date should include a letter to designate whether it's an estimate or a forecast
2	<b>Units</b>	✓		The units of the number is essential to include and	Consistency in how to use the unit across the deck. In addition, e.g., if metric is used, the entire deck should be in metric
3	<b># of Digits</b>	✓		Numbers displayed should be consistent and have no more than 3 digits, preferably 1 decimal point	This should be consistent across all numbers in the deck
4	<b>Font Type</b>		✓	The best practice is to have one type of font across the entire deck	Font type should be chosen in the template
5	<b>Font size</b>		✓	Is the size that is set across all text elements in slide. Including, the header, titles, chart content, text boxes, etc.	Size should be chosen in the template and should be consistent across the entire deck
6	<b>Colors</b>	✓	✓	Set a color palette and stick to it. Avoid the use of excessive colors	Set the color scheme to be the same across the entire deck
7	<b>Template</b>		✓	The template sets the position of the lead in, the margins, the color palette, the fonts, etc.	It's a essential to work off a template, no matter what software is being used
8	<b>So What?</b>		✓	A question to be asked at the end of every slide to ensure it addresses the story's objective	Ask before and after the slide is completed: What is the purpose of the slide? Is the takeaway clear from the headline? Does the slide address the story's objective?

# STC Framework Best Practice Design Rules Sample Slide Illustration

1. Date

2. Units

Sample Slide

## Companies that succeed at hacking their business model outperform traditional innovators and industry peers

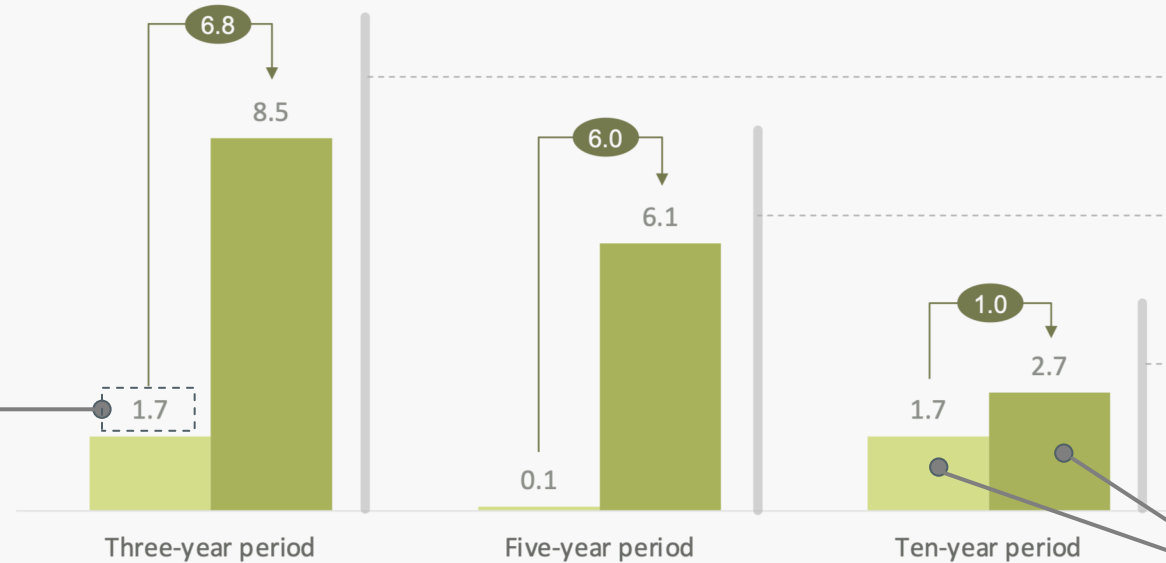
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In the long-term, both strategies merge to similar results as product innovation returns start bearing fruit but time value of money still has a negative impact

3. # of Digits

6. Colors

1. TSR = Total Shareholder Return; 2. Performance captures median performance for the period  
Source: Bloomberg; S&P Capital IQ

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4

Whether you are presenting onscreen in a hall or a conference room, you can use the following chart table to guide your font size

Best Viewing Distance by Screen Size			
Font Size (in pt.)		Screen Width	
		3 meters	4 meters
Can you read this?	9	3	3
Can you read this?	10	3	4
Can you read this?	12	4	5
Can you read this?	14	5	6
Can you read this?	16	6	7
Can you read this?	18	7	9
Can you read this?	20	10	15
Can you read this?	22	12	17
Can you read this?	24	15	20
Can you read this?	28	17	24
Can you read this?	32	20	26

# Fillers and bloaters include Table Of Content (TOC), Agenda, Separators, or Chapter slides

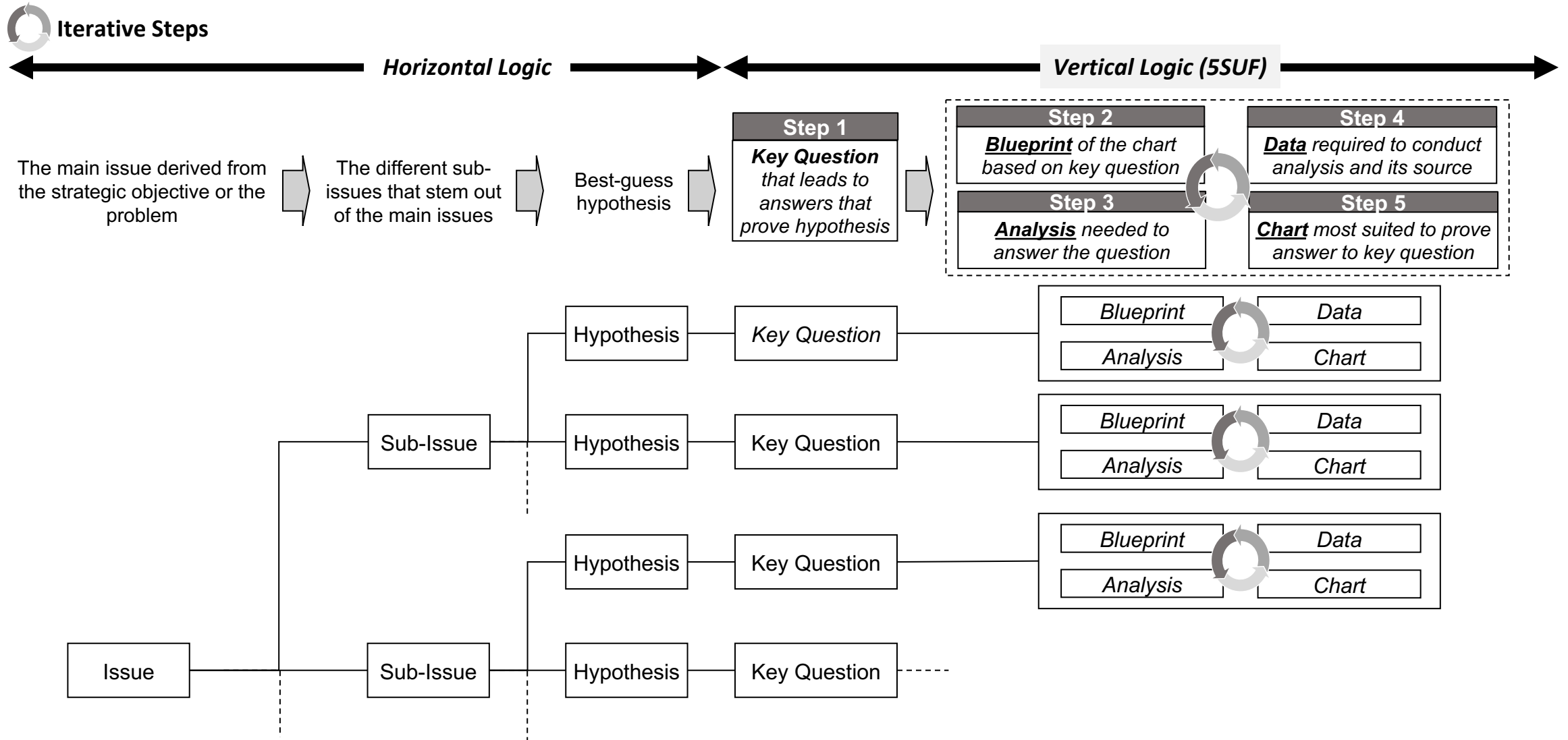
## Agenda Bloater Example

Agenda

- Part 0: Introduction**
- Part 1: What is STC?
- Part 2: Why the STC Method Will Live Forever
- Part 3: The Anatomy of STC
- Part 4: The Anatomy of Charts
- Part 5: The Universal Framework
- Part 6: Using the Toolkit for Chart Selection
- Part 7: Horizontal Logic and Storylines
- Rules Of Thumb

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# The five steps universal framework is centered around asking the right questions



Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit

# Posing the right question is driven by the type of hypotheses designed during horizontal logic blueprinting process

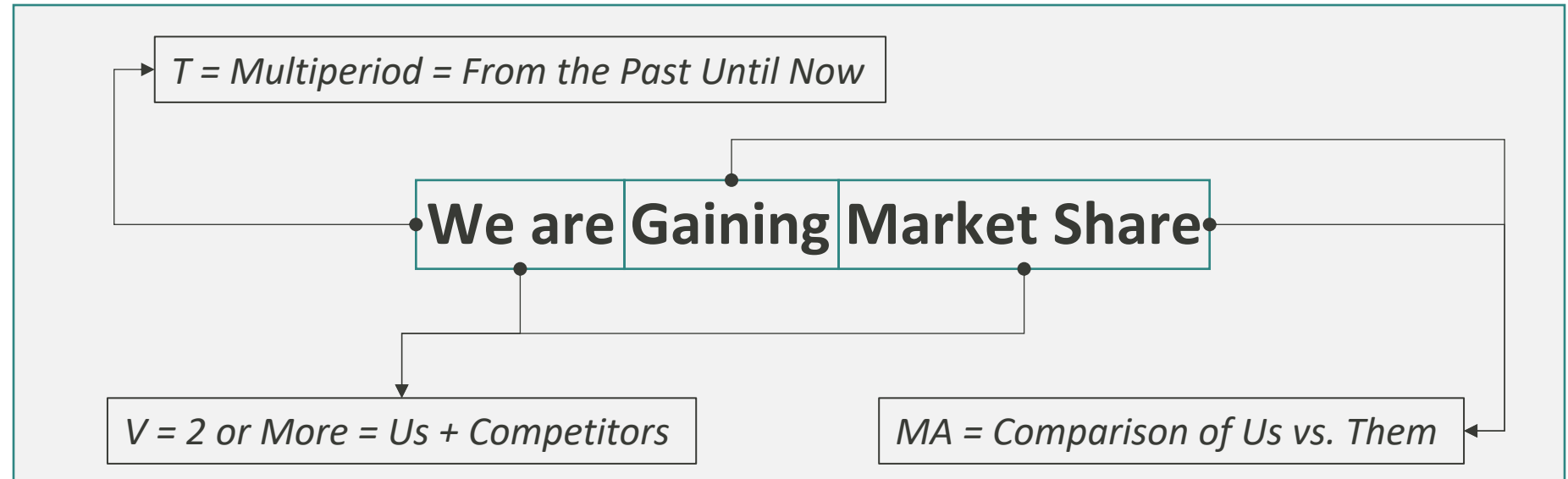
## Hypothesis – Question Example

Issue: Sales and profits are declining	
Sub-Issue 1: The company is losing market share to new entrants and competitors	
Hypothesis	Question
The technology adopted in the company's product is old dated and undesired by customers	Is a new or emerging technology replacing the old one?
Growing attrition of users who are switching to substitute products	How many customers switched over the past three years? Where did customers purchase or switch to?
Product prices of like-for-like features are too high	How do the product prices compare to competitors' products for the same features?
Users are increasingly dissatisfied with the product	Are users unhappy with our product?
A new product launch is required to retain customers	What happens to our sales or financials if we don't launch a new product and the current sales trend continues?
A new state-of-the-art technology will be required to remain competitive	If the company copies a competitor, wouldn't it be just playing catch up?
Acquiring a new company or startup in a new emerging technology space is one of the best and quickest ways out of the vicious circle	What are the options to get out of this vicious cycle and how do these options compare to each other?

