



## Marketing 278— Strategic Brand Management Spring 2018

T/TH 9:00-10:20am

### Professor Patti Williams

Office Hours: Anytime. Please email me and we'll set up an appointment.

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### Course Overview

Which brands make you happy? What draws you into these brands? How do companies create compelling brand experiences? How could you cultivate a brand that fosters customer engagement? This course takes a customer-centric approach to explore such questions with the goal of identifying the ingredients for building and managing inspired brands.

To bridge theory and practice, the course interweaves lectures, guest speakers, case discussions and in- and out-of-class exercises. The course culminates in a Brand Audit Project, which provides a systematic way to inventory existing brand assets and develop a forward-looking strategy. The project requires students to select an existing brand for which they conduct their own insights research and to apply their learnings in order to assess the current state of the brand, and to provide recommendations for the brand going forward.

The course objectives are to:

- Provide an appreciation of the role of brands in customer decision making and in creating shareholder value.
- Increase fluency with the core principles underlying a consumer centric approach to brand strategy, and create familiarity with research tools that illuminate the meaning and strength of any particular brand.
- Augment student ability to think creatively and critically about the strategies and tactics involved in building, leveraging, defending and sustaining inspired brands.
- Encourage the application of brand principles to oneself—so as to be aware when building and communicating one's own personal and professional brand.

## Course Structure

This course is organized into discrete topics that collectively address the course objectives.

### ***Topic 1: Understanding Brands and Branding***

This topic provides a basic understanding of branding: what a brand is, what functions brands serve, and when a brand strategy is relevant for customers and the firm. The cases in this introductory section expose students to the underlying conceptual framework for the course in which brand meanings—resonant, unique and well-managed over time—create brand strength, which in turn provides value to the firm in the form of competitive advantage, increased market share, and reduced risks. The main sessions in this section focus on establishing the key foundations of a strong brand: value proposition, brand personality, brand positioning, and brand relationships—and the distinction between brand image and identity.

### ***Topic 2: Measuring Brands***

In order to really understand a brand's meaning and its sources of strength, a critical step is measurement. This section covers traditional and non-traditional tools for measuring brand strength—both qualitative and quantitative methods (e.g., interviews, focus groups, ethnography, surveys and brand valuation methods). Exposure to these tools will be integral in helping students learn from consumers the meaning and strength of a particular brand.

### ***Topic 3: Crafting Brands***

This section provides a view into what is involved in the formulation of the brand asset. The most important task in designing the brand is specifying the unique and relevant meaning the brand is to capture. This meaning must then be translated to reflect in the range of brand elements: brand name, logo, slogan, jingle, package design, retail space, online space and over-arching experience, etc.

### ***Topic 4: Managing Brands***

This final section focuses on the challenges that confront brands as they seek growth and relevance over time, and the stewardship, skills and perspectives that enable sustained brand health. We explore the growth of brand equity through extensions, strategic alliances between brands, re-positioning, and global expansion. We will also examine the design of brand portfolios to maximize equity for the firm, and investigate repositioning and revitalization strategies. Collectively, the sessions in this section convey the complexity and significance of the long-term task of brand maintenance.

### Course Materials

Available via Study.net.

1. Case: *Parfums Cacharel de L'Oreal 1997-2007*
2. Case: *Building Brand Community on the Harley-Davidson Posse Ride*
3. Article: *Exploring Brand-Person Relationships: Three Life Histories (Condensed)*
4. Case: *Samsung Electronics Company: Global Marketing Operations*
5. Case: *Selecting a New Name for Security Capital Pacific Trust*
6. Case: *Naming the Edsel (Condensed)*
7. Case: *Claiborne Asks Web Surfers to Name New Line*
8. Case: *AccorHotels and the Digital Transformation*
9. Case: *EILEEN FISHER: Repositioning the Brand*
10. Case: *Porsche: The Cayenne Launch*

Additional materials may be posted on Canvas throughout the course.

