



ROI INSTITUTE®

Measuring the Success of Sales Training

Patti P. Phillips, Ph.D., CEO, ROI Institute, Inc.

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Resources

The ROI Methodology®
in 12 Easy Steps

A step-by-step guide for developing Impact and ROI studies for programs, projects, and solutions in the following areas:

- Human Resources: Human Capital - Training: Learning, Development - Leadership: Coaching, Mentoring - Knowledge Management: Knowledge - Recruitment: Recruitment, Engagement - Work Management: Change - Change Management: Culture - Team Management: Structure - Process Management: Process - Technology: Systems, IT - Marketing: Strategy, Campaigns - Strategic Information: Analytics - Customer: Relationship - Compliance: Risk Management	- Organizational Development: Consulting - Quality Management: Consulting - Global: The Global, Cross-Regional - Manufacturing: Production, Logistics - Public Policy: Public Programs - Learning: Systems - Other: Strategic - Other: Public Policy Programs - Business: Innovation - Business: Systems - Business: Change Management - Public Policy: Programs - Public Policy: Programs
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The ROI Methodology® is a balanced approach to measurement that generates six types of data:

- Baseline and Planned Action
- Learning
- Application and Implementation
- Design
- Return on Investment
- Integration

The process includes a step to isolate the effects of the project, program, or solution.

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Patti P. Phillips, Ph.D., CEO, ROI Institute, Inc.

Measuring the Success of Sales Training

A Step-by-Step Guide for Measuring Impact and Calculating ROI

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Objectives

After attending this session, participants should be able to:

- Identify the five levels of outcomes from any sales training program.
- Describe what ROI is and what it is not.
- Calculate the ROI for a sales training program.

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Poll: How do you measure the success of your sales training? (Select all that apply.)



- ☐ The number of people who complete the program on time
- ☐ Participant perception of the program
- ☐ Participant acquisition of knowledge, skills, information, and/or insight
- ☐ Participant use of what they learn on the job
- ☐ Improved performance in key business measures (e.g. sales, customer satisfaction) as a result of the program
- ☐ The actual return on investment (ROI)
- ☐ Other (add to chat)

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Evaluation Framework

Levels of Evaluation	Measurement Focus	Typical Measures
0. Inputs	The input into the project in terms of scope, volume, efficiencies, costs	Participants, Hours, Costs, Timing
1. Reaction & Planned Action	Measures participant satisfaction and captures planned actions, if appropriate	Relevance, Importance, Usefulness, Appropriateness, Intent to use, Motivation to take action
2. Learning	Measures changes in knowledge, skills, and attitudes	Skills, Knowledge, Capacity, Competencies, Confidence, Contacts
3. Application	Measures changes in behavior or actions along with barriers and enablers	Extent of use, Task completion, Frequency of use, Actions completed, Success with use, Barriers to use, Enablers to use
4. Business Impact	Measures changes in business impact variables	Productivity, Revenue, Quality, Time, Efficiency, Customer satisfaction, Employee engagement
5. Return on Investment	Compares project benefits to the costs	Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR), ROI%, Payback Period

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What is ROI?

$$\text{BCR} = \frac{\text{Project benefits}}{\text{Project costs}}$$

$$\text{ROI} = \frac{\text{Project benefits} - \text{Project costs}}{\text{Project costs}} \times 100$$



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Benefit-Cost Ratio and Return on Investment

$$\text{BCR} = \frac{\$71,760}{\$32,984}$$

$$\text{ROI} = \frac{\$71,760 - \$32,984}{\$32,984} \times 100$$



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Try this one.