# Selecting the right chart follows a simple framework driven by a single equation

## Quantitative Chart Selection Universal Equation

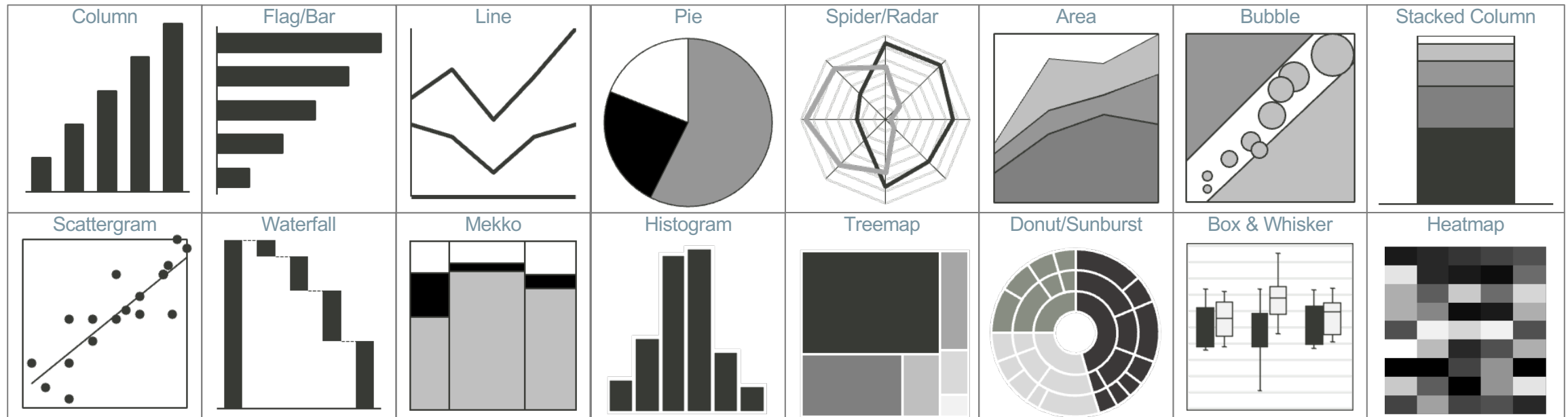
Chart Type =  
F(T, V, MA)



Symbol	Variable	Explanation
T	Time Variant	Is there a time factor, meaning is it static in time or trending over time? The answer is yes or no
V	Number of Variables	Is it a single or multiple variables? The answer is the number of variable, i.e., 1, 2 3 or more
MA	Message Attribute	What is the insight that needs to be shown? i.e., Is it a comparison, breakdown, relationship, distribution or frequency?

Fundamentally, there are 16 families of charts that can visualize almost every quantitative scenario you can imagine

## The 16 Families of Charts





# Lookup table and cheat sheet is to be used until STC becomes intuitive

TV▶	Static: Single Point in Time				Trending: Changing over Time		
MA▼	1 Variable	2 Variable	3 Variable	4+ Variable	1 Variable	2+ Variables	
Comparison	Flag	Multi flags	Mekko	Mekko	Line	Line	
			Multi flags	Multi flags		Column	
		Heatmap	Spider/Radar	Spider/Radar	Column	Flag	
			Heatmap	Heatmap			
Relationship	Scattergram	Scattergram	Bubble	3D Bubble	Scattergram	Bubble	
			Surface/3D Scattergram				
Frequency/ Distribution	Histogram	Multi histograms	Multi histograms	Box and Whisker	Box and Whisker	Box and Whisker	
	Single line	Multi line	Multi line				
	Column	Scattergram	Bubble				
		Box and Whisker	Box and Whisker				
Breakdown/ Composition	Pie	Multi-stacked column	Multi-stacked column	Donut/Sunburst	Multi pie	Area	
	Waterfall	Multi pie	Mekko		Treemap	Stacked Column	Donut/Sunburst
		Mekko	Donut/Sunburst	Waterfall		Donut/Sunburst	Multi Radar
	Stacked Column	Donut/Sunburst	Waterfall	Treemap	Mekko	Treemap	Waterfall
		Waterfall				Mekko	
	Treemap	Treemap	Treemap	Mekko	Mekko		
Hierarchy	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst	
	Treemap	Treemap			Treemap		Treemap
		Mekko	Treemap	Treemap		Mekko	
	Histogram	Multi histogram	Mekko	Mekko	Multi histogram	Mekko	

Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit

Most data analysis in consulting relies on common sense, but sometimes requires you to go a step further and use more advanced methods

### Examples of Methods Used in Analysis

<b>Technique Name</b>	<b>Fermi Thinking</b>	<b>Data Triangulation</b>	<b>The 80/20 Rule and the Pareto Principle</b>	<b>Sensitivities and Scenarios</b>
<b>Origin</b>	Named after physicist Enrico Fermi	Derived from Latin, "Triangulum"	Named after the civil engineer Wilfredo Pareto	Often used in financial modeling and simulations
<b>Description</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An estimation techniques adopted for problems are extreme and cannot be solved mathematically or scientifically</li> <li>The solutions involve adopting the answers as an estimate that is an order of magnitude. The Fermi estimation gives a quick, simple way to obtain this frame of reference for what might reasonably be expected to be the answer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When sourcing data, it's often the case that different data sources have conflicted data sets</li> <li>Triangulation is a metaphorical reference to validating the accuracy of data points by examining the data from different angles and by cross-checking the sanity of each data source and how it was obtained</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pareto distribution is easily modeled in a spreadsheet and graphed on a powerful but simple two-dimension graph visual. It reveals major insights in large datasets and complex problems, systems and programs. It's also a simplified visual of power law distribution</li> <li>It's a good rule of thumb to assess and determine the 20% area of focus or quick wins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the areas to test when validating hypotheses with data are the assumptions made to lead to the conclusion that the hypothesis is valid</li> <li>Sensitivities and scenarios allow the stress testing of how variances in assumptions can affect your conclusion and thus the confidence in the proof of your hypothesis</li> </ul>
<b>Use Case Examples</b>	Used to check if data is within a reasonable range	Use to validate and more accurately select data sets from multiple sources	Used to understand structure of dependent datasets or for prioritization and focus	Used to stress test the robustness of forecasts, conclusions, claims, etc.

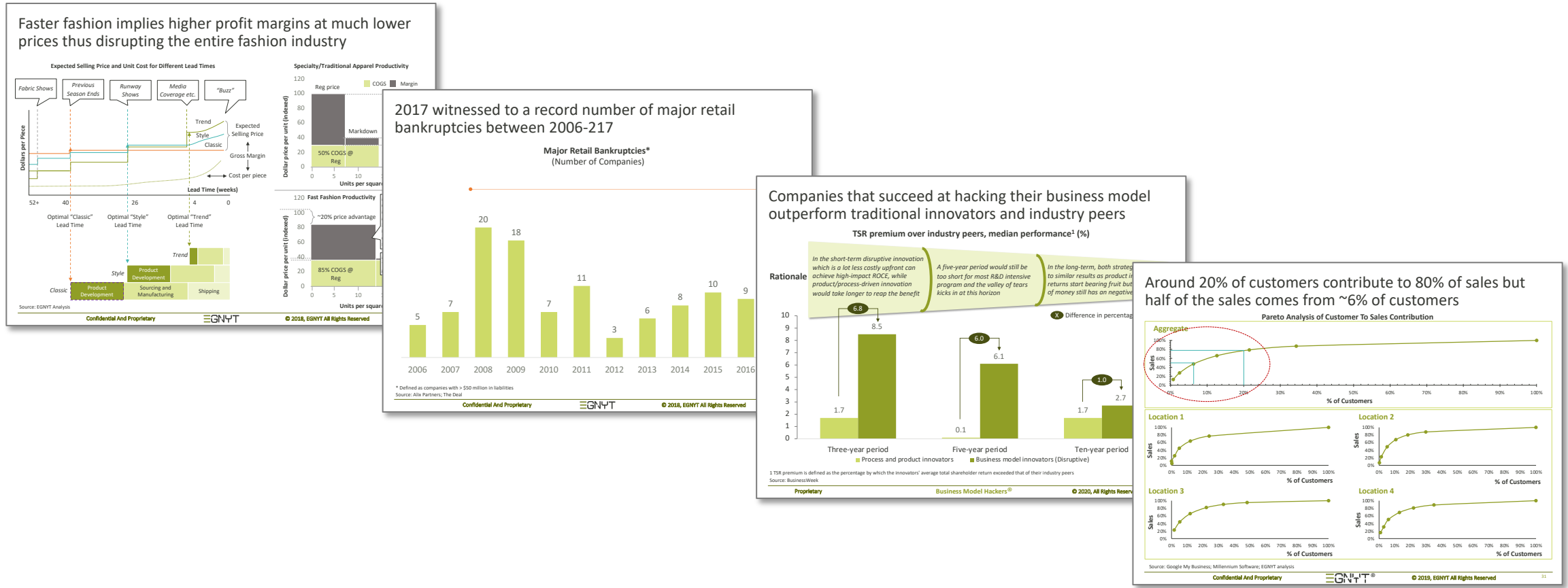
# Lookup table and cheat sheet is to be used until STC becomes intuitive

TV▶	Static: Single Point in Time				Trending: Changing over Time	
MA▼	1 Variable	2 Variable	3 Variable	4+ Variable	1 Variable	2+ Variables
Comparison	Flag	Multi flags	Mekko	Mekko	Line	Line
			Multi flags	Multi flags		Column
		Heatmap	Spider/Radar	Spider/Radar	Column	Flag
			Heatmap	Heatmap		
Relationship	Scattergram	Scattergram	Bubble	3D Bubble	Scattergram	Bubble
			Surface/3D Scattergram			
Frequency/ Distribution	Histogram	Multi histograms	Multi histograms	Box and Whisker	Box and Whisker	Box and Whisker
	Single line	Multi line	Multi line			
	Column	Scattergram	Bubble			
		Box and Whisker	Box and Whisker			
Breakdown/ Composition	Pie	Multi-stacked column	Multi-stacked column	Donut/Sunburst	Multi pie	Area
		Multi pie	Mekko		Stacked Column	Donut/Sunburst
	Waterfall	Mekko	Donut/Sunburst	Treemap	Waterfall	Multi Radar
		Donut/Sunburst	Waterfall		Donut/Sunburst	
	Stacked Column	Waterfall	Treemap	Mekko	Treemap	Waterfall
	Treemap	Treemap			Mekko	Mekko
Hierarchy	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst	Donut/Sunburst
	Treemap	Treemap			Treemap	
		Mekko	Treemap	Treemap	Mekko	Treemap
	Histogram	Multi histogram	Mekko	Mekko	Multi histogram	Mekko

Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit

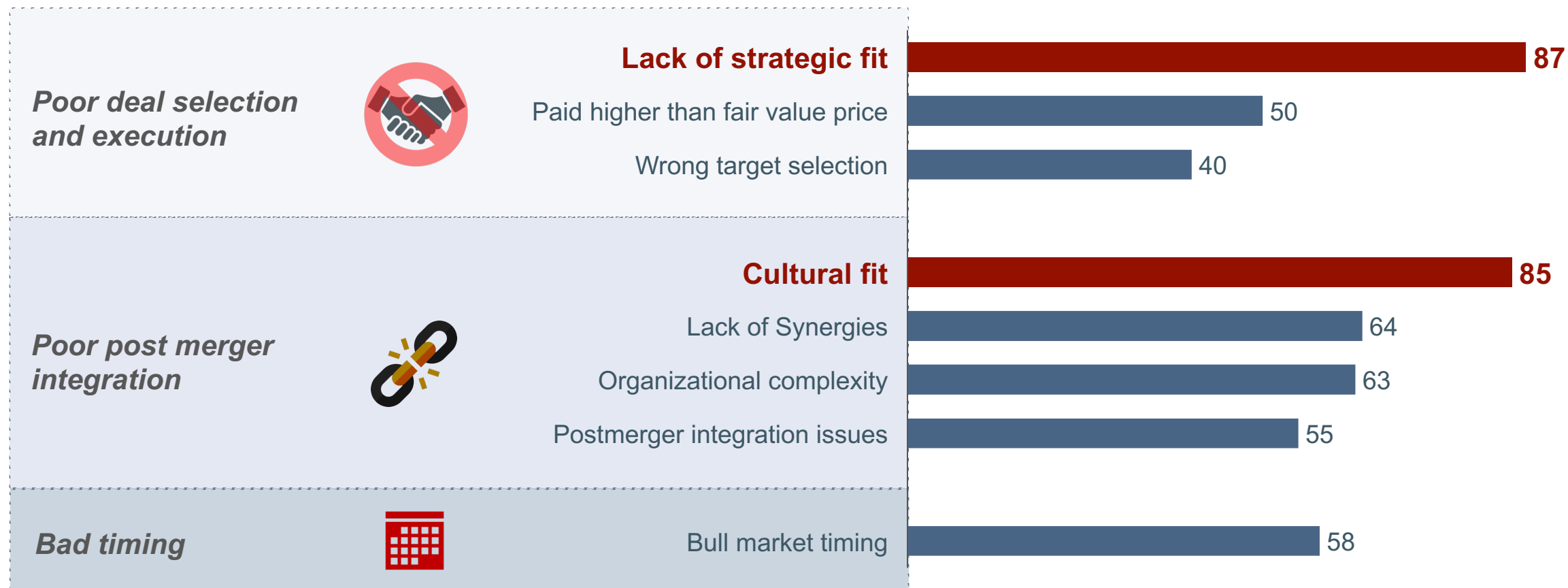
# Quantitative charts can range from simple to understand chart to multi-chart requiring brain strain to back the claim in the headline

