How to fundraise like the best startups





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Deck

A deck is not prepared once...

Process

Rather, every meeting is an opportunity to learn and improve your deck/pitch.

How?

Shut the f*** up

Stop trying to deliver as much information as possible to convince.

Listen! And you'll feel what works and what does not.

Iterate

Based on that feedback, improve the story, rework your deck & pitch.

This will translate into removing stuff from your deck/pitch.

To the point

Indeed, as time goes by, you will realize that only a few points really matter.

Focus on those!

Questions

The questions investors ask are almost always the same.

Prepare them as well as it is a chance to make a good impression.

Delivery

Delivering the pitch is as (if not more) important as its content.

Next are some advices.

First impression

Starting a call can feel intimidating.

The first impression is crucial. If you jump right to pitching, it will feel weird!

Break the ice

Ask a casual question or even better, something related to the person's activity (e.g tweet).

Remember that investors are investing in people!

Connectivity

Quite obviously, make sure you have a good connection, microphone, camera, lighting etc.

All of those can hurt the first impression you make.

Slow...ly

Speaking quickly does not convey confidence.

Force yourself to slow down, making sure you focus on your key points.

Exchange

Do not monopolize the conversation. Listen and leave time for questions.

The best pitches are conversations!

Know-it-all

Do not try to bullshit your way out of a question you do not know the answer.

Best to say you don't know and come back with an answer later.

Close

Never leave a meeting without a clearly-defined next step.

Do not be afraid to explicitly ask investors to invest.

1/4

Following up is something few founders do well.

Here are few tips to get better.

2/4

Once the meeting over, follow up by email to thank the investor for their time.

Provide material for them to dig deeper (analytics, business plan etc.).

3/4

Send individual forwardable emails for every introduction the investor offered to make.

4/4

Following up is also a great opportunity to show that you've heard their points.

Provide additional material and/or answers to the questions they asked.

Found this post useful? Save it for later.