### Course Requirements and Grading

Your overall course grade will reflect your fulfillment of the requirements based upon the following weights:

➤ Class Participation & Attendance	30%	
➤ Individual Assignments	30%	
▪ <i>Brand Relationship Interviews</i>		10%
▪ <i>Personal Image-Identity Gap Analysis &amp; Positioning Statement</i>		10%
▪ <i>6-word Personal &amp; Brand Stories</i>		2%
▪ <i>Personal Shopping Experience Analysis</i>		8%
➤ Brand Audit Project	25%	
➤ Brand Audit Presentation	15%	

#### Class Participation

Critical to being part of class is being at each of the classes, both physically and mentally. The course is developed to be an ongoing conversation, and like any meaningful conversation, it requires all parties to be present.

To assess your physical presence, I will take attendance. Classes start on time. Being late will count as an absence. If you have documentable circumstances such as illness or grave personal difficulties, you should contact the Undergraduate Program Office, which will work with me in appropriate cases to excuse an absence. If you find yourself with a conflict due to your career search or recruiting activity, you should work with the Career Management Office to find a resolution. Employers cannot require a student, as a condition of his or her employment candidacy, to participate in recruiting-related activities that conflict with his or her academic schedule. A recruiter's inflexibility on this issue is considered a violation of Wharton's recruiting policies. A time conflict due to a job interview, a career-related pursuit, or travel is not an appropriate reason to request accommodation on an academic commitment.

Beyond just being physically present, you need to be present mentally. To allow the rest of the class to benefit from your engagement and thoughtful insights, speak up and become part of the conversation. Grading this aspect of class participation is necessarily subjective. Some of the criteria for evaluating class participation include:

1. Are you prepared? Do your comments reflect evidence of deep case analysis (vs. simply stating case facts)?
2. Are the points you make relevant to our discussion? Do they move our discussion forward (vs. hinder our progress)?
3. Are you an effective communicator? Are your thoughts presented in a concise and convincing fashion?

Focus on quality, NOT quantity.

In addition, you are encouraged to share relevant articles with the class via Canvas, as well as to read and comment productively on those articles posted by your classmates.

If you are not in a seat, on time, by the second day of class, you may not take the course. No exceptions.

Cell phones, laptops, iPads (tablets) and other technology are not permitted in class.

### **Individual Assignments**

Four small individual assignments are required, two of which are designed to encourage you to apply brand concepts to your own personal brand. See the schedule for due dates and the “Assignment” section of syllabus for detailed instructions. Although these will be graded, their primary purpose is to generate discussion in class. You will submit these assignments through Canvas prior to the start of the class in which they are due.

### **Brand Audit Project**

Students will form teams (between 5 and 7 members) to work on this project. Please take the time to put together a team that will work well together in terms of schedules, skillsets, goals, etc. All groups must be formed and potential brands identified by the start of the third class session.

Your assignment is to select a real brand (new or well-established) and conduct an audit for that brand. Every team must study a different brand, so a pre-approval from me is necessary (see below). A startup that has not yet introduced a product is acceptable, so long as the product definition and potential brand strategies are sufficiently developed to allow for a meaningful audit. Feel free to pick a service (e.g., non-profit or for-profit) or product (e.g., consumer, technology, etc.)

The goal of the brand audit is to assess its sources of brand equity and suggest ways to improve and leverage that brand equity. Thus, brand audits are made up of brand inventories (comprehensive summaries of the existing marketing and branding program) and brand exploratories (the result of empirical research), followed by a recommendation for brand strategy and strategy implementation.

**Brand Inventory:** A current, comprehensive profile of how all products and services are marketed, branded and sold by a company.

