

How to identify a mediocre approach – Eg 1

Imagine that you use (or want to use) the following approach to strategic planning

Figure 8 Overview of Strategic Plan, Project Process, and Outcomes



Achieving the goals of a strategic plan will provide an institution with directly correlated evidence of compliance.





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Diagnosis 1

Figure 8 Overview of Strategic Plan, Project Process, and Outcomes



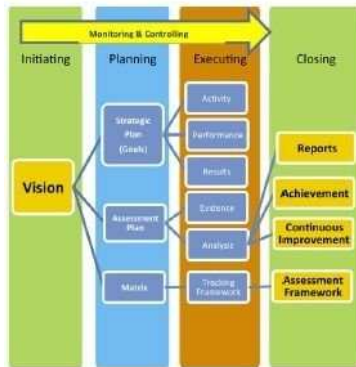
Achieving the goals of a strategic plan will provide an institution with directly correlated evidence of compliance.

Step	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Initiate	Vision	 Excellent	Singularity
Plan	Goals	 Mediocre	What is a goal??
	Assessment	 Mediocre	What is being assessed?
	Matrix	 Pointless	How many matrices?
Execute	Irrelevant, as last step was a waste of time		
Closing			

Conclusion: Find a better approach

How to identify a mediocre approach Eg 1- Explanation

Figure 8 Overview of Strategic Plan, Project Process, and Outcomes



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Why is it pointless?

1) Step 1 - Initiating

- 1) It may start with the best of intentions but will soon fail to deliver any explicit results as “the devil is in the detail”
- 2) The vision statement is too implicit
- 3) Having a model of a single artifact (the vision) is simply not good enough. You need corroborating proof. That is the purpose of the second step

2) Step 2 – Planning

- 1) Strategic planning – deliver goals. This is far too implicit – What is a goal? Is not the vision a goal?
- 2) Assessment – requires a SWOT analysis. What are you assessing? Too implicit
- 3) Matrices – What matrices are you going to deliver? What are the inputs to this process? Too implicit

3) Step 3 – Executing – Irrelevant step as too many mediocre previous steps

- 1) Activity - ???????

Conclusion: Find a better approach





How to identify a mediocre approach - Eg 1

Final Diagnosis

Figure 8 Overview of Strategic Plan, Project Process, and Outcomes



Achieving the goals of a strategic plan will provide an institution with directly correlated evidence of compliance.

Step	Deliverable	Class	Mitigation
Initiate	Vision	 Mediocre	Needs proof
Plan	Goals	 Mediocre	What is a goal??
	Assessment	 Pointless	2 previous mediocre deliverables
	Matrix	 Pointless	Previous pointless deliverable
Execute	Irrelevant, as last 2 deliverables were pointless		
Closing			

Conclusion: Find a better approach

How to start improving a mediocre approach

Use prime numbers and 'Rule of 7' as a guide

Prime numbers

1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11

Rule of 7

Read George Armitage Miller – [‘The Magical Number Seven, Plus or Minus Two’](#)

Steps:

1. Start with 1 deliverable – The purpose which should not be more than 5 sentences
2. Use 4 (1+3 or 2+2) deliverables to corroborate the purpose. If they fail then you need to either
 1. Change the purpose based on the evidence of the 4; or
 2. Need to refine the 4 until the support each other and the purpose
3. Find a maximum of 11 [5+5+1 or (5*2)+1 or 1+(2+3)*2] other deliverables that support and corroborate each of the 4. Why 11? Read my LinkedIn [article](#)