Increase store sales (1st year) \$2,750,000

Gross profit on sales is 20%

Program Cost (25 participants) = \$425,000

$$\text{BCR} = \frac{\quad}{\$425,000}$$

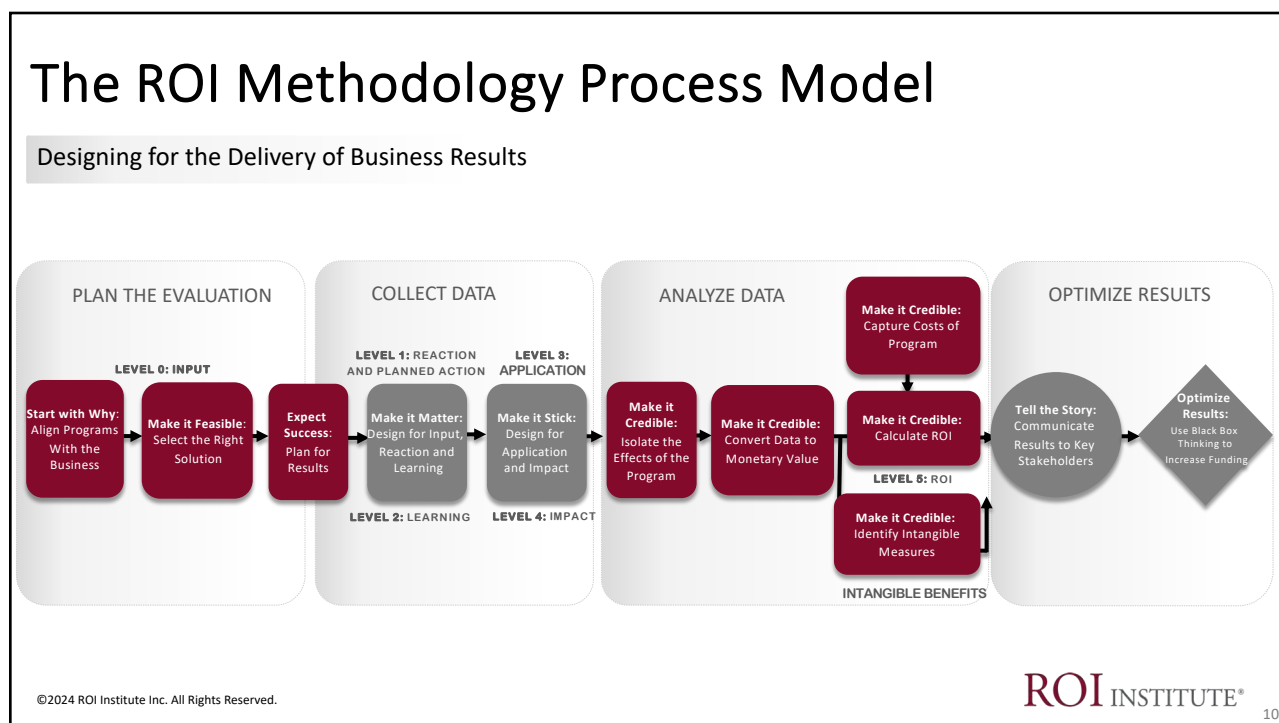
$$\text{ROI} = \frac{\quad}{\$425,000} \times 100$$

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Guiding Principles

1. When conducting a higher-level evaluation, collect data at lower levels.
2. When planning a higher-level evaluation, the previous level of evaluation is not required to be comprehensive.
3. When collecting and analyzing data, use only the most credible sources.
4. When analyzing data, select the most conservative alternative for calculations.
5. Use at least one method to isolate the effects of a project.
6. If no improvement data are available for a population or from a specific source, assume that little or no improvement has occurred.
7. Adjust estimates of improvement for potential errors of estimation.
8. Avoid use of extreme data items and unsupported claims when calculating ROI.
9. Use only the first year of annual benefits in ROI analysis of short-term solutions.
10. Fully load all costs of a solution, project, or program when analyzing ROI.
11. Intangible measures are defined as measures that are purposely not converted to monetary values.
12. Communicate the results of ROI Methodology to all key stakeholders.

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Characteristics of Investments Suitable for Impact & ROI