- Identify all brand elements (logos, symbols, characters, packaging, slogans, trademarks, etc.).
- Identify the inherent attributes of the product/idea/service (pricing, communications, distribution policies, other relevant marketing activities).
- Profile direct and indirect competitive brands for points of parity and points of differentiation.
- Using all of this, gain an understanding of:
  - What customers’ current perceptions might be based upon
  - Assess the consistency and continuity of marketing program
  - Assess perceptions of line and product extensions by customers and important collaborators
  - Identify brand strengths and weaknesses

**Brand Exploratory:** An investigation of customer brand knowledge, awareness, associations (strength, favorability, uniqueness), etc. Research activity is focused on understanding what customers think and feel about the brand and its corresponding product category, in order to identify sources of brand equity and opportunities for the future.

- Analysis of prior research studies (internal, external)
- Analysis of media interpretation of the brand and product category
- Qualitative research
- Quantitative research
- Using all of this:
  - Uncover current knowledge and feelings for the core brand and its critical competitors (existing or emerging)

- Develop a detailed and accurate profile or “mental map” of brand knowledge structures
- Determine depth and breadth of brand awareness, brand image and necessary points of parity and points of differentiation with respect to critical competitors

The final project will include a written proposal as well as a presentation to the entire class. Both the written and oral components of the project should summarize the key insights from the Brand Inventory and Brand Exploratory. Based upon those insights, make recommendations to best position the brand for the future: Which new brand meanings? Which existing meanings should be strengthened or eliminated? What is the optimal positioning going forward? Identify and elaborate a marketing strategy/program to deliver that recommended positioning.

**Progress Reports:** You will be asked to submit progress reports several times throughout the semester. The first progress report is due at the beginning of class #12. This report should sketch your preliminary vision of a “mental map” for your target brand in terms of salient brand meanings/associations and provide an outline for your qualitative research (see below). This progress report should be no longer than 2 pages, single spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins all around.

The second progress report is due at the beginning of class # 19. This report should summarize your most important insights from your qualitative research and sketch your preliminary plan for your quantitative research. This progress report should be no longer than 2 pages, single spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins all around.

**Participation Assessment:** Each member of the group will be asked to assess the proportion of the work that each group member contributed to the overall brand audit project. I will collect these assessments on the last day of class. This information will contribute to my final assessment of each member’s final grade for the brand audit.

**Final Report:** The final report is due the morning of our final class meeting. In it, you should convey your vision of both a “mental map” for the brand in terms of the key brand associations. You will have conducted both qualitative and quantitative research using tools discussed in class sessions, the HBS case on Brand-Person relationships and the readings. For your qualitative research, conduct either three one-on-one interviews or one 6-8 person focus group. For your quantitative research, conduct a survey among a larger number (30+) of customers. Your goal is to learn about the brand associations, brand relationships, sources of equity, etc. possessed by your focal brand. You will also use the insights from your research to formulate a positioning statement and perceptual map to convey the brand’s ideal positioning with respect to its competitors. The final report will use all of this information to identify the sources of brand equity (and missed opportunities), thereby providing the basis for your recommendations going forward.

**Page limitations:** 1-page executive summary; 12 additional pages of text (single spaced, 1-inch margins all around; 12-point font); up to 5 pages of appendices/exhibits.

