

How To Sell Anything To Anyone

“How To Sell Anything To Anyone!”

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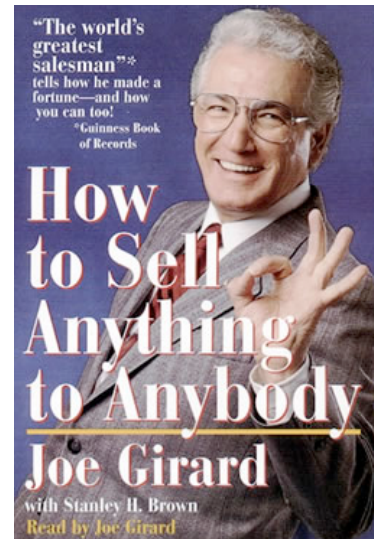
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All quotes included in this guide are taken from Joe Girard's book "How to Sell Anything to Anybody" unless otherwise noted.

“The Selling Secrets Of One Of The World’s Greatest Salesman - Joe Girard!”

One of the very first books that I ever read on selling, and the one I come back to time and time again to re-read, is the incredible “How to Sell Anything to Anybody” by Joe Girard.

Originally published in 1977, this book tells the story of how Joe got into car sales in the early 1960’s because he desperately needed money to feed his family and details the steps he took to sell 13,001 cars at retail in his fifteen year career from 1963 – 1977.



In 1963, his first year of sales, Joe sold 267 cars which would be an incredible accomplishment even today. In his fourth year in business, he sold 614 cars and trucks (still all retail – no wholesale group buys for Joe!) which earned him the title of “number one retail car and truck salesman in the world”, a title he held until he retired from car sales in 1977.

Here’s how this report can help you to grow your business and make more money no matter what kind of product or service you’re selling.

I love this book and would highly recommend you buy and read through your own copy, but I know so many people are pressed for time these days I decided to summarize some of the best ideas in this book so that you can benefit from them as I have.

Whether you sell cars, real estate, professional services or if you’re a doctor, dentist or chiropractor etc... this short report contains ideas

that can help you do more business and make more money if you'll only try and test some of them out.

I've written this because I believe it will help the business community at large and for those that would like help implementing some of the ideas presented here I welcome you to contact me to see if I can be of assistance to you.

Now, before I jump into sharing some of Joe's excellent advice with you here, I need to mention three things that will help you in all of your marketing efforts.

ONE - You should always know how much it costs you to get a new customer.

The majority of business owners I speak with don't have any idea how much they really spend on marketing their business and they don't know just how much a new customer, patient or client costs them.

This information is crucial however, because once you know what a new customer costs you, you can look for ways to lower your costs and increase your income.

To determine your cost to get a new customer is pretty easy. Just take a look at how much you spend on marketing for a year and divide that amount by how many new customers you gained.

If you spend \$10,000 marketing your business for example and that gets you 100 new customers – then you know that each new customer cost you \$100.

Once you know your current cost of a new customer, you can then try different ways to minimize the cost which will increase your income.

TWO - You should always know the lifetime value of a new customer.

When looking for ways to get new customers, you must look beyond the value of just your initial sale to them and consider what they're worth to you over the lifetime that they do business with you.

You may have to take a guess here if you're just starting your business, but if you've been in business for some length of time you should be able to take a look at your client list and get a rough idea of how long someone continues to do business with you and how much they spend during that time.

This number will vary depending on the business you're in, but let's say you're a chiropractor and your typical patient stays with you for five years and spends \$1000 a year with you.

This gives you a lifetime value of \$5000 per patient, and knowing this number can be real handy when trying to develop new marketing methods for your business.

THREE – You must always test and measure your results.

Your primary goal in business should be to get as many new customers as you can for the lowest possible cost, while of course continuing to sell to your existing customers.

Once you know things like the lifetime value of a customer and how much it currently costs you to get a new customer, you can then test different marketing ideas to see which brings you the most “bang for the buck.”

