

Your **Sphere of Influence**, or **SOI**, is a collection of both the personal and professional contacts in your life. As you look at the graphic below, you can see that a lot of the concentrated level of influence is on yourself. This is KEY.

We are our own greatest influence (or at least we should be). That means that the success or stagnation of our business ultimately rests on what we do, or don't do. When growing a business, it is easy to look at all the other circles, and blame the size of those for our lack of growth. Ultimately, WE are our own best (or worst influence), and we have control over that circle, and how far it can reach. We want to make sure that our circle is expanding in a positive way. These tips and tools will help you make that happen.



Typically when people begin thinking about their SOI, they think about the first three circles, and *might* consider the fourth circle, but that is where they usually stop.

As a real estate agent, we need to think much, much bigger. Not only do we need to evaluate our current circles but we should also shift our mindset; considering everyone we have ever met (or will meet) as potential additions to our SOI. We also need to consider the individuals within each circle as an additional source of an entirely new circle of SOI, that can expand our own!

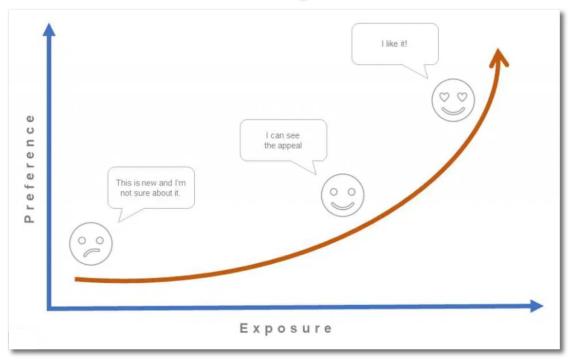
By implementing these tools, your name should be the first name that comes to mind when anyone in your SOI meets someone who wants to buy or sell real estate. It isn't about you, personally, making connections with infinite amounts of people, it's the people you already know making these connections for you...thereby exponentially growing your Influence.

These contacts you already have—the people you already know—may serve as the primary audience for your information, OR they can assist in introducing you to new contacts, and building word of mouth for your services.

#### **THEY WILL:**

- Help you reach home buyers and sellers in your market who you wouldn't otherwise know about, or have been able to reach.
- Provide warm leads and act as your "quality assurance," so you have a better chance of winning those peoples' business.

### Mere Exposure Effect (aka Familiarity Principle)



The *Mere Exposure Effect* refers to the robust and reliable research, stating that individuals tend to develop a preference for things simply based on repeated exposure and familiarity.

Whether it's broccoli, jazz, or your new neighbor, researchers surmise that this effect happens because repeated exposure makes people less uncertain about new things, and makes those new things easier to understand.

Gustav Fechner completed the earliest known research on the topic in 1876. Robert Zajonc is the Effect's best-known researcher, conducting experiments over the course of three decades.

#### **FAMILIARITY LEADS TO TRUST**

#### The answer to growing your business, lies with the people you already know.

As newer agents, we don't have testimonials from past clients. Testimonials of your character from people who you know (your SOI), will fill this gap and earn you business.

To build your real estate business, you need to start with the people who already know and trust you. By letting your SOI know your intentions, and how you can help them, you will earn their business. Even better, when the people in your SOI remember you, and refer you, this "second-hand trust" (created because of a mutual connection), will earn you business, as well.

As you consistently market to your SOI, you will begin to see the benefits of the Mere Exposure Effect. Not only will your immediate contacts begin looking to you for their real estate needs, your name will be at the forefront of their minds when they meet people who need real estate services. Let the referrals flow!



Your Sphere of Influence (SOI), is a combination of your personal and professional contacts. These contacts may serve as the primary audience for your information, or they can be of assistance in introducing you to new contacts and building word of mouth for your services.

#### WHO SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN YOUR SPHERE?

When developing your Sphere of Influence list, you should think as broadly as possible. It's easy to start by jotting down people you know, but that approach can only take you so far. Another way to think about your sphere, is to think about the places you go, and who you see there—which can help take your list to the next level.

#### WHAT DO YOU DO ONCE YOU'VE IDENTIFIED YOUR SPHERE?

Once you've developed your list, it's time to connect with these individuals to let them know you are in the real estate business and ready and able to serve them (or their friends and colleagues).