### Course Schedule

Session/Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments
#1: Thursday, 1/11/18	What is a Brand? What is Brand Equity?	Course Syllabus	Favorite Brands Worksheet
#2: Tuesday, 1/16/18	Understanding Brands	Case: Parfums Cacharel de L'Oreal 1997-2007	Prepare case for in-class discussion.
#3: Thursday, 1/18/18	Guest Speaker: <i>Sebastian Buck, Co-Founder &amp; Strategic Lead, Enso</i>		Each group must sign up and submit a listing of 3 potential brands for the Brand Audit Project
#4: Tuesday, 1/23/18	Understanding Brands and Brand-Person Relationships	Exploring Brand-Person Relationships: Three Life Histories (Condensed)	
#5: Thursday, 1/25/18	Brand Community	Case: Building Brand Community on the Harley-Davidson Posse Ride	Prepare case for in-class discussion.
#6: Tuesday, 1/30/18	Guest Speaker: <i>Jesse Purewal, Associate Partner, Prophet</i>		
#7: Thursday, 2/1/18	Brand Meaning & Your Personal Brand		Brand-Relationship Interview Write-Up
#8: Tuesday, 2/6/18	Guest Speaker: <i>Andy Switky, Founder, Code Name Collective</i>		
#9: Thursday, 2/8/18	The SuperBowl as a Branding Platform		Watch the ads from the 2018 SuperBowl!
#10: Tuesday, 2/13/18	Guest Speaker: <i>Susannah Keller, EVP, Global Account Director, M&amp;M Mars BBDO, NY</i>	Note: Date may Change to 2/15	Personal Brand: Image Identity Gap Write Up and Personal Positioning
#11: Thursday, 2/15/18	Measuring Brands		
#12: Tuesday, 2/20/18	Guest Speaker: "Nation Branding" <i>David J. Reibstein, William S. Woodside Professor of Marketing, The Wharton School</i>	Best Countries e-book: <a href="https://issuu.com/bestcountriess-e-book/docs/best-countries-digital_v3pages_1">https://issuu.com/bestcountriess-e-book/docs/best-countries-digital_v3pages_1</a>  Best Countries Ranking: <a href="https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/rankings-index">https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/rankings-index</a>	Brand Audit Project Progress Report #1

#13: Thursday, 2/22/18	Measuring Brands	Case: Samsung Electronics: Global Marketing Operations	Prepare case for in-class discussion.
#14: Tuesday, 2/27/18	Crafting Brands		
#15: Thursday, 3/1/18	Guest Speaker: <i>Beth Spruance,</i> <i>SVP, Origins</i> <i>Estée Lauder Companies</i>		Six Word Personal Story and Six Word Brand Story
#16: Tuesday 3/13/18	Crafting Brands	Cases: 1. Selecting a New Name for Security Capital Pacific Trust 2. Naming the Edsel (Condensed) 3. Claiborne Asks Web Surfers to Name New Line	Prepare Security Capital Pacific Trust for in-class discussion. Skim Edsel and Claiborne cases for in-class discussion.
#17: Thursday, 3/15/18	Guest Speaker: <i>Eric Staples,</i> <i>Senior Creative Strategist,</i> <i>Bluedog Design</i>		
#18: Tuesday, 3/20/18	Managing Brands		
#19: Thursday, 3/22/18	Guest Speaker: <i>Ambika Pai,</i> <i>Co-Head of Strategy,</i> <i>Wolfe &amp; Wilhelmine, NY</i>		Brand Audit Project Progress Report #2
#20: Tuesday, 3/27/18	Guest Speaker: <i>Shrikirti Mahesh (WG '10),</i> <i>Director, Marketing</i> <i>Wolverine Children's Group</i>	Case: AccorHotels and the Digital Transformation	Prepare case for in-class discussion.
#21: Thursday, 3/29/18	Managing Brands		
#22: Tuesday, 4/3/18	Guest Speaker: <i>Marisa Thalberg,</i> <i>CMO, Taco Bell</i>		Mystery Shopping Experience Write Up
#23: Thursday, 4/5/18	Managing Brands	Case: Porsche: The Cayenne Launch	Prepare case for in-class discussion.
#24: Tuesday, 4/10/18	Managing Brands		



#25: Thursday, 4/12/17	Managing Brands	Case: EILEEN FISHER: Repositioning the Brand	Prepare case for in-class discussion.
#26: Tuesday, 4/17/18	Brand Audit Project Presentations Part 1		All Brand Audit Presentations
#27: Thursday, 4/19/18	Brand Audit Project Presentations Part 2		
#28: Tuesday, 4/24/18	Course Wrap Up	The Brand Report Card	All Brand Audit Written Reports

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite/Hated Brands Worksheet**

Complete and bring this with you to the first day of class; be prepared to share your responses.