Cost of the project

Linkage of project to operational goals and issues

Importance of project to strategic objectives

Top executive interest in the evaluation

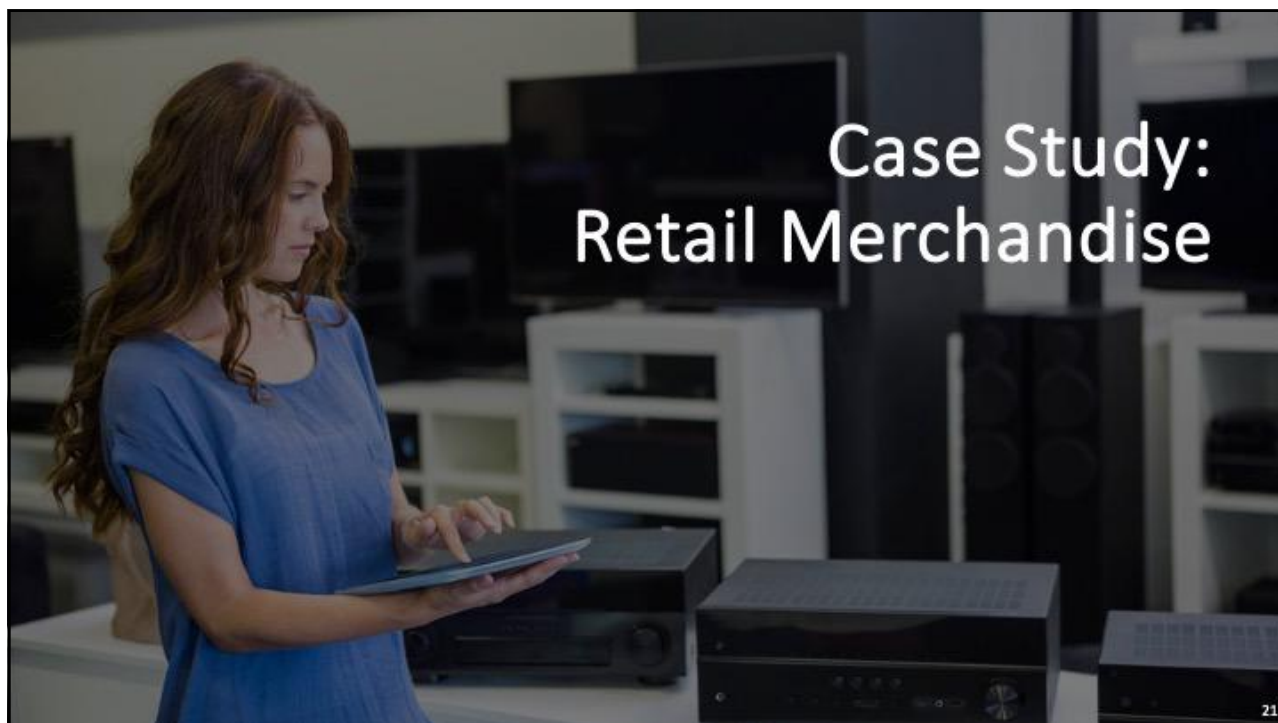
Visibility of the project

Size of target audience

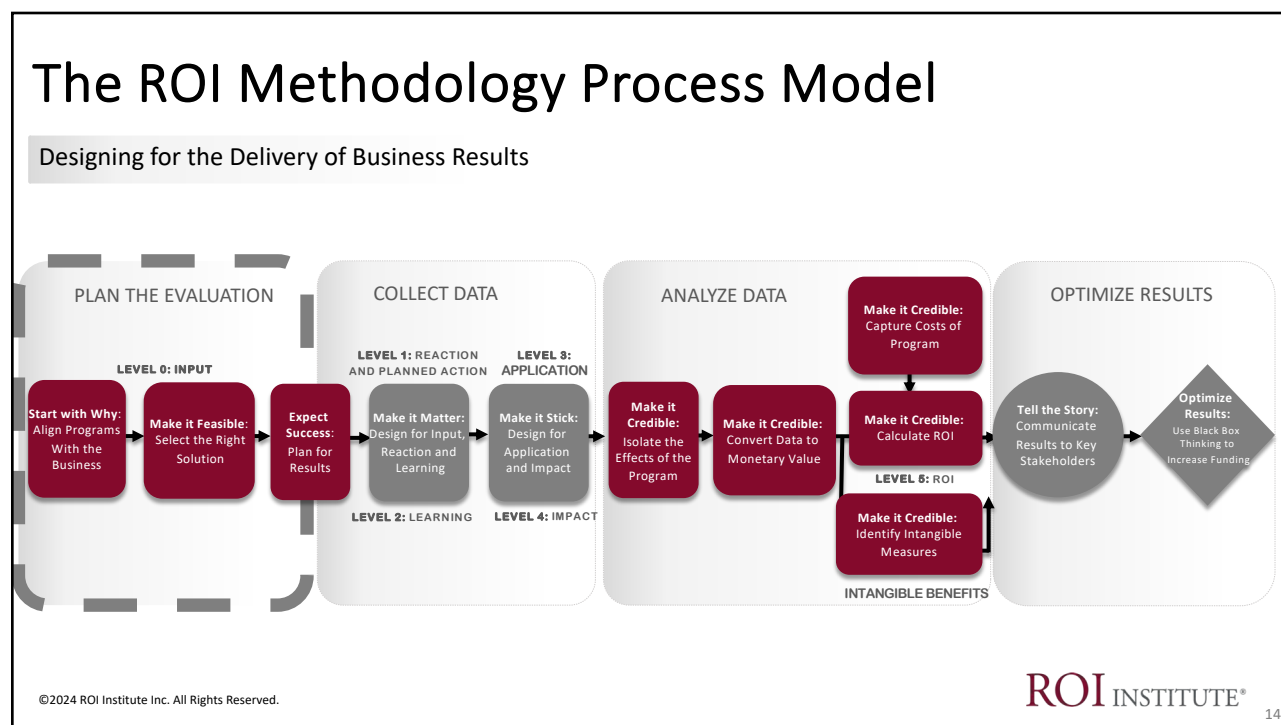
Investment of time required

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Start with Why

- Large National chain of **420 stores** located in most major US markets.
- **Sells small household items**, gifts of all types, electronics, and jewelry as well as personal accessories.
- Executives have been concerned about the **slow sales growth** and were experimenting with several programs to boost sales.
- One concern focused on **interaction with customers**. Sales associates were not actively involved in the sales process, usually waiting for a customer to make a purchasing decision and then proceed with processing the sale.
- Analysis, by store managers, revealed that the use of very **simple techniques to probe and guide the customer to a purchase** should boost sales.
- Senior executives asked learning and development to experiment with a very simple customer **interactive skills program** for a small group of sales associates. A vendor-produce program was preferred to avoid the cost of development.

