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How well your advertisements and promotions draw customers will ultimately determine how effective your marketing strategy is. It becomes your responsibility to cultivate your designated market, if you decide to market your invention yourself. One of the ways to do this is through advertising and marketing. Remember the aim of the advertising and promotional strategy is to create awareness of your product, to arouse customers' needs and expectations to the point of consumption and to create a loyal stream of satisfied customers who continue to patronize your business. And here are a few simple steps for Effective Advertising.

1. Define your business persona

A business persona can give your Advertising and Marketing the edge in attracting attention, remaining memorable, and most importantly, getting clients. A good persona will complement the basic attitudes “such as fears, hopes, etc.” surrounding your core products or services. It is up to you to figure out how your customers see your business, and structure your approach accordingly. Your approach may be to take a serious “œall business” approach or alternatively you may choose to take a fun or laidback approach.

2. Make a plan

An effective advertising plan serves many purposes; most importantly it forces you to consider all of your advertising and marketing alternatives before you commit to spending any money. A well-formed plan will consider your budget, methods of advertising, cost and a detailed timeline. When making your own plan, you should also consider the conditions of success and failure of your advertising. Setting the standard early will help you make the difficult decisions later.

Plan your budget. It depends on what you are comfortable with. Most importantly, you have to commit to spending the money and not get yourself into a position where you are over extended. Remember that all your advertising and marketing should be seen as an investment, so it is important that you also do your research. Each advertising medium has its own benefits, target markets, advertising life and public perception. Your advertising medium should reflect your business persona. There are many low cost and free ways to promote your business, simply spending more money won’t guarantee you better exposure or customers. If you spend enough time looking, you can find some great deals and some great mediums. Make yourself a shortlist and get as much specific information as you can.

Once you have decided on your advertising methods, you should construct a detailed timeline of start and stop dates, payment dates and important business dates such as end of financial year. It is important that everyone on your organization understands how much advertising and marketing is going on as much as you do.

Whatever your aim is, you should define specific changes in performance measure of your business. Effective advertising can often be difficult to measure because a lot of external factors can have profound effects on your business. Make sure you ask all your new clients how they found you and remember to record their answers. And lastly, the most important thing to remember is that results may not come straight away but it is still better if you are prepared.

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