1. What are three of your favorite brands? Why?

1.

2.

3.

2. What is a brand that you hate? Why?

1.

### Preparation Questions for Case Analyses

Below are questions to guide your preparation for the case studies we will discuss in class. Note that you do not have to turn in answers to these questions; they are merely guidelines or starting points for your own analysis. The questions are meant to help you focus on the main problems identified in the case and to give you a sense of the issues and themes we will discuss in class.

#### Parfums Cacharel de L'Oréal 1997-2007: Decoding and Revitalizing a Classic Brand

1. What is Cacharel's brand identity? What are its tangible and intangible components?
2. Does the Cacharel umbrella brand itself have an identity beyond that of its sub-brands? Which sub-brands are mostly responsible for creating Cacharel's identity?
3. What is the root source of Cacharel's maturity crisis and how can understanding the brand's identity help?
4. Should Kataschnias bring the Cacharel brand closer to where the market is now? Should he focus on meeting the desires of contemporary consumers (at the time of the case), or on remaining faithful to the brand's heritage?

#### Exploring Brand-Person Relationships: Three Life Histories (Condensed)

1. Think about the life stories of the three informants in the article and their quotes regarding the brands they use. Is it appropriate to say that these consumers have formed relationships with the brands they know and use? In what ways yes, in what ways no?
2. Based on the article, what kinds of connections form between consumers and their closely-held brands? Are these connections specific to individual brands, or can patterns be identified across brands in a given customer's portfolio?
3. Are Jean's relationships different from Karen's or Vicki's? If so, how are they different? Whose brand relationships are strongest? Why?
4. Think about the pool of brand relationships available for study in the article. Can you think of ways to summarize and describe these relationships in ways that might be managerially useful?
5. Which brand relationships in the case would you describe as especially strong and enduring? What makes you describe them as strong? If you wanted to measure the strength or quality of a brand relationship, what questions would you ask the consumer?
6. Think about the traditional ideas of brand loyalty, customer satisfaction and brand equity. Have the stories of Jean, Karen and Vicki altered your sense of the meaning of these terms in any way? If so, how so?

#### Building Brand Community on the Harley-Davidson Posse Ride

1. Should Harley-Davidson continue to sponsor the Posse Ride? Why or why not? What role does the Posse Ride currently play in the HOG events mix? What role should it play going forward?
2. What is HOG's role in developing community for the Harley-Davidson brand?
3. Evaluate Harley's strategy and performance in "getting close to its customers."
4. How can HOG itself be maximized for H-D?
5. For class, try to come up with another example of a brand that successfully cultivates a brand community (perhaps a brand community you are a part of). What is the nature of that community? How does the brand cultivate the community? What role does the community play in helping to build the brand? Are there any downsides of the community for the brand?

### Samsung Electronics Company: Global Marketing Operations

1. How strong was the Samsung brand before Kim's arrival?
2. What did Kim do to strengthen the brand?
3. What do you think of the method and measures developed to assess the Samsung brand across markets?
4. Can Samsung pass Sony and become a top ten global brand?

### Selecting a New Name for Security Capital Pacific Trust; Naming the Edsel (Condensed); Claiborne Asks Web Surfers to Name New Line

1. Is the choice of brand name significant? Why or why not? What is the role of the brand name?
2. What makes for a "good" brand name? A "bad" brand name?
3. What different kinds of brand names are there? Is one type inherently better than another?
4. What key choices and trade-offs must a manager make in selecting a brand name?
5. What options do managers have for name generation? What options do managers have for name evaluation? Reflecting on the naming stories presented in these three cases, what makes a naming process better than another?

