

# Entrepreneurial New Ventures

Prepared by Dr. Sarah Chahine

ENT 634  
Unique Marketing Issues

## Lecture 9



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Chapter

11

## Introduction



In this chapter, we focus on the marketing challenges that are most pressing for young entrepreneurial firms. The reason for doing this is that marketing is an essential component of a start-up firm's success.



Chapter

11

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

To succeed, a new firm must know who its customers are and how to reach them. A firm uses a three-step process to determine who its customers are:

1. Segmenting the market
2. Selecting a target market
3. Crafting a unique positioning strategy

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 1. Segmenting the Market:

- The first step in selecting a target market is to study the industry in which the firm intends to compete and determine the different potential target markets in that industry. This process is called market segmentation.
- Market segmentation is important because a new firm typically has only enough resources to target one market segment, at least initially.

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 1. Segmenting the Market:

- Markets can be segmented in many ways, such as by geography (city, state, country), demographic variables (age, gender, family size, income), psychographic variables (personality, lifestyle, values), behavioral variables (benefits sought, product usage rates, brand loyalty), and product type (varies by product).
  - For example, the computer industry can be segmented by product type (i.e., handheld computers, tablet computers, laptops, PCs, work stations, minicomputers, mainframes, and super computers) or customers served (i.e., individuals, businesses, schools, and government).

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 1. Segmenting the Market:

- Sometimes a firm segments its market on more than one dimension to drill down to a specific market segment that the firm thinks it is uniquely capable of serving.
- To test whether you have segmented your market successfully, consider these requirements for successful market segmentation:
  - Homogeneity of needs and wants appears within the segment.
  - The segment should be distinct enough so that its members can be easily identified.
  - It should be possible to determine the size of the segment.
  - The segment should be large enough for the firm to earn profits.

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 1. Segmenting the Market:

- Can we use ChatGPT to help in market segmentation? Definitely.
- Example Prompt:

You are a marketing strategist specializing in startups.  
I am developing a new venture called FoodSync, a smart food management app that helps households reduce food waste through AI-based tracking, expiration alerts, and recipe suggestions.

Segment the market using the following frameworks:

Demographic  
Geographic  
Psychographic  
Behavioral

Then:

Identify 3–4 distinct segments  
Evaluate each segment based on attractiveness (size, accessibility, profitability)  
Recommend ONE primary target segment  
Justify your choice clearly

Output your answer in a structured table followed by a short explanation.

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### Segmentation Framework:

| Segmentation Type | Variables                                  | Description for FoodSync                                                                           |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Demographic       | Age, income, family size, occupation       | Young professionals, families with children, middle-to-high income households, working parents     |
| Geographic        | Urban vs rural, country development level  | Urban/semi-urban areas, developed & emerging markets with high food waste (e.g., Lebanon, UK, GCC) |
| Psychographic     | Values, lifestyle, attitudes               | Sustainability-conscious users, busy lifestyles, health-focused individuals, tech adopters         |
| Behavioral        | Usage habits, pain points, benefits sought | Frequent grocery shoppers, food wasters, users seeking convenience, meal planners, app-heavy users |

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### Identified Market Segments:

| Segment                                  | Description                                          | Key Needs                                             | Attractiveness (Size / Accessibility / Profitability)                              |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Busy Urban Families                   | Dual-income households with kids, limited time       | Reduce food waste, simplify meal planning, save money | ★★★★ Large size, highly accessible via digital channels, strong willingness to pay |
| 2. Young Professionals (Singles/Couples) | Ages 22–35, urban, tech-savvy                        | Convenience, quick recipes, organization              | ★★★ Medium-large size, very accessible, moderate willingness to pay                |
| 3. Sustainability-Conscious Consumers    | Eco-aware individuals prioritizing waste reduction   | Environmental impact tracking, conscious consumption  | ★★ Niche but growing, accessible via targeted messaging, moderate profitability    |
| 4. Budget-Conscious Households           | Lower/middle income families focused on saving money | Minimize waste, stretch food budgets                  | ★★★ Large size, but lower willingness to pay (price-sensitive)                     |