## Examples of Quantitative Charts



Visual Cues and icons are very useful in directing your audience's attention towards the chart highlights and key takeaways

### The Top Three Reasons Why M&A Deals Fail



Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit

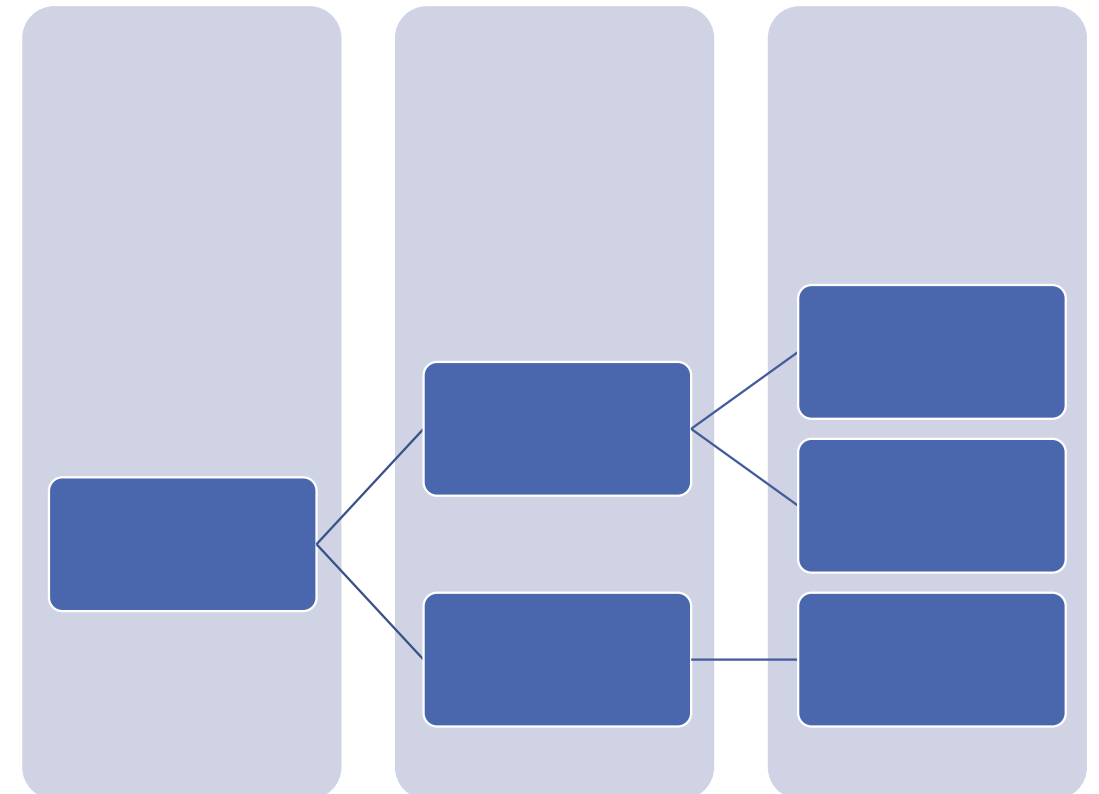
PowerPoint Smart Art has imbedded lots of qualitative chart options, but they lack the flexibility of free-form objects

## Initiatives Prioritization Framework

SmartArt Options



SmartArt Look and Feel



# We defined three types of qualitative charts that we grouped into three categories



## Qualitative Charts Categories

1



**Text to visual metaphor**

*These are the most common charts. They are simple variation of the same concept. Convert a whole a bunch of text into a concise and nice*

2



**Conceptual Framework charts**

*These are explanatory charts to illustrate an intellectual concept visual*

3



**Framework for structuring storylines**

*These are simple flowing charts that are used as used as miniature ghosts to guide the reader through a complex deck or a storyline within a storyline*

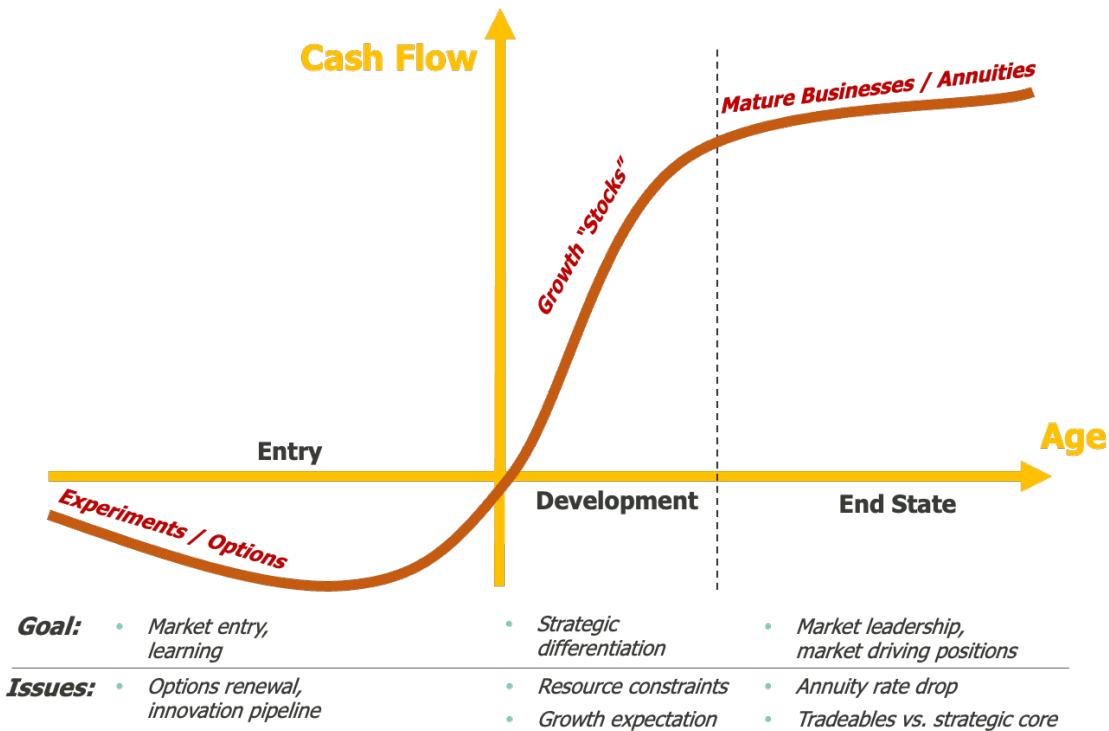
# There are so numerous forms of text-to-visual metaphors, and the most common ones are bullet point and tables replacement

1  Text to visual metaphor

## Text-to-Visual Metaphor Examples

Visual Illustration of Corporate Business Unit Portfolio Distribution

Business Unit Portfolio Management Strategies in the Form of a Lookup Table or Cheat Sheet



Portfolio Value Balance Creation Lever	Options	Growth Stocks	Annuities
<b>Margin Plays (Market Discontinuities)</b>	Can we supercharge the upside by buying assets with significant optionality? Which businesses may grow faster than market?	In which sector and geographies can we accumulate assets at the bottom of the cycle?	Which markets will experience precipitous margin decline positions are tradeable?
<b>Strategy Plays (Competitive Discontinuities)</b>	Where are we experimenting to define the next strategic leadership play and which innovations will define future market leaders?	Which markets offer big bang opportunities from leveraging our strategies and where can we redefine the rules of the game in large markets?	Where are we the undisputed market leaders, able to set the terms of trade?
<b>Turnaround Plays (Operational Discontinuities)</b>	Can we enter somewhere advantageously by buying or turning a weakling around?	Where can we roll-up or fix weak competitors?	Which under-performing mature businesses offer the potential for market leadership and are there any mature business units worth fixing?

Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit

# By following the STC structured process, qualitative chart blueprinting becomes more science and inspiration than art


**1** *Text to visual metaphor*

## Examples of Text-to-Visual Metaphor Inspirations<sup>1</sup>

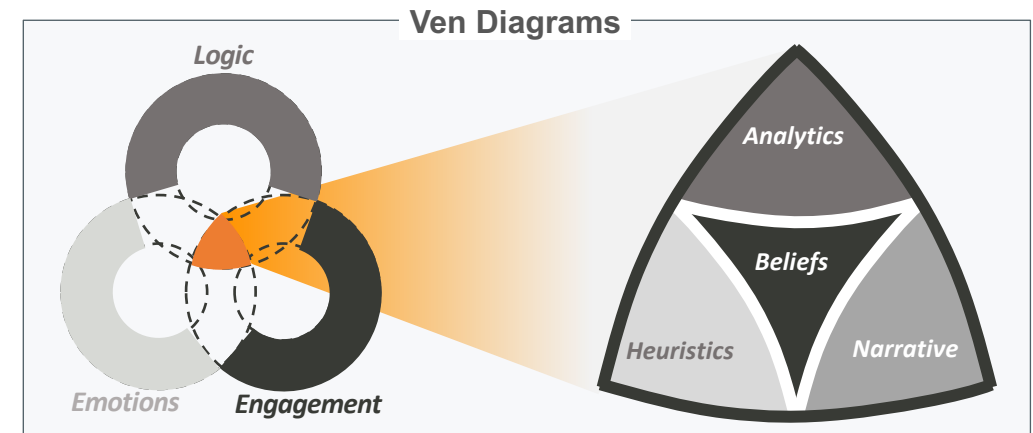
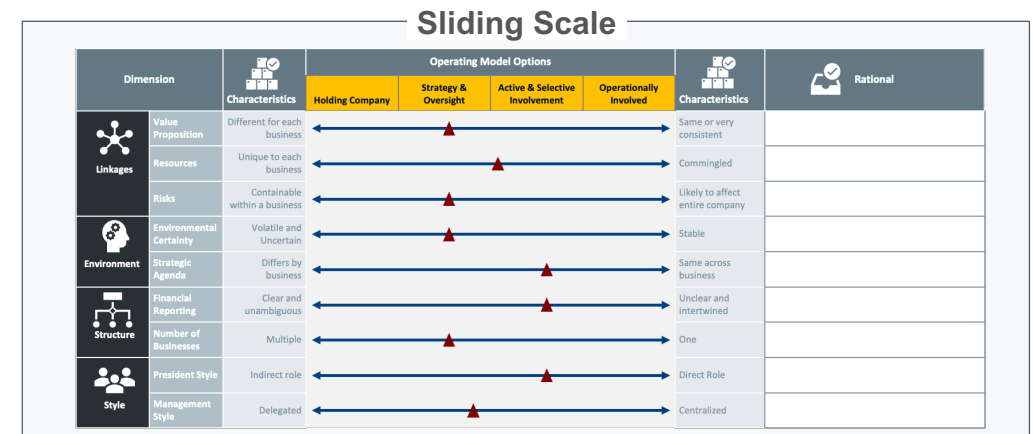
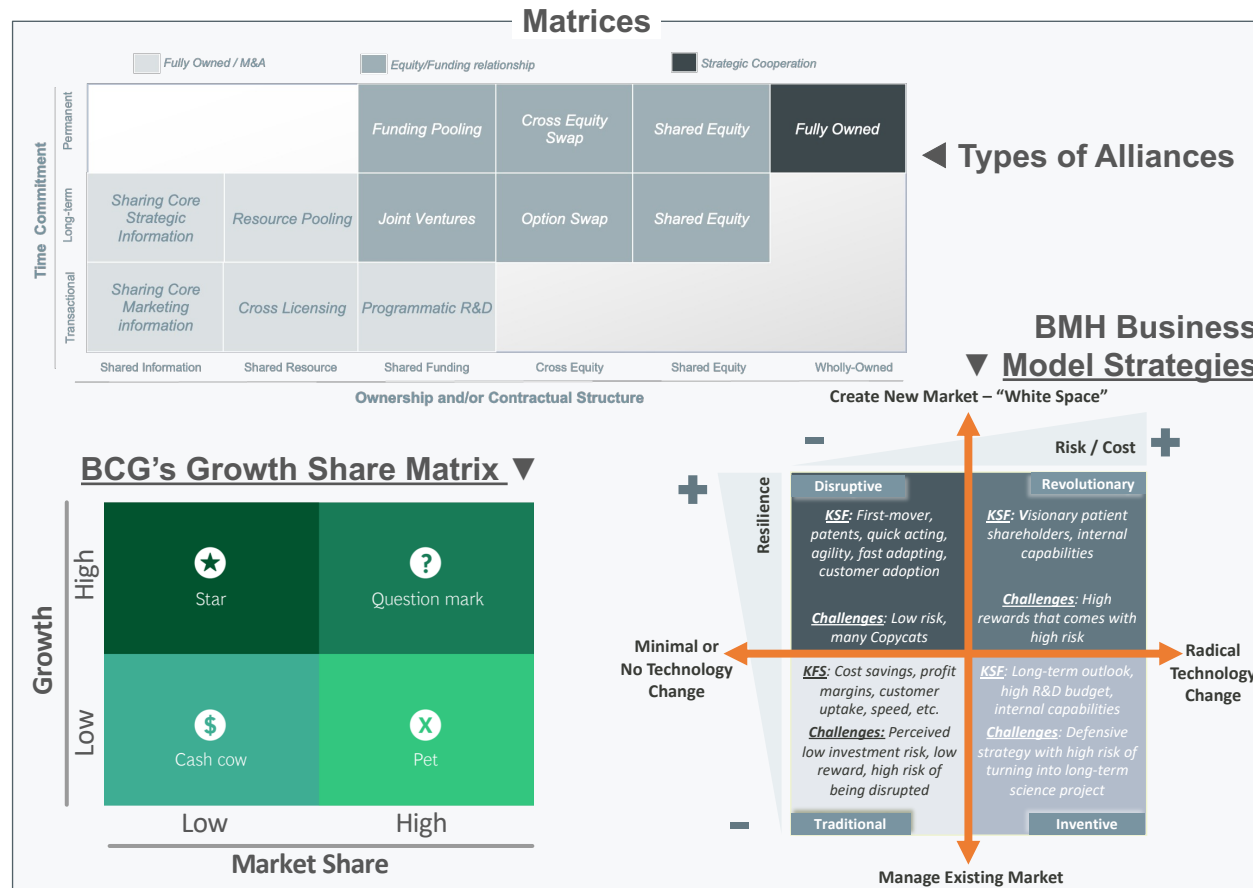
Expanded Basic 1		Bullet Alternatives Ribbon		Conflict	
Expanded Basic 2		Bullet Alternatives Side Tabs		Confusion & Clarity	
Flows to&from Center - Arrow Variations		Circle & Call-Out Boxes		Diagonal Arrow Trend Timeline	
Funnel Flow		Circle and Branches		Diagonally Cut – Horizontal Flow 1	
Graduated Segmented Arrows		Four Column Callouts		Diagonally Cut – Horizontal Flow 2	
Horizontal Flow - Left Side Cut 1		Six Column Callouts		Elongated Bottom – Horizontal Flow	

1. More comprehensive set of inspirational cheat sheet can be found in the qualitative package of the toolkit  
Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit


# Conceptual framework charts are are explanatory charts designed to simplify the illustration of an intellectual or complex concept in a easy to grasp visual

2  **Conceptual Framework charts**

## Examples of Popular Conceptual Frameworksc



# Initiatives can be prioritized by adopting a three-step sequential and iterative process across four interdependent criteria

2  Conceptual Framework charts

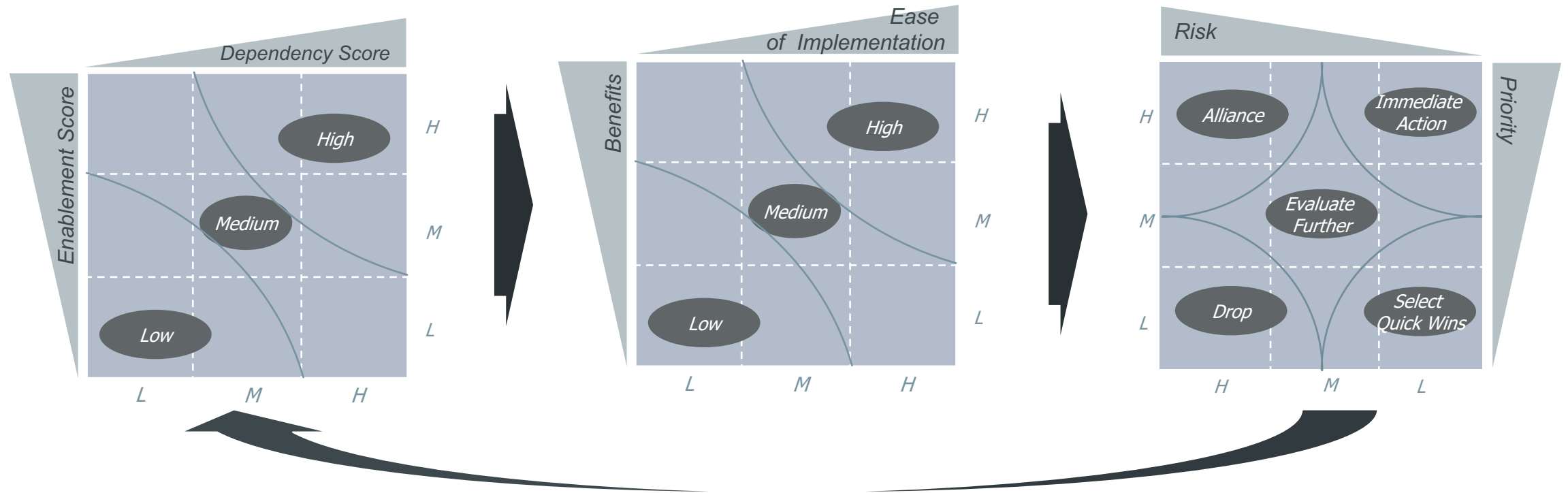
## Initiatives Prioritization Framework

ILLUSTRATIVE


**I** Benefit

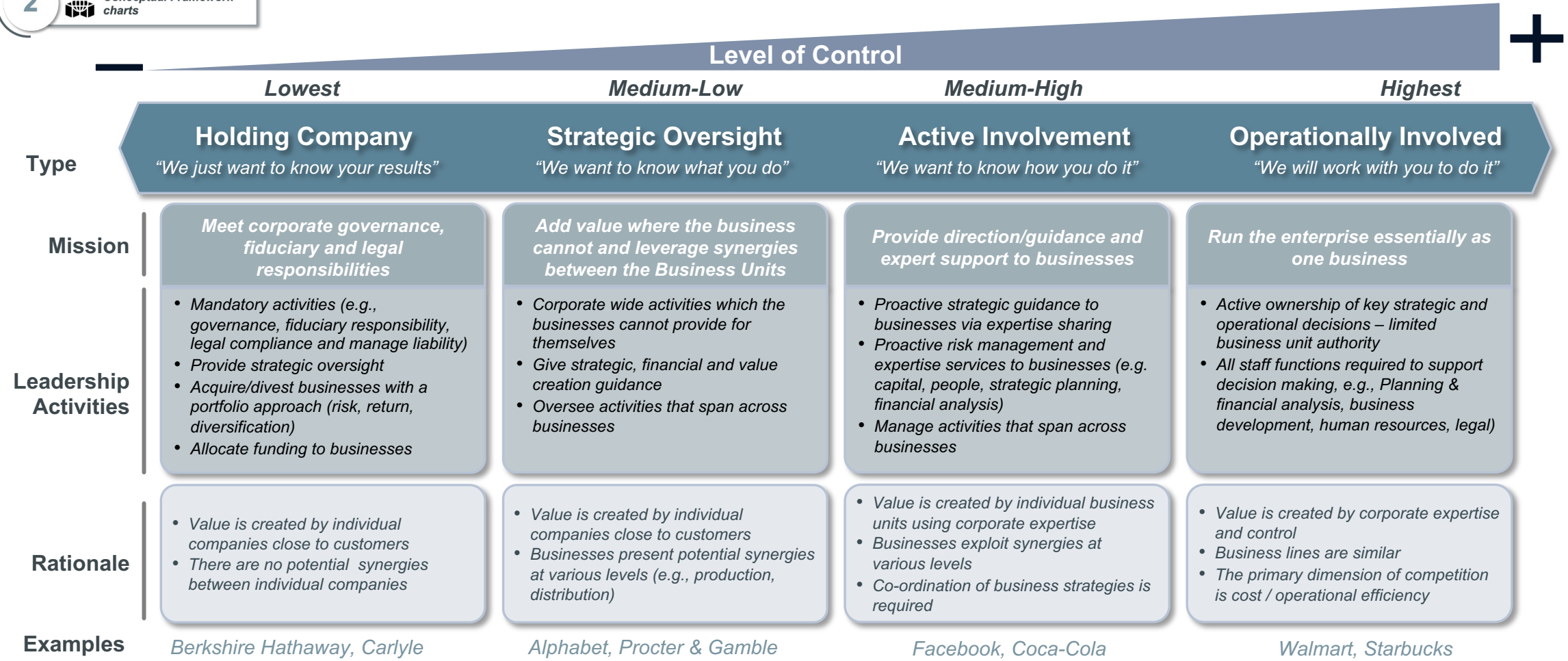
**II** Risk

**III** Priority




# We define we kinds of operating models for corporate structures, each suited for a different level of control




2  Conceptual Framework charts



# The most suitable operating model for Acme may be a hybrid strategy and active involvement model


2  Conceptual Framework charts

## Operating Model Selection

Dimension		 Characteristics	Operating Model Options				 Characteristics	 Rational
			Holding Company	Strategy & Oversight	Active & Selective Involvement	Operationally Involved		
Linkages	Value Proposition	Different for each business	←	→	→	→	Same or very consistent	
	Resources	Unique to each business	←	→	→	→	Commingled	
	Risks	Containable within a business	←	→	→	→	Likely to affect entire company	
Environment	Environmental Certainty	Volatile and Uncertain	←	→	→	→	Stable	
	Strategic Agenda	Differs by business	←	→	→	→	Same across business	
Structure	Financial Reporting	Clear and unambiguous	←	→	→	→	Unclear and intertwined	
	Number of Businesses	Multiple	←	→	→	→	One	
Style	President Style	Indirect role	←	→	→	→	Direct Role	
	Management Style	Delegated	←	→	→	→	Centralized	

Redacted for Client Confidentiality

# A number of challenges and issues were identified across 6 of the 8 key performance factors

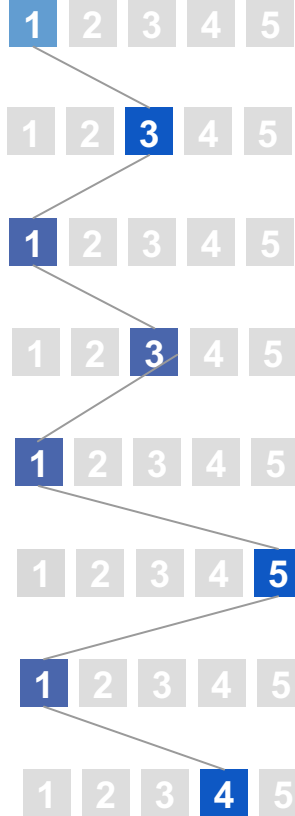
2  **Conceptual Framework charts**

## Performance Lever

- 1**  **Customer Loyalty**
- 2**  **Direct Response Marketing**
- 3**  **Product Strategy**
- 4**  **Pricing Strategy**
- 5**  **New Customer Acquisition**
- 6**  **Branch Growth Strategy**
- 7**  **Competitive Intelligence**
- 8**  **Personalization Strategy**