### AccorHotels and the Digital Transformation: Enriching Experiences through Content Strategies along the Customer Journey

1. Imagine you are in Olivier's shoes and aim to develop a strategic understanding of how customer reviews can affect other customers. Using your own experience, retrace the steps you took for a recent trip, from its initial conception to the post-trip recollection and reminiscing. List the steps you went through to create a map of a customer journey in the traveling industry. Map the types of information you used along the way and the sources of that information at each stage of the customer journey. Based on that map, at each stage, can you suggest content and media (digital and non-digital) that would be most effective in reaching consumers?
2. Using the TrustYou templates and metrics (dataset D2a-D2h), put yourself in a hotel manager's shoes (e.g., one of the hotels featured in dataset D2a-D2h). Focus on two or three key social media channels you listed above as important and diagnose how well or how badly your chosen hotel delivers in customer reviews (vs. close competitors).
3. Consider customers' motivations when sharing content and come up with strategies that you might use to motivate customers to share their experiences to help other customers along their journeys? What would you do to improve the presence of your hotel across social media? (Dataset D3 may be useful here).
4. As a senior manager at AccorHotels, how would you change the design of your organization to cope with the branding/reputational challenges brought about by digital disruption? Consider the different stages of the customer experience in the hotel (pre, during, post-experience). What are the important tasks that have to be done to monitor and manage content?
5. As a senior manager, you will aim to motivate local teams to keep or improve their e-reputation. How will you incentivize hotel employees to increase the hotel's reputation among customers? Should it only be positive (and reflect improvements in positive comments) or also penalizing (and reflect increases in complaints)? What e-reputation goals should be considered?

### Porsche: The Cayenne Launch

1. How much and in what ways has the launch of the Cayenne changed the meaning of the Porsche brand?
2. What is the value of the Rennlist online brand community to Porsche? How does it help and/or hurt the brand?
3. Should Wiedeking listen to the Rennlist brand community? Why or why not? Should he engage with them? If so, how?
4. Imagine that you are a new Cayenne owner. How does the Rennlist brand community affect your Porsche ownership experience?
5. What learnings from the Cayenne launch should Wiedeking bring to the Panamera launch? How does the Cayenne launch make the Panamera launch easier? How does the Cayenne launch make the Panamera launch more difficult?

### EILEEN FISHER: Repositioning the Brand

1. What is the Eileen Fisher brand story? (What are the core brand associations and meaning narratives associated with the brand?) How is that brand story embedded in its products, stores, employees, marketing and advertising? How strong is that brand story?
2. How healthy is the Eileen Fisher brand at the time of the case? How do you know? Assess Eileen Fisher's brand equity, using consumer perceptual metrics, brand performance metrics, and brand financial metrics, to assess the asset value of the brand. Is brand equity increasing, decreasing or holding steady over time?
3. Should Eileen Fisher reposition its brand to target the emerging and/or the nascent segments? What are the pros and cons of repositioning the brand to appeal to each target?
4. How should Eileen Fisher reposition the brand? Specifically, address the pros and cons of the following brand actions:
  - a. Should Eileen Fisher change its existing brand to appeal to emerging women? To nascent women? Why or why not?
  - b. Should Eileen Fisher launch a sub-brand to appeal to emerging women? To nascent women? Why or why not? Should the sub-brand include the Eileen Fisher name? Why or why not?
  - c. Should Eileen Fisher retrench and continue to exclusively target the established women? Why or why not?
5. Has Eileen Fisher stayed true to its brand or has it strayed too far? What do you think will happen to the value of the brand in the future?

### Individual Assignment #1 Brand Relationship Interview

The reading, "Exploring Brand-Person Relationships," will provide insight into how you may do this interview. The case itself illuminates the concept of brand meaning by looking in-depth at the connections that form between three women and the brands they use. Thus, it offers a glimpse of the insights that are possible when consumers' lives are understood holistically, and brands are considered to be part of those lives. Perspectives from psychology, sociology, and the study of culture can be applied to illuminate the meanings brands contain for the consumers who use them.