A quick text or email is the most effective way to make this introduction.

#### WHERE DO YOU START?

Take stock of your network on social media. Get on social media and start scrolling through your friends, followers and connections.

Below are more examples of who to think about when creating this list.

- Members of your family
- Spouse/ significant other's family
- Extended family (those people you only see at reunions)
- Past clients
- Best friend(s) and their family members
- Spouse/significant other's best friends
- Your parents and siblings' neighbors and friends
- Prior job/ past work associates
- Neighbors (who you know)

- Children's friends' parents
- Children's teachers/ principals/ guidance counselors
- Children's coaches/dance instructors/ music teachers
- Children's dentist/ doctor/ dermatologist/ orthodontist/ optometrist
- PTA Board at your childrens' school
- Religious teachers/ clergymen/ members
- Person who does your pedicures/ manicures/ facials/ massages/ hair
- Car mechanic/ car salesperson/ car dealership rep
- Insurance rep/accountant/financial advisor/attorney
- Mailman/ UPS/ FedEx delivery person
- HOA president/community directors
- People at your gym/ personal trainer/ yoga instructor
- Home maintenance people: HVAC/ plumber/ roofer/ landscaper/ electrician
- People who work at the stores you frequent: grocery/ clothing/ pharmacy/ dry cleaning, pet stores
- People you know based on your hobbies
- Contacts in your text history
- Contacts in your social media feeds
- Someone you met over the weekend

## Ways to Grow Your SOI

#### BE READY TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE WHEREVER YOU GO!

#### BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

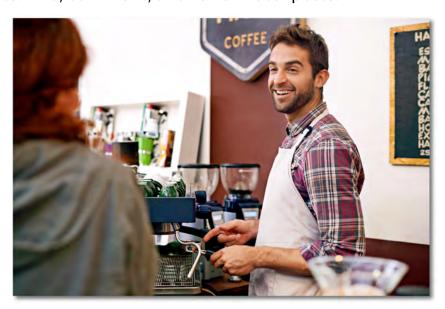
Volunteer in neighborhood organizations, attend sporting events, community groups, Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTOs), and other school events.





#### **GROW WITH SOCIAL MEDIA**

Learn about the effective algorithms and posting schedules for each social media platform. Use these to your advantage. Join local community Facebook pages and engage often, where appropriate. Like, comment, and review local posts.



#### **GET COMFORTABLE**

Practice scripts. Develop an "elevator pitch." Talk with people while you wait in line. Just ask! Get comfortable asking if anyone they know is looking to buy or sell a home.

# 501 Marketing Calendar

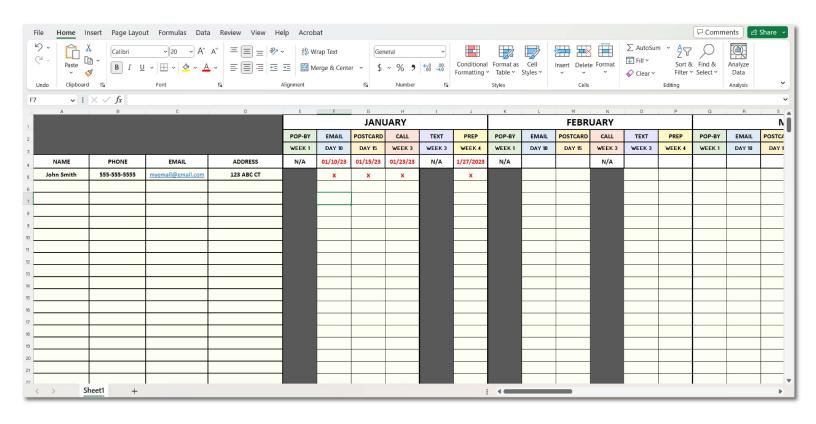
#### CREATE A MONTHLY MARKETING CALENDAR

The example below, gives you the most successful and efficient way to stay in contact with your SOI database. Every month includes the same 6 tasks.

If you divide your SOI list into groups of 35 contacts, you won't be overwhelmed trying to handle the same tasks for your entire SOI database, every month.