You can often see dramatic gains in your business by increasing your marketing results just a few percent in one area, but you'll never

know which efforts are paying off unless you have ways to test and measure your results.

For example, let's say you currently have a newspaper advertisement that costs \$500 and every time it's run, you gain 5 new customers.

That means each customer costs you \$100.

The next time you run the ad, consider changing the headline you use or the offer you make (change only one thing at a time so you know what's responsible for your results) and have the newspaper do a split test so $\frac{1}{2}$ of their readers see your existing ad, and the other $\frac{1}{2}$ see the new advertisement.

In your ad you can have a special "dept number", "priority code" or phone "extension" that's unique to that ad so you can track which advertisement brought you the most results.

Online it's even easier to do small, inexpensive split tests like this and if you test often and track the results you get, you'll soon know which marketing methods and offers you make bring you the most customers for the least investment.

Keeping these things in mind...let's get going with secret number one!

Sales Secret #1 – Remember that prospects are human beings just like you.

No matter what you sell or who you sell it to, it's important to remember that prospects are regular people just like you.

People are naturally skeptical and anxious about doing business with someone new, but if you can overcome your customers initial fear and take away some or ideally all of the risk in doing business with you, you've got a much greater chance of making the sale.

Understand that the victory, the moment you get the sale, should be an experience that's good for both people involved – the seller and the buyer.

Selling should be a win-win for everyone involved where you benefit by getting paid for the products or services you provide – and your prospect gets the benefits of those products or services.

Sales Secret #2 - Girard's Law of 250

People talk to a lot of other people about the things they plan to buy and Joe realized early on that he wasn't just selling to one person at a time, but that the people he sold to had friends and family who he could sell to as well if he took good care of them.

Joe considered this the most important lesson you could learn from him!

Over time Joe learned that "Everyone knows 250 people in his or her life important enough to be invited to a wedding or to come to their funeral" from which he developed his "Law of 250".

When you turn away one customer with a bad attitude or service, you run the risk of getting a bad name with at least 250 other people who may have purchased something from you.

That means if just one person a week is unhappy with the way they're treated – by the end of the year there could be as many as 13,000 people influenced against you – and that's not including the friends of their friends!

Can you afford to have just one person come to see you and leave unhappy and unsatisfied?

Consider the alternative. If you provide exceptional service to just one person a week, you could have as many as 13,000+ people in a year who are encouraged to buy from you instead of your competition!!

Now keep in mind – while 250 was the average when Joe wrote his book, consider the many additional ways we have to communicate with friends and family today.

With the popularity of social media and websites like Facebook, Twitter, Youtube to name a few, word of mouth can spread even faster to more people today than ever before.

It's up to you to decide if people spread good news or bad news about doing business with you.

Sales Secret #3 – You need to sow before you can reap.

Joe learned quickly that most sales don't happen immediately, but it takes time for your marketing to show results and for people to get to the place where they know, like and trust you enough to buy from you.

Good selling is like “sowing and reaping in a country where things grow all year round”, and you need to remember that **you always reap what you sow, more than you sow, and later than you sow.**

Joe likened the process to filling up the seats on a ferris wheel that you might see at any county or state fair these days.

When the ride first starts up for the day, one person or couple gets in each seat and the wheel rotates slightly so the next passenger can get on.

The process continues until the wheel makes it all the way around and then passengers start getting off so that new passengers can get on.

“No matter what you sell, if you’ll spend some time each day filling the seats on the ferris wheel, you will soon have a line of people waiting to be sold.”

The overall point Joe was making here is that sales is a process and because of that you need to be marketing continually so you always have someone in your sales “pipeline” or on your “ferris wheel”.

Make sure everybody knows what you sell and start filling up your own ferris wheel now!

Sales Secret #4 – Keep your name in front of your customers on a regular basis.

Joe learned early on that...“Satisfied customers are the best bet for future sales, that’s why I guard my card file of customers practically with my life.”

Referrals from satisfied customers are the best prospects one can have because they come “pre-sold” – having already heard great things about you from people who have already purchased from you.