Interview a Wharton classmate regarding a relationship they have or had with a brand. The brand you interview this person about should NOT be the brand you're focused on in your brand audit project.

Please prepare a 1- to 2-page (single spaced) summary that includes your answers to the three questions below.

Your interview should be focused on learning information about the relationship that can be managerially useful.

1. What key insights were revealed about how this consumer views, relates to and connects with the brand?
2. As a brand manager, what would you do with this information?
3. How might you take the insights here and examine them more quantitatively (amongst a larger population) to learn more broadly about the type, quality and strength of relationship revealed in your interview?

## Individual Assignment #2

### Personal Brand Image-Identity Gap Analysis & Personal Brand Positioning Statement

To manage any brand effectively, you must constantly be in touch with what you think about your brand and what your customers think about your brand. It helps to have some language to pull these constructs apart: *Brand identity* is defined as the set of (aspirational) associations the company has for its brand; *Brand image* is defined as the set of (actual) associations customers have with the brand. Understanding how the brand is perceived internally and externally is critical to build and manage a strong brand.

This concept is equally useful in assessing and managing your personal brand. To conduct an image-identity gap analysis for your personal brand, do the following:

1. Assess your identity (i.e., how you see yourself), by writing down:
  - a. What are the first 5 words that you associate with yourself?
  - b. What are 3 (positive) things you are not? For example, what are three areas of incompetence?
2. Assess your personal image (i.e., how others see you), by asking 10 people—family, friends, and classmates/colleagues:
  - a. What are the first 5 words that come to mind when they think of you?
  - b. What are 3 (positive) things you are not?
3. Visually capture your personal image by creating a word cloud, using a website like [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net). Just include the things you ARE that were generated by the people you asked.
4. Analyze your findings.
  - a. Are there any discrepancies between your identity and image?
  - b. Would it (ever) be important to address those gaps? If yes, what steps can you take to close them?
  - c. With respect to a certain group (e.g., Wharton students, all students or young professionals, your family, your gender), what are your points of parity? What are your points of differentiation? That is, with the insight you gained from assessing your identity and image, how should you position yourself from a personal brand perspective?
5. Pulling from your analysis in the previous question, draft a positioning statement for yourself. The statement should capture your UNIQUE brand essence. It should also be appealing to your target audience. You choose your target audience: who are you trying to influence and impress? Keep in mind that to be compelling, you must be concrete in the support you provide.

The template below identifies each component that should be included either explicitly or implicitly in your positioning statement.

Positioning Statement Template:

\_\_\_\_\_ Your name \_\_\_\_\_ (product/brand)  
 is \_\_\_\_\_ (unique and most important claim)  
 among all \_\_\_\_\_ (competitive set/frame of reference)  
 for \_\_\_\_\_ (target audience)  
 because \_\_\_\_\_ (concrete support/reasons to believe).

**Individual Assignment #3**  
**Personal and Brand 6-Word Stories**

Tell your story...but in just six words. Even if some of the elements remain unwritten (and are just hinted at or implied), your story should contain a protagonist, conflict, obstacles or complications, and a resolution. For instance, some say that Hemingway's famous 6-word story was amongst his best work: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn."

Your assignment is to write two 6-word stories: 1) your personal story, and 2) the story of your Brand Audit Project brand.



### Individual Assignment #4 Mystery Shopping Exercise

Visit at least one store location for each of the following brands:

- Starbucks
- La Colombe
- Urban Outfitters

Behave like a mystery shopper: Observe merchandising, pricing, communication, atmospherics, service, and try to understand the brand's positioning and how the brand's story (associations, meanings, narratives) is represented in those elements. Based upon your in-store experience, how would you define the brand in three words? Share your observations about whether and how the brand was effectively communicated through your experience at the store. What was successful? What was unsuccessful? Write no more than 1 ½ single-spaced pages (less than half a page for each store) about your mystery shopping experience.