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Future-Proof Your Mission: How to Engage Five Generations of Donors

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A FRAMEWORK:

Understanding-Driven Donor Communications



Get curious about audiences:

How does this person want to feel?

What missing element can YOU provide?

How do they use their time?

Where do their values and needs match the experience you provide?



Articulate a promise to your potential supporters—an emotional benefit.

This positioning is the foundation of your strategy.





1: UNDERSTAND 5 Generations

silent Generation Boomers Millennials Gen Z GenX

Silent Generation

Silent Generation BORN: 1928 – 1945 AGE NOW: 78 – 95













Silent Generation DEMOGRAPHICS AND PSYCHOGRAPHICS

30%	ARE WIDOWS OR WIDOWERS	51%	GIVE TO CHARITY OR CAUSES
35%	LIVE ALONE	76%	HAVE A CHRISTIAN FAITH BACKGROUND

Silent Generation PERSONAL VALUES

Themes to consider:

- $\checkmark\,$ offer a sense of continuity and habit
- ✓ acknowledge the importance of customs and traditions
- ✓ appeal to dependability, stability, trust, and honesty



Silent Generation ENGAGEMENT



Boomers

Boomers BORN: 1946 - 1964 AGE NOW: 59 - 77













Boomers DEMOGRAPHICS AND PSYCHOGRAPHICS

60%	ARE 65 AND OLDER
57%	ARE RETIRED



Boomers PERSONAL VALUES

Themes to consider:

- ✓ appeal to dependability and reliability
- \checkmark show accountability
- ✓ affirm their desire to be independent, secure, and safe



Boomers ENGAGEMENT



Generation X

Generation X BORN: 1965 - 1980 AGE NOW: 43 – 58















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Generation X DEMOGRAPHICS AND PSYCHOGRAPHICS

75%	HAVE CHILDREN (SOME OVER 18)	29%	GIVE TO CHARITY OR CAUSES
15%	EARN \$150K+	36%	HAVE KIDS IN H.S. AND/OR COLLEGE

Generation X PERSONAL VALUES

Themes to consider:

- ✓ acknowledge individuality
- ✓ respect desire for balance
- empower connectedness to their own maturing children

Tread carefully:

 ✓ avoid appealing to power, prestige, status, power, and control



Generation X ENGAGEMENT



Millennials

Millennials BORN: 1981 – 1996 AGE NOW: 27 – 42





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Millennials DEMOGRAPHICS AND PSYCHOGRAPHICS

33%	HAVE NO	29%	GIVE TO CHARITY OR CAUSES
65%	CHILDREN HAVE CHILDREN	9%	ARE DIVORCED OR PLAN TO DIVORCE
	UNDER 18	43 %	ARE RENTERS

Millennials PERSONAL VALUES

Themes to consider:

- ✓ offer appreciation, acknowledgement, recognition
- ✓ demonstrate comfort taking risks and leveraging power to solve problems
- ✓ invite assertive, confident, and decisive action



Millennials ENGAGEMENT



Generation Z

Generation Z BORN: 1997 - 2012 AGE NOW: 11* - 26





We've limited our analysis to *adults 18+







De

ANYTIME

€tv+

Peacock priv

max hulu

Prime video

Generation Z DEMOGRAPHICS AND PSYCHOGRAPHICS



We've limited our analysis to *adults 18+

Generation Z PERSONAL VALUES

Themes to consider:

- ✓ offer social proof; visibility equates to worth/quality
- ✓ promise adventure, inventiveness, excitement and variety



Generation Z ENGAGEMENT



2: STRATEGIZE your positioning—a promise to supporters

STRATEGIC POSITIONING STATEMENT EXAMPLES

"For [description of target and their situation], [your organization] is the [category of organization] that offers [differentiators] to help you feel [emotional benefit]."

"For [highly connected, fast-paced people who are frustrated by the annoying complexities of technology], [Apple] is the [consumer electronics brand] that offers [simplified technology] to help you feel [smarter, so you can do more with every device]."