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Rapid-Fire Chat

What is it that senior leaders are interested in?

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Make it Feasible

- Title: Interactive Selling Skills
- Target Group: Sales Associates in Electronics
- Vendor Produced and Delivered
- 3 Days (2 Days Plus 1 Day)
- Significant Use of Skill Practices
- 3 Groups Trained (48 Participants from 3 Stores)



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Expect Success

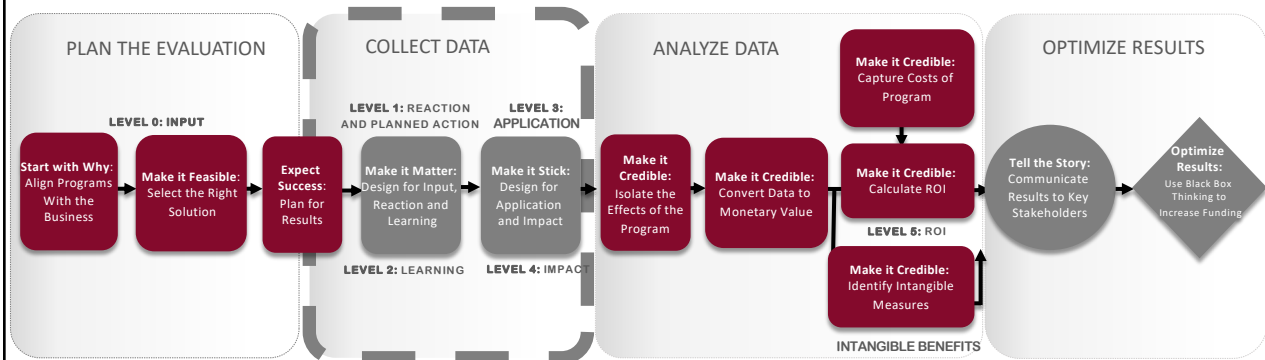
Levels of Objectives	Broad Objective	Measures
Level 1 Reaction	• Positive reaction • Recommended improvements • Action items	• Average rating of at least 4.0 on a 5.0 scale on quality, usefulness, and achievement • 100% submission of planned action
Level 2 Learning	• Acquisition of skills • Selection of skills	• Through role play scenarios, demonstration of appropriate selection and all five sales skills and customer influence steps
Level 3 Application	• Use of skills • Frequency of skill use • Identify barriers	• 100% of participants report use of skills • 50% of participants report skills used with every customer • Reported barriers to customer interaction and closing of sales
Level 4 Business Impact	• Sales increase	• Weekly sales per salesperson
Level 5 ROI	• Target ROI of 25%	