## Gap Assessment Branch Performance

Performance<sup>1</sup>  
Worst 
←
→
 Best



## Rationale

**Assessment Basis**  
■ Hypothesis<sup>2</sup>  
■ Fact or Analysis




1. Performance is relative against "best in class"; 2. Hypotheses are preliminary and are awaiting validation with quantitative survey  
 Source: Business Model Hackers; Team analysis

# Story flow framework are designed to add structure to the main plot by incorporating stories within stories, usually tracked with a ghost

## 3 Framework for structuring storylines

## Story Flow Framework

Ghost Tracker      Follow-on Story Framework

We defined three types of qualitative charts that we grouped into three categories

**Qualitative Charts Categories**

- 1 Text to visual metaphor** *These are the most common charts. They are simple variation of the same concept. Convert a whole a bunch of text into a concise and nice*
- 2 Conceptual Framework charts** *These are explanatory charts to illustrate an intellectual concept visual*
- 3 Framework for structuring storylines** *These are simple flowing charts that are used as used as miniature ghosts to guide the reader through a complex deck or a storyline within a storyline*

Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit  
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There are so numerous forms of text-to-visual metaphors, and the most common ones are bullet point and tables replacement

**Text-to-Visual Metaphor Examples**

Visual Illustration of Corporate Business Unit Portfolio Distribution

By following the STC structured process, qualitative chart blueprinting becomes more science and inspiration than art

**Examples of Text-to-Visual Metaphor Insp**

Expanded Basic 1: Bullet Alternatives Matrix, Flow Address Center, Future Flow, Graduated Management Address, Horizontal Flow

Expanded Basic 2: Build Alternatives Matrix, Circle & Call-Out Boxes, Grids and Branches, Four Column Canvas, Six Column Canvas

Conceptual framework charts are explanatory charts designed to simplify the illustration of an intellectual or complex concept in a easy to grasp visual

**Examples of Popular Conceptual Frameworks**

Matrix, Sliding Scale, SWOT, Business Model Strategies, Ven Diagrams

Initiatives can be prioritized by adoption process across four interdependent

**2** We define the kinds of operating model at a different level of control

**3** The most suitable operating model involvement model

A number of challenges and issues were identified across 6 of the 8 key performance factors

**Gap Assessment Branch Performance**

Performance Level: Customer Loyalty, Direct Response Marketing, Product Strategy, Pricing Strategy, New Customer Acquisition, Growth Strategy, Competitive Intelligence, Personalization Strategy

Assessment Basis: Strategic, Financial, Operational, Customer, Employee, Environmental

Related to Client Confidentiality

Story flow framework are designed to add structure to the main plot by incorporating stories within stories, usually tracked with a ghost

**Story Flow Framework**

Ghost Tracker, Follow-on Story Framework

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Introduction

Chapter 1: STC – An Introduction and General Framework?

Chapter 2: Tuning STC to How the Mind Works

Chapter 3: Vertical Logic and the Vocabulary of STC — A Formula for Life

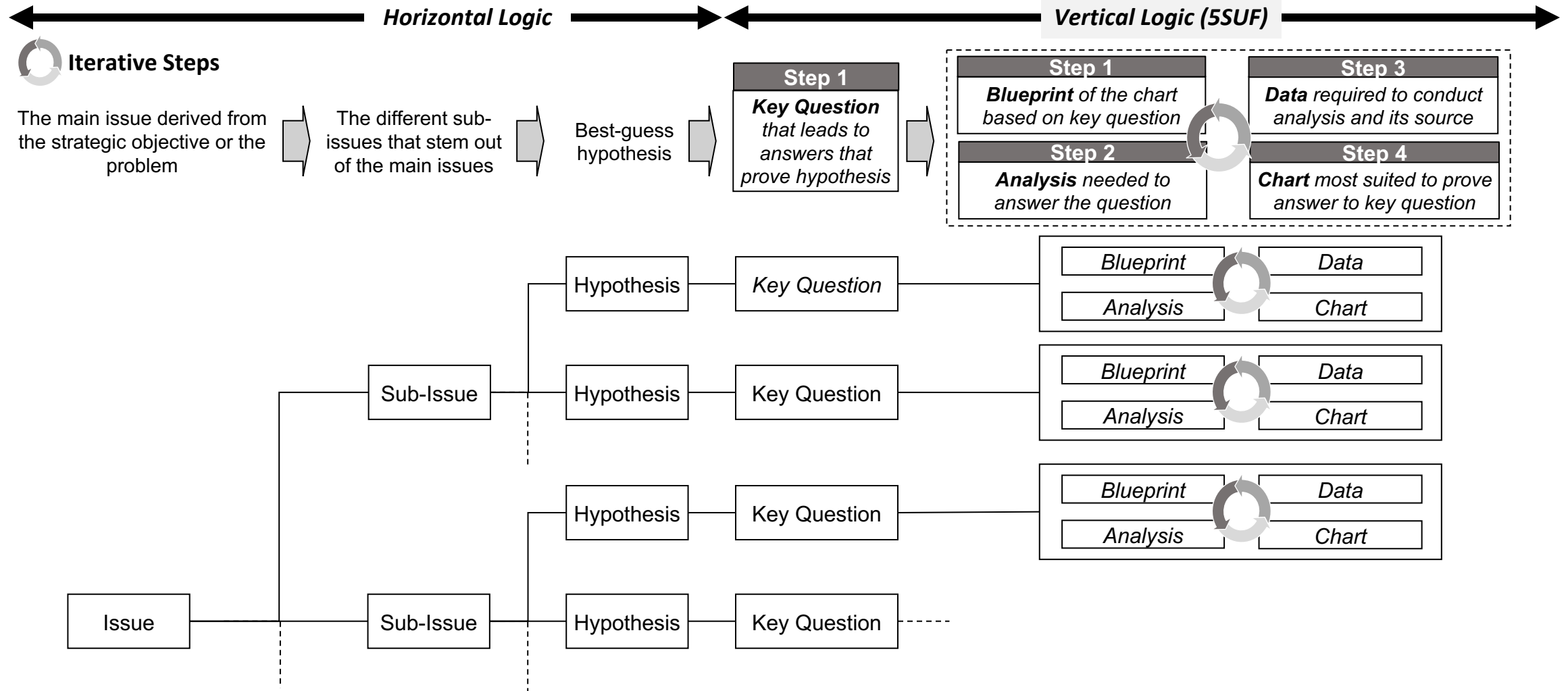
**Chapter 4: Horizontal Logic—Story Structure Through Structured Thinking and Hierarchy**

Chapter 5: Storytelling Hacks

Chapter 6: Putting It All Together

Rules Of Thumb

# The “Issue Diagram” may be the only tool you’ll need in structuring your horizontals

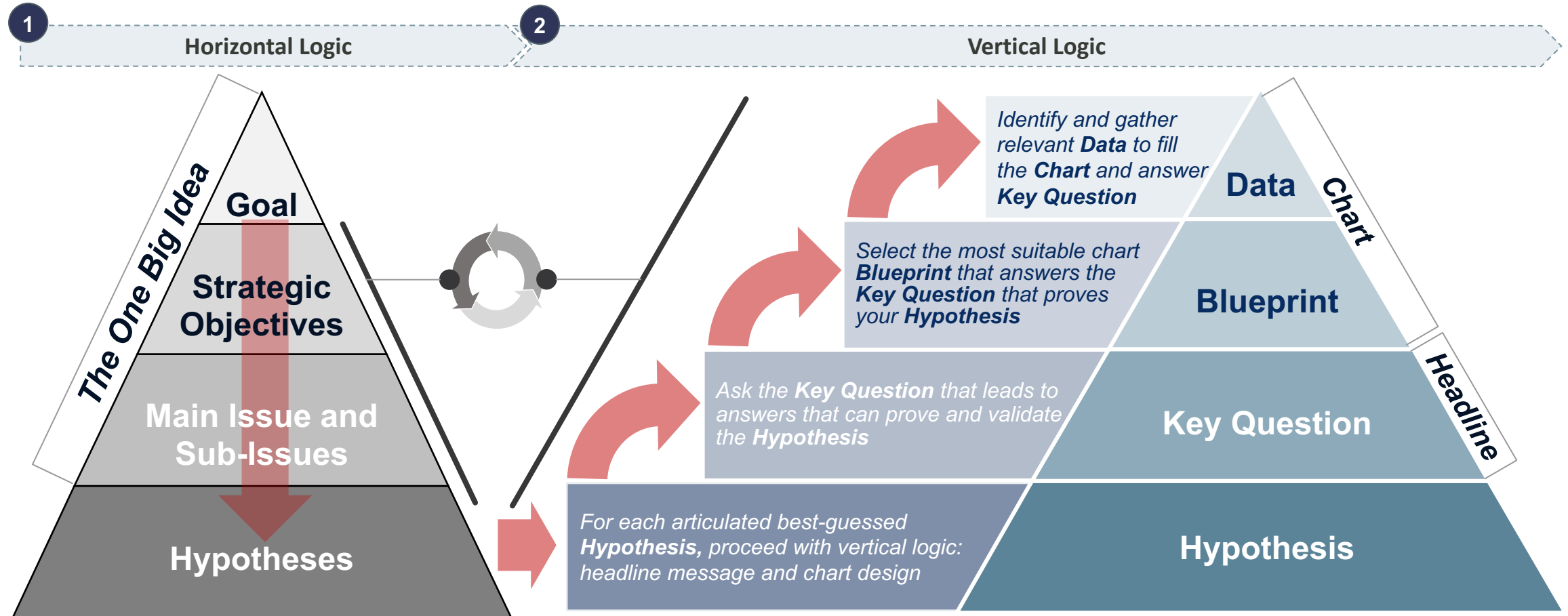


Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit

Start with your goal, your strategic objectives and as you complete the steps, repeat the process to update your strategic objectives if necessary

 Iterative Steps

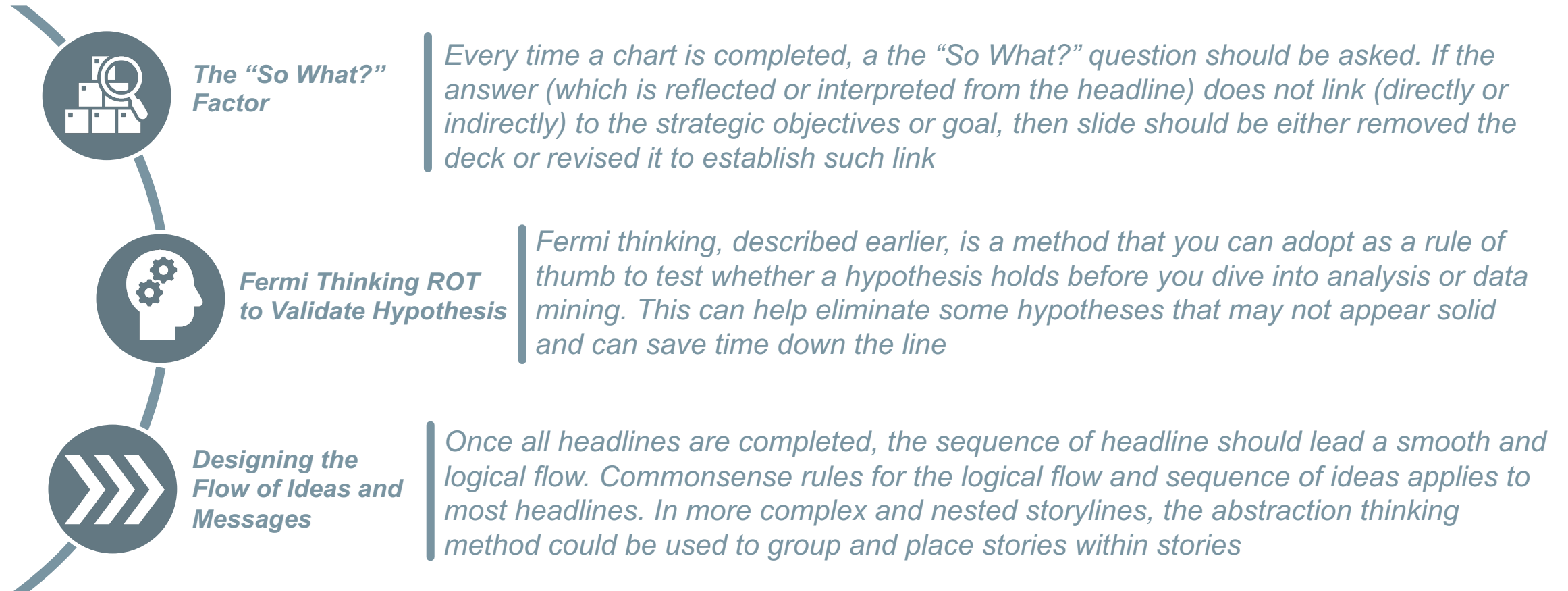
### The STC Framework Method



To help accelerate and advance horizontal logic and structured thinking, several hack and ROTs can be helpful