“Everybody on my mailing list knows my name and what I do for a living.

When it comes time for them to buy a car, I have got to be the very first person practically every single one of those thousands of people think of.”

“If they’ve bought before, they’re your best prospects now! – These people will keep coming back to you if you keep reminding them that you exist, in a nice way.”

Your job then is to keep your name in front of your customers throughout the year so that when it comes time for them to buy again or there’s an opportunity for them to refer you to a friend or family member, you are the first person they think of!

Because of this, it’s critical that you maintain a mailing list of your customers and prospects so you can market to them on a regular basis.

Now, you can do this in a number of ways like sending out a printed or emailed newsletter to your customers, but Joe believed that **“Personalized mail is the best thing anybody can receive from a salesperson”**.

Joe’s primary method for getting new business was to send personalized greeting cards to his satisfied customers on a regular basis.

How regular?

Joe sent his customers a greeting card each month in addition to sending them a special Birthday card each year, and he uses a very nice, very soft sell message in his cards.

He never sent direct sales pitches, but instead said things like “Happy New Year – I like You! Joe Gerard, Merrolis Chevrolet.”

Now, you're probably thinking that it takes a lot of time and effort to send your prospects a birthday card every year plus one every month and you're right, it does!

Joe started out writing and mailing cards on his own, but as his customer base grew he hired assistants and paid them to write and mail greeting cards on his behalf – and he did this because he knew this was one of the most effective yet least expensive ways to get new customers (this is why you **MUST** know how much it costs to get new customers with the different marketing methods you use!)

Sales Secret #5 – Hunting with Birddogs

Bird dogs are people who are on the lookout to send customers to you that you pay a referral fee to thank them for sending business your way, and Joe's Birddog system was an early version of what we would typically call an affiliate program today.

To develop your own team of Birddogs, you can simply give your business cards to current customers and ask them to write their name on the back of cards that they give out to others so they can get paid when they refer a new customer.

Joe paid \$25 per sale, but you'll have to adjust that to be appropriate for the product or services you're selling – this is where it's critical that you know how much you spend to get a new customer and also what the lifetime value of a new customer is.

Other sources of bird dogs can be small business owners, union officials or anyone that has an influence over a large group of people.

One of Joe's favorite bird dog sources were barbers, and also banks, finance companies and credit unions, towing services and auto repair shops.

Joe made a habit of visiting new barbers each time he needed a haircut and he'd provide them with a sign that said "Ask me about the

best car deal in town!” and he’d give them a stack of business cards and explain his offer to pay \$25 to the barber for each new car he helped sell.

Roughly 1 of every 3 sales Joe made was a direct result of his bird dogs, and the beauty of this method was that he didn’t pay for this advertising up front, he only paid when a sale was made!

Pay your Birddogs a reasonable finders fee and they’ll refer new business to you all the time, and always be sure to properly thank bird dogs for sales they help you make.

Sales Secret #6 – Get prospects to know, like and trust you

Probably the most important sales lesson I’ve ever learned (and one they never taught me in college!) is that people buy from people they know, like and trust.

Joe knew this a long time ago though and he said “I believe one of the most important determining factors of a sale is “Does the prospect like, trust and believe me. If I fail to develop these attitudes in a prospect, chances are I’ve also failed to make the sale.” (p105)

So, what can you do to help prospects come to know, like and trust you?

Be open and honest in all that you do, and try to find some common ground – some way to relate to the prospects you’re dealing with.

Joe would pay close attention to the cars his prospects drove into his car dealership and notice things like bumper stickers or sports equipment that indicated what hobbies people enjoyed or what causes they supported and he’d always try to engage them in small talk relating to their interests.

You can also provide valuable, free information to prospects before the sale that show you're interested in them finding the right product or service to meet their needs – even if that means buying from someone else – and take time to answer their questions without pressuring them in any way.