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

Target Segment  
Recommendation:

| Criteria               | Evaluation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Primary Target Segment | Busy Urban Families                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Why This Segment?      | - Highest pain intensity (time + waste + decision fatigue)- Strong product-market fit (AI tracking + alerts + recipes directly solve their problems)- High willingness to pay for convenience- Easier to reach via digital platforms (Instagram, parenting communities, etc.) |
| Strategic Advantage    | This segment benefits from all core features simultaneously, making adoption and retention more likely                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 2. Selecting a Target Market:

- The market must be sufficiently attractive, and the firm must be able to serve it well. Typically, a firm (especially a start-up venture) doesn't target an entire segment of a market because many market segments are too large to target successfully. Instead, most firms target a niche market within the segment.
- A niche market is a place within a market segment that represents a narrow group of customers with similar interests.
- By focusing on a clearly defined market, a firm can become an expert in that market and then be able to provide its customers with high levels of value and service.

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 2. Selecting a Target Market:

- A firm's choice of target markets must also be in sync with its business model and the backgrounds and skills of its founders and other employees.
- A firm must also continually monitor the attractiveness of its target market.
  - Societal preferences change, a fact that sometimes causes a target market to lose its attractiveness for a firm and the product or service it has to offer customers.

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 3. Crafting a Unique Marketing Position:

- Position is concerned with how the firm is situated relative to competitors.
- A firm's market position is defined by its products or services. Determining which position in a market to occupy and in which to compete is a strategic call on the part of a company based on its mission, its overall approach to the marketplace, and its competitive landscape.

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 3. Crafting a Unique Marketing Position:

- To support their positioning strategy, firms often develop a tagline.
- A tagline is a catchy phrase that's used consistently in a company's literature, advertisements, stationery, and even invoices, and thus becomes associated with that company—to reinforce the position it has staked out in the market.
- A concern that retail start-ups have is whether they'll be able to compete successfully against big-box stores the ability of a start-up to compete effectively against a big-box store often boils down to positioning.

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 3. Crafting a Unique Marketing Position:

- ChatGPT prompt for a unique positioning strategy:

You are a branding and positioning expert.

Based on the startup FoodSync (AI-powered food tracking and waste reduction app), develop a strong positioning strategy.

Your task:

Identify key competitors (direct or indirect)

Define FoodSync's unique value proposition

Write a clear positioning statement using this structure:

"For [target customer], FoodSync is the [category] that [key benefit], unlike [competitor], it [key differentiation]."

Suggest 2 alternative positioning angles (e.g., cost-saving vs sustainability)

Keep the response practical and startup-oriented.

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 3. Crafting a Unique Marketing Position:

- Output:

| Type                       | Competitors             | What They Do                        | Gap / Weakness                                                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Direct                     | NoWaste, Too Good To Go | Track food inventory / reduce waste | Limited AI intelligence, weak automation, fragmented experience |
| Indirect – Meal Planning   | Mealime, Yummly         | Suggest recipes & meal plans        | Not connected to actual fridge inventory                        |
| Indirect – Grocery / Notes | AnyList, Google Keep    | Lists & reminders                   | Manual input, no intelligence, no waste reduction focus         |

## Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

### 3. Crafting a Unique Marketing Position:

- Output:



#### 2. Unique Value Proposition (UVP)

FoodSync is the only AI-powered app that connects what you already have at home with what you should cook and when—automatically.

#### Core Differentiation:

- 🧠 **AI-driven food tracking** (not manual logging-heavy)
- ⌚ **Smart expiration alerts** (prevent waste before it happens)
- 🔍 **Inventory-based recipes** (use what you already have)
- 🔄 **Closed-loop system** (buy → store → cook → reduce waste)

👉 Competitors solve **parts of the problem**.

👉 FoodSync solves the **entire workflow**.

# Selecting a Market and Establishing a Position

## 3. Positioning Statement

### Primary Positioning:

For busy urban families, FoodSync is the smart food management app that helps you reduce waste and simplify daily meal decisions, unlike apps like NoWaste or Mealime, it uses AI to automatically connect your inventory, expiration dates, and recipes in one seamless system.

## 4. Alternative Positioning Angles

### A. Cost-Saving Angle (Highly Practical / Conversion-Focused)

For budget-conscious households, FoodSync is the food management app that helps you save money by reducing waste, unlike generic grocery or note apps like AnyList, it intelligently tracks your food and tells you exactly what to use before it expires.