"For [people who feel disheartened by slow progress in the fight to preserve species and habitats], [[]]] is the [environmental nonprofit] that offers [evidence of what works and plans of action informed by indigenous knowledge and western science] to help you feel [optimistic and energized about containing climate change]."

YOUR STRATEGIC POSITIONING STATEMENT

"For [description of target and their situation], [your organization] is the [category of organization] that offers [differentiators] to help you feel [emotional benefit]."

"For []	,
[] is the []	
that offers [_]
to help you feel []."	

3: CREATE touchpoints across your target's journey

Target Audience JOURNEY MAPS

Become Aware	Pause/ Research	Contact	Evaluate	Decide	Transact	Experience Benefits	Evangelize	Renew	
What is this ind	What is this individual doing — and what are they thinking about — during moments when they might encounter your messaging?								

What tactic can you use to make sure this person sees what you have to offer in these moments?

How will you frame what you have to offer so it best resonate with this person's values and motivators?

Silent Generation JOURNEY MAP

Become Aware	Pause/ Research	Contact	Evaluate	Decide	Transact	Experience Benefits	Evangelize	Renew
See an issue covered in local print & TV news	Discuss with family, social circles, congregation	View a video, attend an event, read an	Read, watch, listen, reflect	See a clear ask (print ad, mail)	Mail a check or donate online via simple, straight-	Receive immediate confirmation of transaction	Share evenhanded print briefings and reports with others	Learn of affordable monthly auto- renew
Learn of organization via op-ed in trusted	Research organization online (google	email (invited by a person they trust)	Gather evidence of trustworthines	SS	forward interface	Receive direct, polite thanks (separately)	Display practical items of swag	option with clear, terms
source, word of mouth	search by keyword, not by name)					Receive newsy briefings and impact reports (print); feel included and		Sustain giving, assuming trust is upheld

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informed

Generation Z JOURNEY MAP

Become Aware	Pause/ Research	Contact	Evaluate	Decide	Transact	Experience Benefits	Evangelize	Renew
View Insta reel (familiar vernacular) during a 2- screen moment	View similar Insta reels thanks to algorithm See social proof (peers sharing)	View Insta story w/ donation link sticker	View .org landing page within app See social proof (peers participating)	Encounter frictionless giving interface	Make modest trial donation	See progress thermometer immediately Tagged in influencer's thank-you reel on Insta	Remix a reel, adding ownable, trackable hashtag Share digital swag on own feed	View Insta reel during next micro- campaign (updated)

4: DEPLOY launch, evaluate, optimize

TRACKING PERFORMANCE IN REAL TIME

Digital Metrics and KPIs to track include:

- Reach, Impressions, Clicks
- Click-through-Rate
- Cost-per-Click
- Users & Sessions
- Avg. time on page
- Conversions
- Cost-per-Conversion
- Cost-per-Lead
- Email Acquisition
- Brand Lift





Thank you!

QUESTIONS? LET'S TALK!

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resonate

Some notes

Index: Index scores report how more or less likely a specific audience is to possess a trait or attribute relative to the baseline audience, with 100 representing average. Any attribute indexing at higher than 100 is unique to the specific audience; if it is below 100, that attribute is less present among the specific audience than the average adult online. (Ex: Maintaining traditions, index= 161, means that audience is 61% more likely than the average individual to value maintaining traditions).

"Personal Values" Attributes: The Personal Value attributes in this report are derived from the survey data are based on the Schwartz Theory of Basic Values, with the following personal values in each quadrant:

- 1.Self-transcendence: Tolerance, Nature, Caring, Dependability, Equality, Humility
- 2. Conservation: Conformity, Duty, Tradition, Security, Safety
- 3.Self-enhancement: Reputation, Influence, Authority, Achievement
- 4.Openness to Change: Pleasure, Stimulation, Independence, Creativity