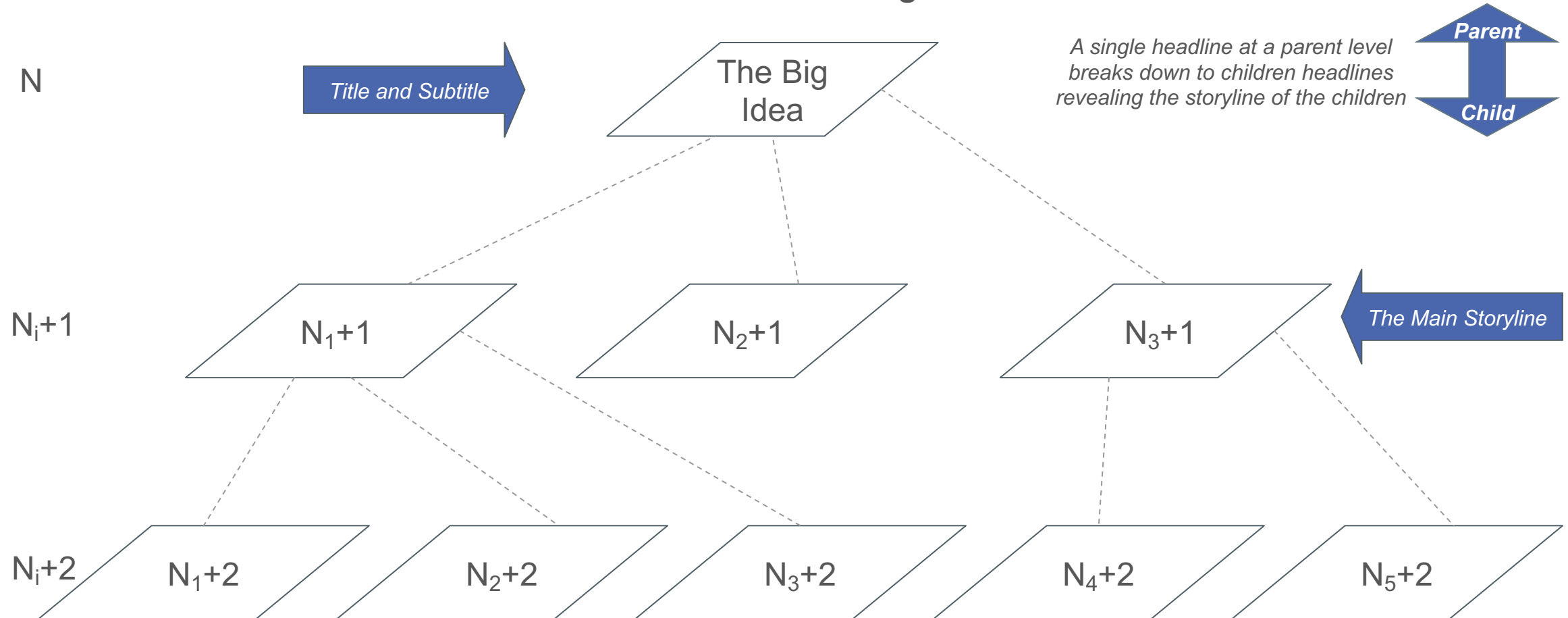
## Structured Thinking Hacks and ROTs

**NON-EXHAUSTIVE**

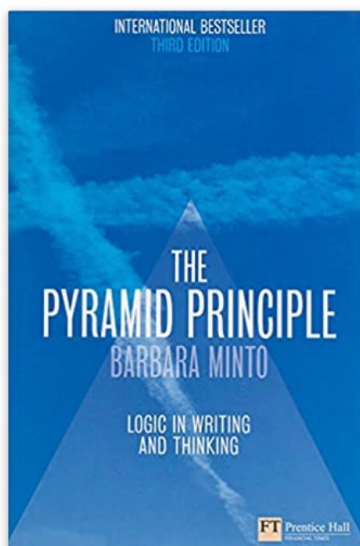


Hierarchy starts with the big idea and cascades downward to the main story, which breaks down to its individual stories

### The Abstraction Thinking Method



The Pyramid Principle, developed and written by Barbara Minto an ex-McKinsey partner, can also be adopted for structuring horizontal logic



## The Pyramid Principle: Logic in Writing and Thinking 3rd Edition

by [Barbara Minto](#) (Author)

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- define complex problems and establish the objectives of any document
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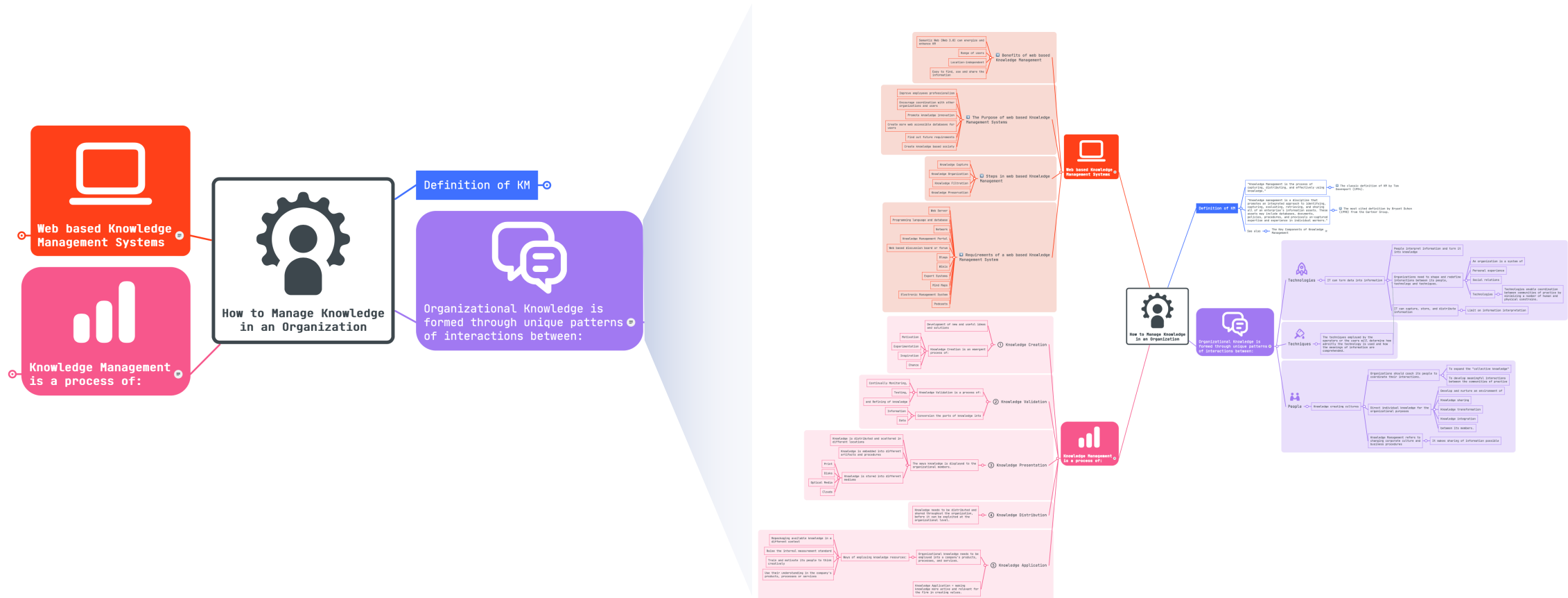
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Source: Amazon

# Mindmapping can be useful in structuring the non-iterative aspects of the issue diagram and can help structure and organize the horizontal logic flow

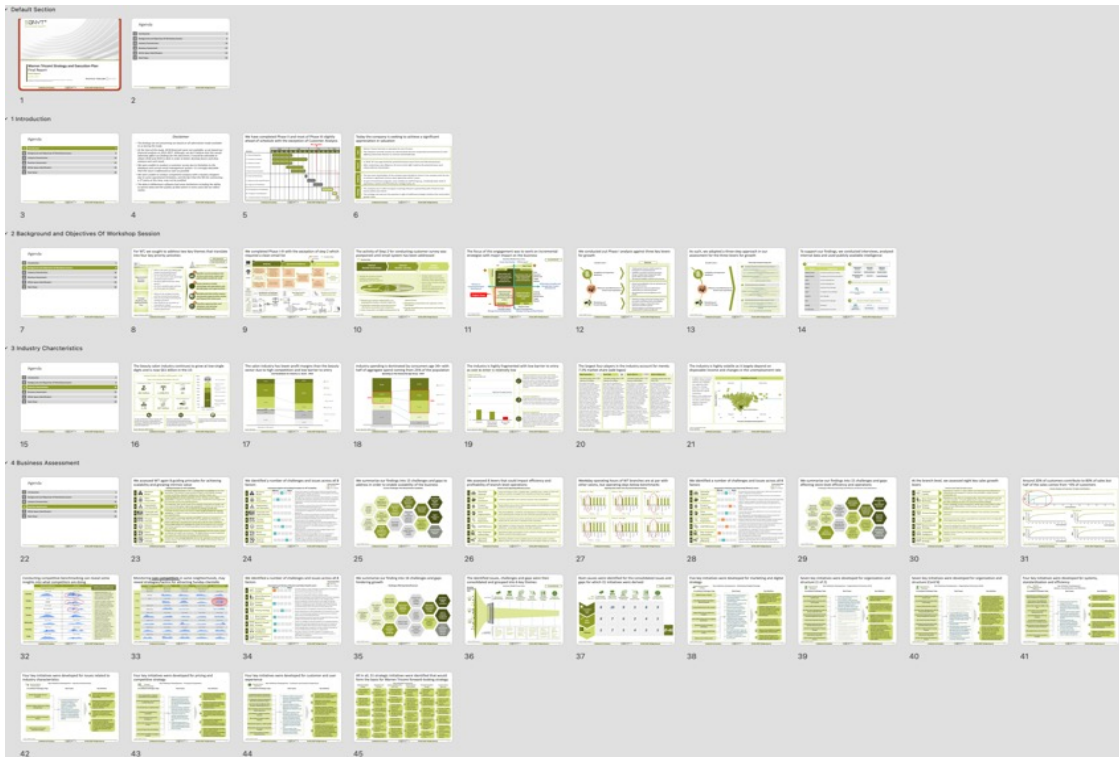
## Mindmap Example



Storyboarding and copyboarding are useful when conducted in both electronic and/or paper format for blueprinting and structuring storylines

## Storyboarding and Copyboarding

### Storyboarding



### Copyboarding



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**Chapter 5: Storytelling Hacks**