### B. Sustainability Angle (Brand-Building / Emotional)

For sustainability-conscious consumers, FoodSync is the eco-smart kitchen assistant that reduces your environmental footprint, unlike platforms like Too Good To Go, it prevents food waste directly at home through intelligent tracking and consumption.

## Branding

- A brand is the set of attributes—positive or negative—that people associate with a company. These attributes can be positive, such as trustworthy, innovative, dependable, or easy to deal with. Or they can be negative, such as cheap, unreliable, arrogant, or difficult to deal with. The customer loyalty a company creates through its brand is one of its most valuable assets.
- Some companies monitor the integrity of their brands through brand management, which is a program used to protect the image and value of an organization's brand in consumers' minds.

- Start-ups must build a brand from scratch; this process begins with selecting the company's name.
- One of the keys to effective branding is to create a strong personality for a firm, designed to appeal to the chosen target market.
  - Southwest Airlines, for example, has created a brand that denotes fun. This is a good fit for its historical and current primary target market: people traveling for pleasure rather than business. Similarly, Starbucks have created a brand that denotes an experience framed around warmth and hospitality, encouraging people to linger and buy additional products.

- So how does a new firm develop a brand? On a philosophical level, a firm must have meaning in its customers' lives. It must create value—something for which customers are willing to pay.
- On a more practical level, brands are built through a number of techniques, including advertising, public relations, sponsorships, social media, and good performance.
- A firm's name, logo, website design, Facebook page, Instagram account, and even its letterhead are part of its brand. It's important for start-ups, particularly if they plan to sell to other businesses, to have a polished image immediately so that they have credibility when they approach their potential customers.

- Most experts warn against placing an overreliance on advertising to build a firm's brand. A more affordable approach is to rely on word of mouth and the media. Focusing too much on the features and benefits of their products is a common mistake entrepreneurs make when trying to gain attention from the media.
- People a human interest story about why a firm was started or a story focused on something that's distinctly unique about the start-up.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

- A firm's marketing mix is the set of controllable, tactical marketing tools that it uses to produce the response it wants in the target market. Most marketers organize their marketing mix into four categories: product, price, promotion, and place (or distribution). For an obvious reason, these categories are commonly referred to as the 4Ps.
- The way a firm sells and distributes its product dramatically affects its marketing program. This effect means that the first decision a firm has to make is its overall approach to selling its product or service.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 1. Product

- A firm's product is the good or service it offers to its target market. Technically, a product is something that takes on physical form, such as an Apple iPhone, a bicycle, or a solar panel. A service is an activity or benefit that is intangible and does not take on a physical form, such as an airplane trip or advice from an attorney. But when discussing a firm's marketing mix, both products and services are lumped together under the label "product."
- The most important attribute of a product is that it adds value in the mind of its target customers.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 1. Product

- An important distinction should be made between the **core product** and the **actual product**.
  - The core product may be a CD that contains a tax preparation program.
  - The actual product, which is what the customer buys, may have as many as five characteristics: a quality level, features, design, a brand name, and packaging.
- Entrepreneurs must focus on the actual product that constitute the collection of benefits that the customer ultimately buys.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 1. Product

- A **reference account** is an early user of a firm's product who is willing to give a testimonial regarding his or her experience with the product.
- To obtain reference accounts, new firms must often offer their product to an initial group of customers for free or at a reduced price in exchange for their willingness to try the product and for their feedback.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 2. Price

- Price is an extremely important element of the marketing mix because it ultimately determines how much money a company can earn. The price a company charges for its products also sends a clear message to its target market.
- Most entrepreneurs use one of two methods to set the price for their products: cost-based pricing or value-based pricing.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 2. Price

- In **cost-based pricing**, the list price is determined by adding a markup percentage to a product's cost. The markup percentage may be standard for the industry or may be arbitrarily determined by the entrepreneur.
- The advantage of this method is that it is straightforward, and it is relatively easy to justify the price of a good or service.
- The disadvantage is that it is not always easy to estimate what the costs of a product will be. Once a price is set, it is difficult to raise it, even if a company's costs increase in an unpredicted manner.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 2. Price

- In **value-based pricing**, the list price is determined by estimating what consumers are willing to pay for a product.
- What a customer is willing to pay is determined by the perceived value of the product and by the number of choices available in the marketplace.
- A company can work backwards by testing to see what its target market is willing to pay. A firm influences its customers' perception of the value through positioning, branding, and the other elements of the marketing mix.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 2. Price