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The ROI Methodology Process Model

Designing for the Delivery of Business Results



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Considerations when Selecting Data Collection Methods

- Time required for participants
- Time required for participant's supervisor
- Costs of method
- Amount of disruption of normal activities
- Accuracy
- Utility
- Culture / Philosophy

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Collect Data During and After the Program

Method	Level			
	1	2	3	4
• Surveys	✓	✓	✓	
• Questionnaires	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Observation	✓	✓	✓	
• Interviews	✓	✓	✓	
• Focus Groups	✓	✓	✓	
• Tests/Quizzes		✓		
• Demonstrations		✓		
• Simulations		✓		
• Action planning/improvement plans			✓	✓
• Performance contracting			✓	✓
• Performance monitoring				✓

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Poll: How would you collect Level 3 data for the Retail Merchandise case study? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Questionnaire
- ☐ Observation
- ☐ Interviews
- ☐ Focus groups
- ☐ Demonstrations
- ☐ Action plans
- ☐ Other

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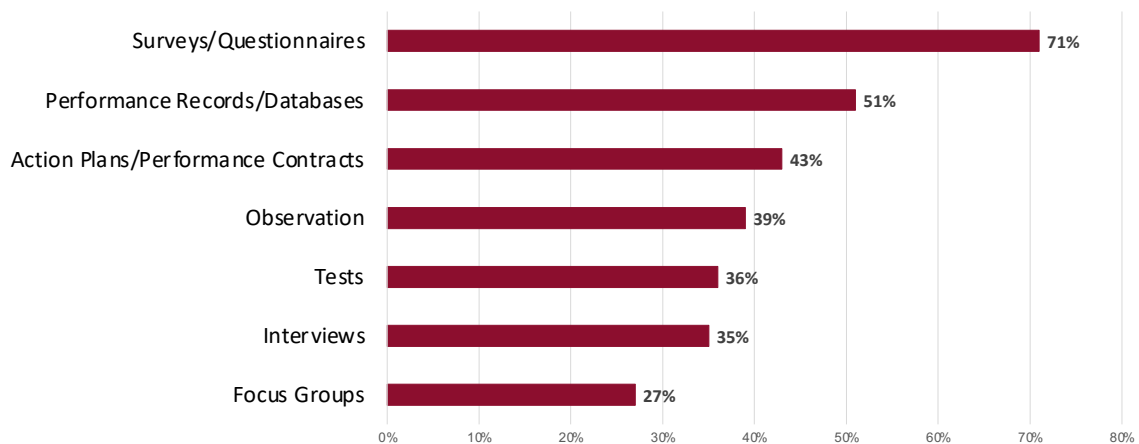
Poll: How would you collect Level 4 data for the Retail Merchandise case study? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Questionnaire
- ☐ Observation
- ☐ Interviews
- ☐ Focus groups
- ☐ Demonstrations
- ☐ Action plans
- ☐ Other