Recommended marketing for each SOI contact:

- Quarterly Pop-By
- Quarterly Call
- Monthly Email
- Monthly Postcard
- Monthly Text (unless Quarterly Call is scheduled that month)

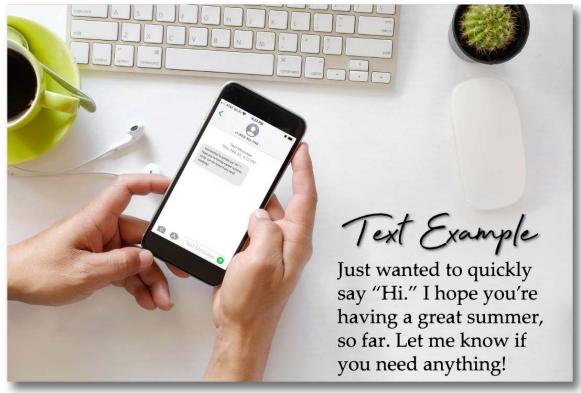


# Marketing Content Examples



#### **EMAIL TOPICS:**

THE TOP 10 HOME IMPROVEMENT IDEAS OF 20\*\*
MINIMALIST IDEAS FOR YOUR HOME
SPRING HOME PREP CHECKLIST



### Postcard Example



Plant a lavender hedge around an onion patch to protect them from onion maggot, and lavender bushes around fruit trees to deter codling moth.

2) Rosemary planted near carrots, deters carrot fly and bean beetle. Sprigs of rosemary placed with clothes, will repel moths and silverfish.

J) Put sage bushes near doorways, to keep ants away. Planted in the vegetable garden, sage is believed to keep mice away. 4) Plant fennel near doorways and windows, to repel flies and mosquitoes. Place fresh leaves in your pet's bedding, and rub through its coat to ward off fleas.

5) Use both annual and perennial chamomile flowers to make an anti-fungal spray, by pouring one liter of boiling water over two firmly-packed cupfuls of fresh flowers. Steep, then strain.

6) Protect cabbage, beans, and tomatoes, by planting basil nearby. 7) Citronella oil is a general insect repellent, and can be used as bait to trap and drown codling moth and male fruit flies.

S) Garlic spray can be used to kill or repel a range of pests such as: aphids, woolly aphid, bean fly, stink and horned bugs, crickets, and grasshoppers.

Enjoy your bug-free summer!



summer is a great time to buy or sell real estate!

If you're thinking of buying or selling this summer, please contact me for a free Home valuation Report for your home.

I would love to be a resource for you!

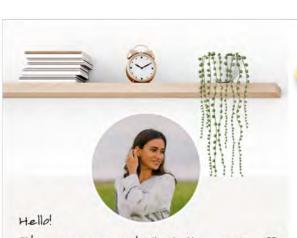
Madison

#### Madison Peters, Realtor®

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CLICK ON EITHER IMAGE
TO ACCESS THE
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It's a new year! Start the year off with a complimentary Home Valuation Report or a quick, local market update. Please feel free to contact me, anytime! Madisan

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Postcard template dimensions: 4.1"x6.1" (.10" full-color bleed)

# Pop-By Gift Example

Pop-By Gifts should be delivered quarterly.

Every group of 35 SOI contacts should receive a gift every three months.

The gifts should be something useful, but inexpensive (usually \$1-5 each).

They can be themed (based on holidays or the season), or generic.

Use a door hanging bag or gift bag (you can purchase bags in bulk).

Don't forget to include your business card!



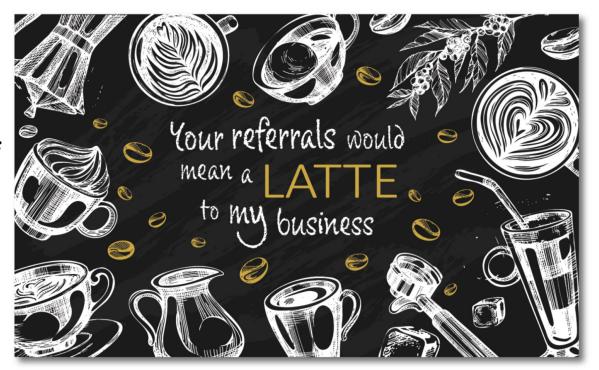












Pop-By Tag template dimensions: 3.1"x5.1" (.10" full-color bleed)

CLICK ON EITHER IMAGE
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Pop-By Tag template dimensions: 5.1"x3.1" (.10" full-color bleed)



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