- Most experts also warn entrepreneurs to resist the temptation to charge a low price for their products in the hopes of capturing market share. This approach can win a sale but generates little profit.
- In addition, most consumers make a price-quality attribution when looking at the price of a product. This means that consumers naturally assume that the higher-priced product is also the better-quality product.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 3. Promotion

- Promotion refers to the actions the firm takes to communicate the merits of its product to its target market. Ultimately, the goal is to persuade people to buy the product. There are a number of these actions, but most start-ups have limited resources, meaning that they must carefully study promotion activities before choosing the one or ones they'll use.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 3. Promotion

- **Advertising** is making people aware of a product in hopes of persuading them to buy it. Advertising's major goals are to:
  - Raise customer awareness of a product
  - Explain a product's comparative features and benefits
  - Create associations between a product and a certain lifestyle
- These goals can be accomplished through a number of media including direct mail, magazines, newspapers, radio, the Internet, blogs, television, and billboard advertising. The most effective ads tend to be those that are memorable and support a product's brand.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 3. Promotion

- One of the most cost-effective ways to increase the awareness of the products a company sells is through **public relations**.
- Public relations refers to efforts to establish and maintain a company's image with the public.
- The major difference between public relations and advertising is that public relations is not paid for directly. The cost of public relations to a firm is the effort it expends to network with journalists, blog authors, and other people to try to interest them in saying or writing good things about the company and its products.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 3. Promotion

- Many start-ups emphasize public relations over advertising primarily because it's cheaper and helps build the firm's credibility.
- A firm's public relations effort can be oriented to telling the company's story through a third party, such as a magazine or a newspaper.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 3. Promotion

- Use of **social media** consists primarily of blogging and establishing a presence and connecting with customers and others through social networking sites such as Facebook, X, Instagram, or Snapchat.
- The idea behind blogs is that they familiarize people with a business and help build an emotional bond between a business and its customers.
- The key to maintaining a successful blog is to keep it fresh and make it informative and fun. It should also engage its readers in the “industry” and “lifestyle” that a company promotes as much as a company’s products.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 3. Promotion

- Many start-ups also benefit from establishing a presence on social networking sites like Facebook, X, Instagram, and Pinterest.
- Facebook has made itself more attractive to businesses since launching a family of social plug-ins in April 2010. Social plug-ins are tools that websites can use to provide their users with personalized and social experiences. Facebook's most popular social plug-ins, which a website can install, include the Like button, the Share button, and the Comments box. These social plug-ins allow people to share their Facebook experiences with their friends on Facebook.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 4. Place (or Distribution)

- Place, or distribution, encompasses all the activities that move a firm's product from its place of origin to the consumer.
- A distribution channel is the route a product takes from the place it is made to the customer who is the end user.
- The first choice a firm has to make regarding distribution is whether to sell its products directly to consumers or through intermediaries such as wholesalers or distributors.
- Within most industries, both choices are available, so the decision typically depends on how a firm believes its target market wants to buy its product.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 4. Place (or Distribution)

- Many firms **sell directly** to customers. Being able to control the process of moving products from their place of origin to the end user instead of relying on third parties is a major advantage of direct selling.
- The disadvantage of selling direct is that a firm has more of its capital tied up in fixed assets because it must own or rent retail outlets, must maintain a sales force, and/or must support an e-commerce website. It must also find its own buyers rather than have distributors that are constantly looking for new outlets for the firm's products.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

### 4. Place (or Distribution)

- Firms selling through **intermediaries** typically pass off their products to wholesalers or distributors that place them in retail outlets to be sold. An advantage of this approach is that the firm does not need to own as much of the distribution channel.
- The disadvantage of selling through intermediaries is that a firm loses a certain amount of control of its product.

## The 4Ps of Marketing for New Ventures

Now let's try this  
prompt for developing  
a complete 4Ps  
marketing strategy for  
FoodSync

You are a startup marketing consultant.  
Develop a complete 4Ps marketing strategy for FoodSync.

For each element (Product, Price, Promotion, Place):

Provide specific, actionable strategies  
Consider startup constraints (limited budget)  
Align with target market (urban families)

Present your answer clearly under each of the 4Ps.



# Thank You