Chapter 6: Putting It All Together

Rules Of Thumb

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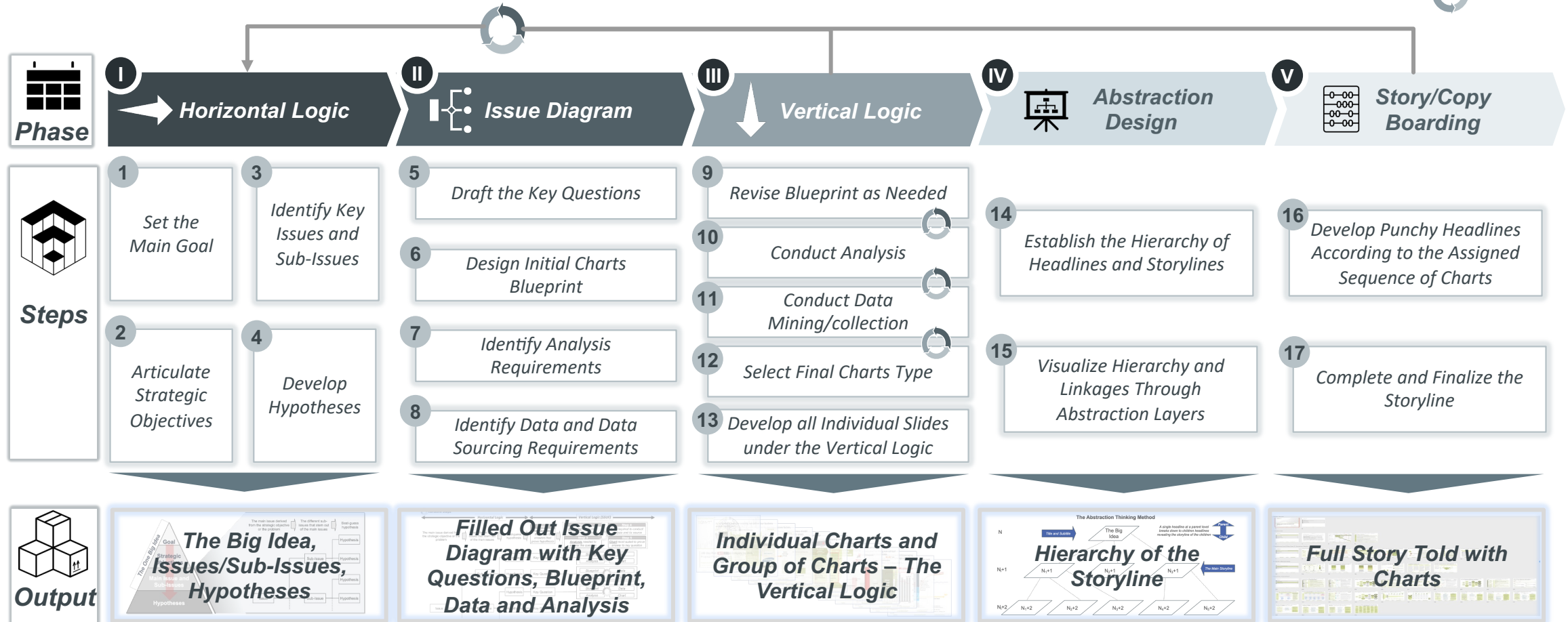
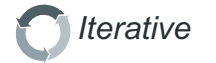
**Chapter 6: Putting It All Together**

Rules Of Thumb

Putting it all together, STC boils down to 5 phases consisting of 17 steps through an overall iterative and dynamic process



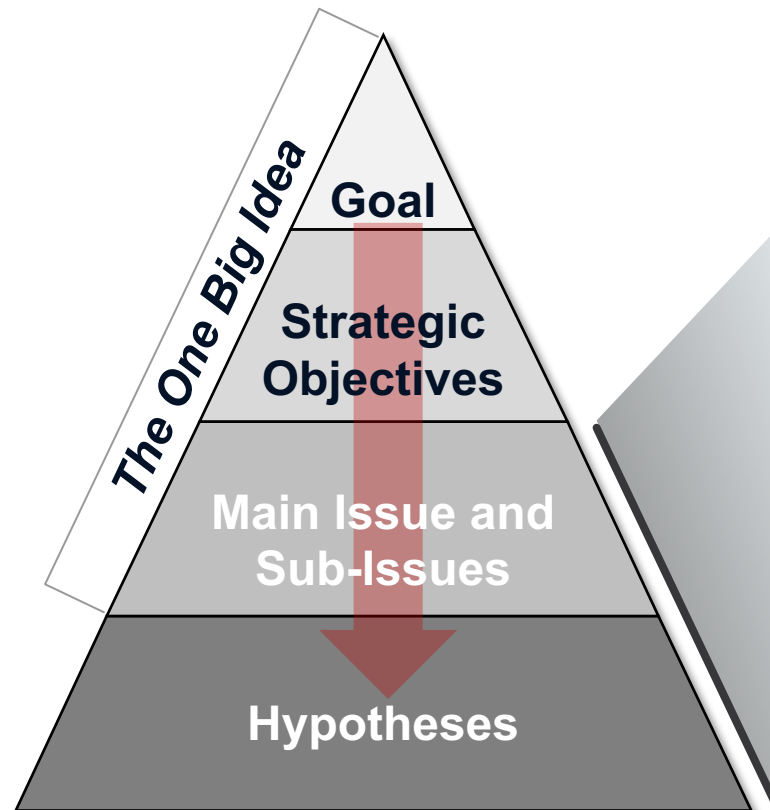
## STC Entire Process Flow Map



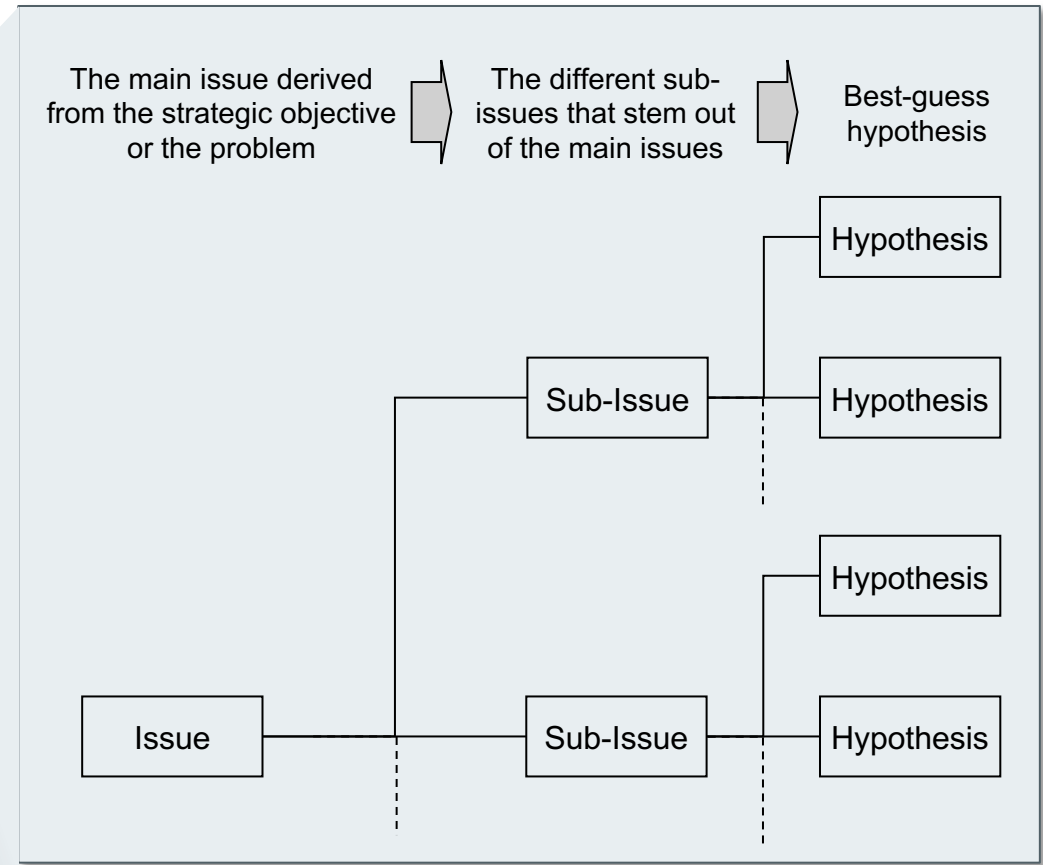
# In Phase I, develop the preliminary strategic objectives, issues and hypotheses



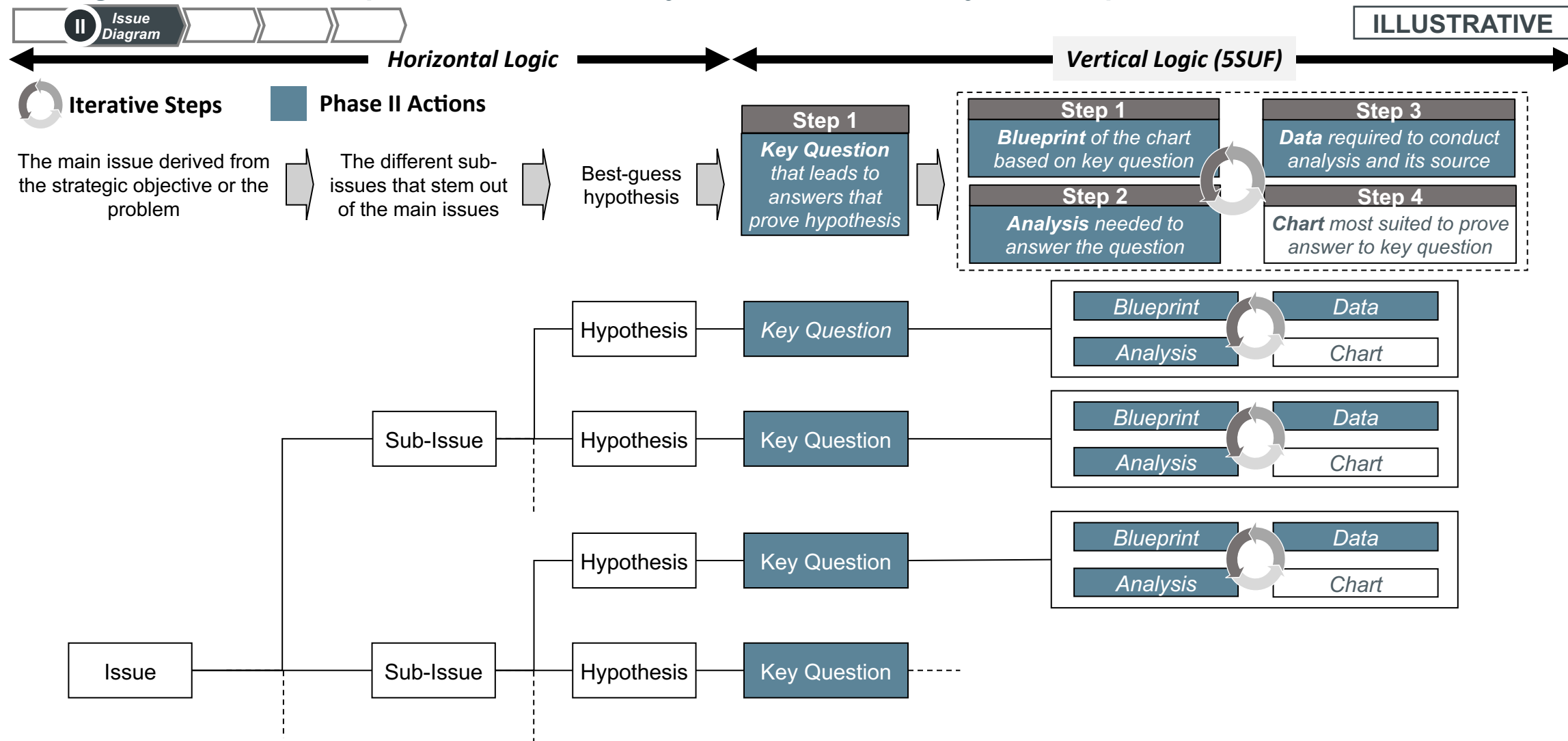
## The Big Idea and Hypotheses



## Horizontal Logic



# In Phase II, expand the “Issue Diagram”, fill out and identify key questions, design charts blueprint and identify data and analysis requirements



