

# Working Backwards

By Amazon



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Amazon's approach to new product development is about working backwards from the customer. The product manager starts by writing a press release announcing the finished product. The press release is targeted at the end customer and contains information about the customer's problem, how current solutions are failing, and why the new product will address this problem.

The press release itself is a gut-check for whether or not the product is worth building. If the team is not excited about reading it then document needs to be revised or perhaps the idea should be revisited altogether. As the team begins development the press release serves as a guide for the team to reflect on and compare with what is being built.

Amazon «WORKING BACKWARDS from customer» : communiqué de presse fictif / infographie finale / pitch / vidéo / website

Here's an example outline for the press release:

- **Heading** - Name the product in a way the reader (i.e. your target customers) will understand.
- **Sub-Heading** - Describe who the market for the product is and what benefit they get. One sentence only underneath the title.
- **Summary** - Give a summary of the product and the benefit. Assume the reader will not read anything else so make this paragraph good.
- **Problem** - Describe the problem your product solves.
- **Solution** - Describe how your product elegantly solves the problem.
- **Quote from You** - A quote from a spokesperson in your company.
- **How to Get Started** - Describe how easy it is to get started.
- **Customer Quote** - Provide a quote from a hypothetical customer that describes how they experienced the benefit.
- **Closing and Call to Action** - Wrap it up and give pointers where the reader should go next.