Sales Secret #7 – Allow prospects to demo or sample your products/services

“People like to try things out, to touch them, to play with them...No matter what you sell, look for ways in which you can demonstrate your product. The important thing is to be sure that your prospect participates in the demonstration.”

As a car salesman, Joe would of course have prospects test drive the cars they were interested in and he'd let them go wherever they wanted – but ideally past their house or their neighbors so they could be seen driving the car.

This works better for some products or services than others of course, but your odds of making a sale increase dramatically if you can have your prospects experience what it's like to own or use your product or service before asking them to pay for it.

If you're selling an inexpensive physical product, can you offer a free sample for someone to take home and try out themselves?

If it's a service you provide, how about offering a free trial of it for 30 or 60 days?

Do you remember when AOL was starting out and how they gave away free internet access for 30 days or a few hundred hours?

Their free trial CDs were everywhere and because they tracked the effectiveness of their marketing, they knew that once you tried their service, you were likely to stay on as a customer for many months or years to come!

Sales Secret #8 – Find out what prospects want and then sell them THAT!

One thing Joe always made a point of doing well was finding out what a prospects needs were and then selling them the car that took care of those needs. Makes sense, right?

Upon learning that a prospect had a wife and three kids, he wouldn't try to sell him a 2 seat sports car, he'd show and sell him a station wagon (or today a minivan or large SUV).

I know it can be tempting at times to steer prospects to the product that makes us the most commission at the moment, without giving real thought to their needs, but a customer who doesn't get exactly what they want is much less likely to come back and do business with you again in the future or send their friends and family to do business with you.

Sales Secret #9 – Do what you do best and get help to grow your business

At a time when Joe was selling over 600 cars a year and getting burned out from spending so much of his time on paperwork and office chores, he credits his accountant with an idea which helped him to sell more even cars and make more money while reducing his stressful workload.

That idea was rather simple, but one that can transform your life if you take it and use it yourself, and it is this...

Focus on doing what you do best, and pay others to do the routine work for you!

In Joe's case, he loved talking to people and selling them cars most, but doing paperwork, returning phone calls and mailing out greeting

cards to his clients and prospects was something he could easily pay others to do for him.

His accountant showed him how hiring someone else to automate these tasks could be a tax write off for him while giving him more time to do what he loved and profited from most, and it's something you should consider as well.

I'd recommend speaking with your accountant or tax professional to see just how doing this can affect you, but even if there aren't tax incentives for hiring extra help.

it may be worth it to give you more time to do what you love while freeing yourself from doing some tasks that you don't enjoy.

Getting help today can mean hiring someone locally help you out with your paperwork, or outsourcing things like phone calls or order fulfillment to people or companies in other states or even other countries.

(I'd highly recommend reading Tim Ferris's book "The 4 hour work week" for some excellent advice on simplifying your life and becoming more productive!)

Sales Secret #10 – Winning after the close

The first thing Joe did after the sale is prepare a file card on the buyer with everything he knows about him and about what he bought.

Today you would most likely enter this information in a contact manager on your computer or located online.

At the same time, Joe would always send a special Thank You card to the customer which is noticed in that house because it's so rare these days.

Joe tried to make a friend of every prospect, whether he sold them or not.

“You don’t have to twist anybody’s arm or tell lies to make a good living in this selling business.

All you have to do is use your head and plant enough seeds and fill enough seats. If you do it right, you’ll be able to make a fine income and live with your conscience. I have proved that it can be done.”

Keep selling after the close and look at a customer as a long term investment.

Once Joe sold a car to someone, he expected to sell them every car they were ever going to buy in the future, and he planned to sell their kids and their friends cars too.

Closing thoughts

I hope this brief review of Joe’s excellent book “How to sell anything to anybody” has given you some great ideas to help you grow your own business, but I’d highly recommend that you purchase his book and read through it yourself as I’ve only scratched the surface with his ideas that I’ve summarized here.

You can find it at most major booksellers or at amazon.com and it’s a bargain for about only \$10!

Use this information to make some money!

Talk soon,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jaz Lai". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jaz Lai