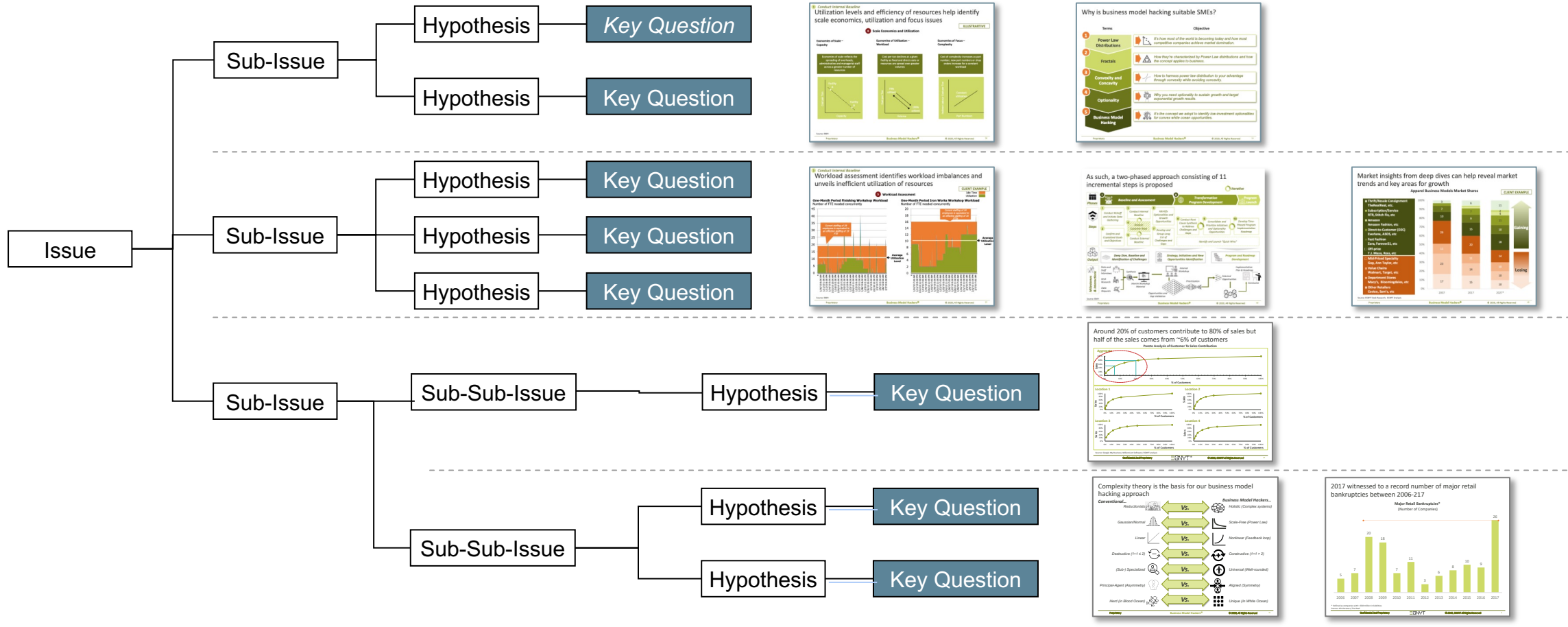
Source: Business Model Hackers; STC Toolkit

# In Phase III, complete all charts required to support the hypotheses and claims in the form of vertical logic slides



ILLUSTRATIVE

## Vertical Logic Slides

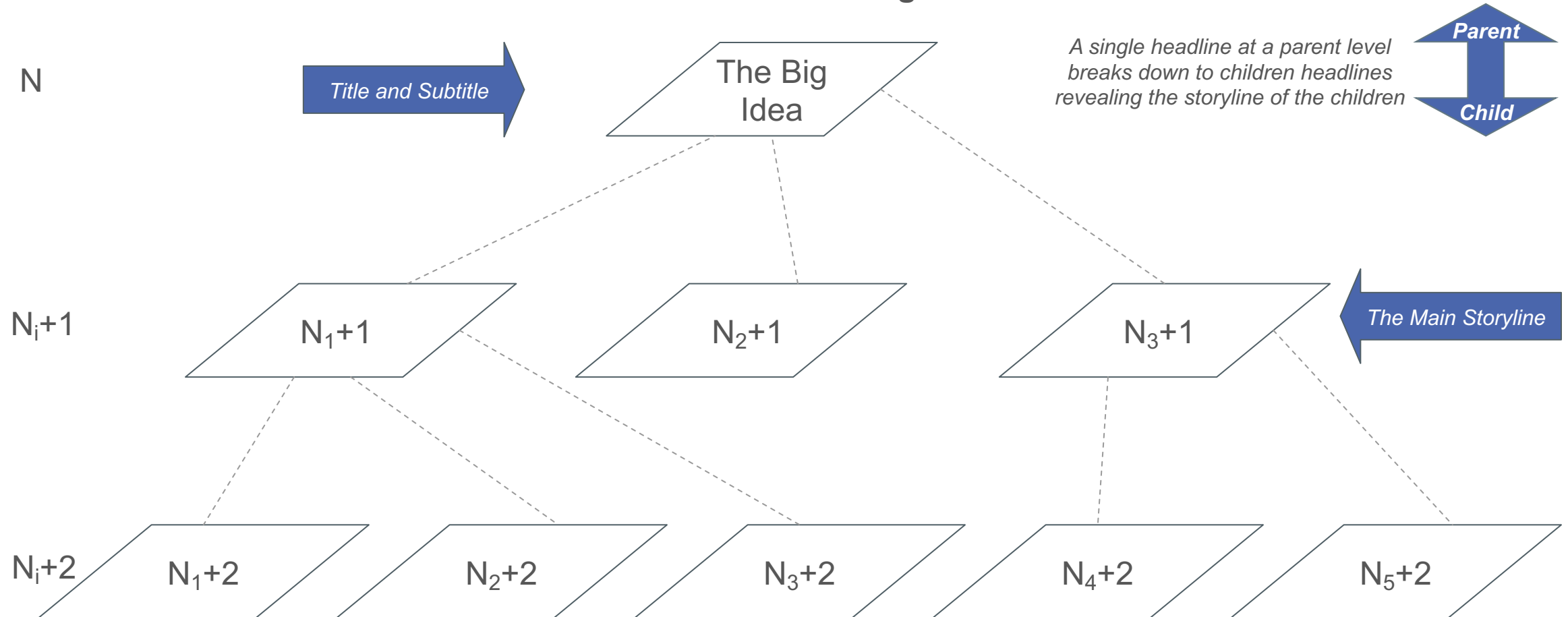


# In Phase IV, establish the storyline line hierarchy by applying the abstraction thinking method



ILLUSTRATIVE

## The Abstraction Thinking Method

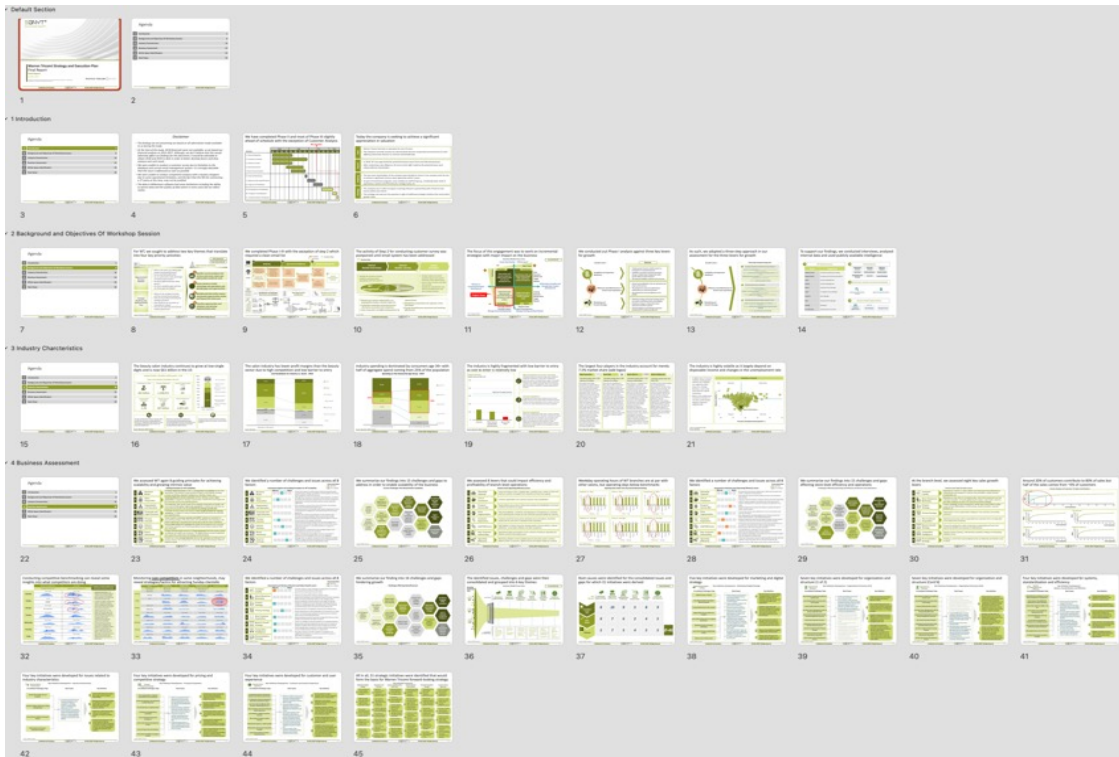


In Phase V, develop punchy headlines according to the assigned sequence of charts and complete and finalize the storyline



## Storyboarding and Copyboarding

### Storyboarding



### Copyboarding



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**Rules Of Thumb**

# Rules of Thumb

*...never persuade through complicated slides; it's the concept of "less is more."*

*The One Message Per Chart Rule is the one rule to rule them all. In other words, each chart should only provide one key insight that the chart's content should fully support.*

*Always work your way from the hypothesis and claim and have the visuals in mind before you jump on data mining.*

*It takes exactly the same amount of time to present 2 ideas on 1 slide as it does to present 1 idea on each of 2 slides.*

*If you hide the headline on a slide, you should be able to guess what the the body looks like and vice versa, if you hide the body, you should be able to guess the headline message.*

*you don't need a lot of templates. The less you can work with, the better and the more consistent "look and feel" your deck will get.*

*The most important skill you'll need is to develop the ability to ask the right question.*

*Let quants drive your story and prioritize quantitative slides over qualitative slides.*

# Rules of Thumb

*don't make a single mistake. One mistake can discredit your entire work, credibility or presentation*

*You should know that the best stories flow flawlessly from beginning to end without bloaters. If your story doesn't flow properly without them, you may want to revisit it.*

*When in doubt, plot multiple versions for the data and pick the visual that is most suited to stress the message or claim.*

*The less words you need to use in the chart to validate and make the claim come to light, the better the chart.*

*In the context of data validation, where applicable, apply Fermi thinking to check if data is within a reasonable range.*

*In STC, "numbers always speak louder than words" .*

*Every time you complete a chart, ask the question at the end: So What? If the answer does not link to your strategic objectives or goal, than, either remove it from the deck or revise the chart to do so.*

# Rules of Thumb

*Persuasion cannot be achieved through long-winded speeches and presentations.*

*There is no audience in the world that would ever complain that your message was too easy to understand.*

*Always start with horizontal documents and then convert to videos or vertical documents later.*

*3DF implies that story must be structured logically but strategically enhanced with emotional and engaging content and cues, which can be used to influence and maintain engagement.*

*You need to establish your presentation goal and strategic objectives without wasting too much time on understanding your audience.*

*Think of the story as a series of individual messages that add up to a full story. If we go back to the language analogy, we can think of the words in a sentence as the vertical logic.*

*Follow the logic of your problem-solving skills to structure and draft an effective presentation, thereby solving your "problem."*

# Rules of Thumb

*Keep the number of main ideas you present in a deck or story to five or less.*

*Don't make your presentation as a one-sided brain activity*

*The right and left sides of the brain need to be tackled with 3DF.*

*Let the quants drive your story, and always prioritize quantitative slides over qualitative slides. Remember that numbers speak louder than words.*

*Always work your way from the top and have the visual in mind before you jump to data mining.*

*It is more important is establish your goal and strategic objectives of the presentation than to waste too much time understanding your audience*

*You need to keep your "ask" to a minimum in STC, no matter what your purpose, goal or strategic objectives are.*

*Always try and keep your audience in a good mood.*