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Data Collection Methods



*Survey of Users, n = 246

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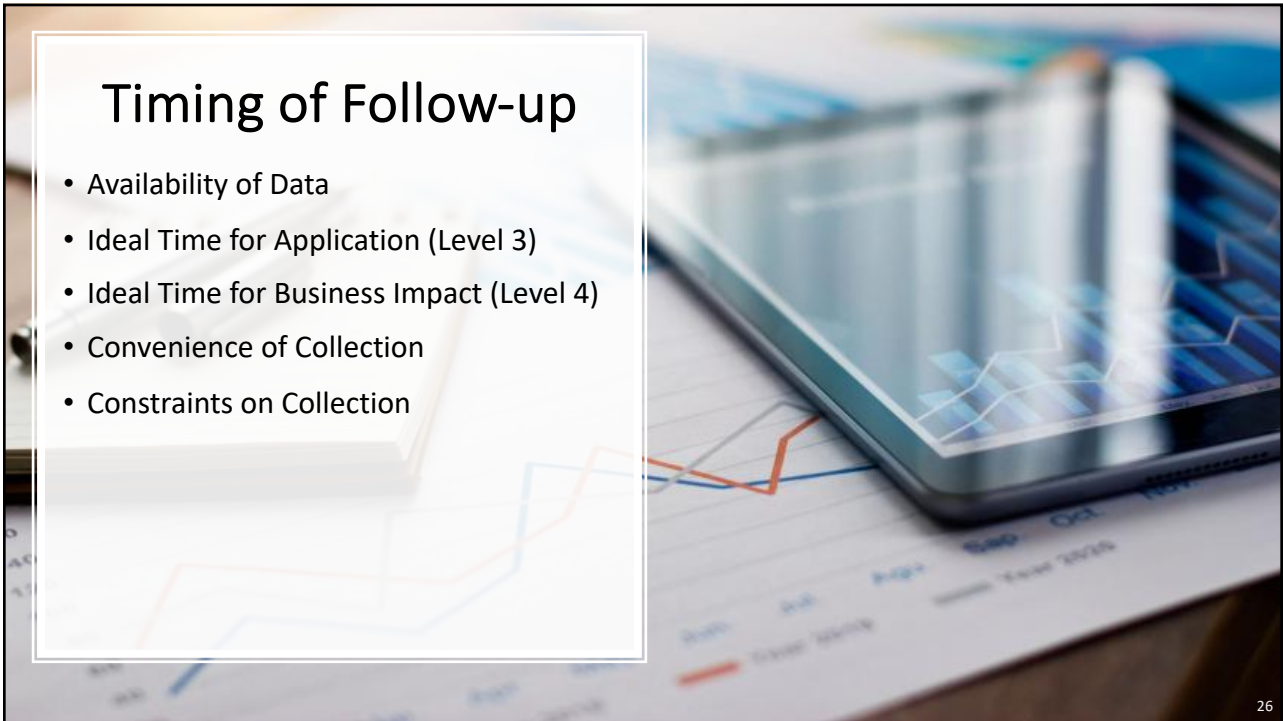


Sources of Information

- Participants
- Supervisors of participants
- Direct reports of participants
- Peer group
- Internal staff
- External group
- Organizational performance records

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Timing of Follow-up

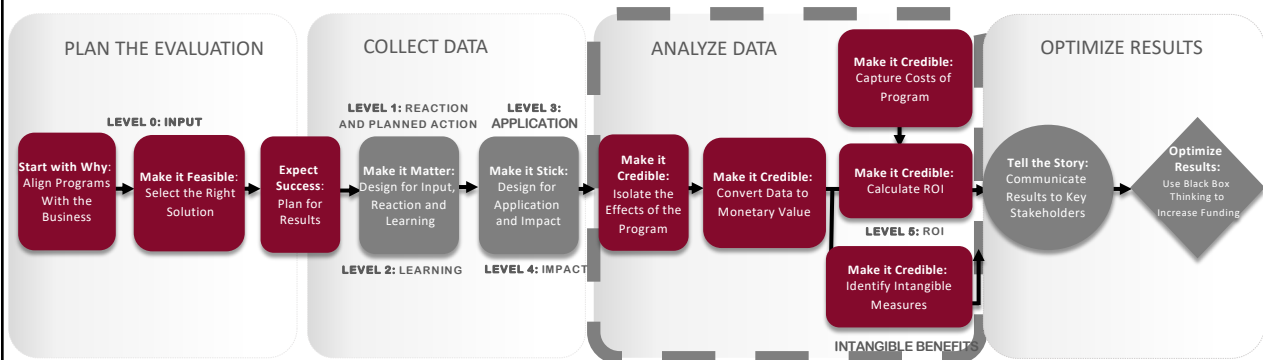
- Availability of Data
- Ideal Time for Application (Level 3)
- Ideal Time for Business Impact (Level 4)
- Convenience of Collection
- Constraints on Collection

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The ROI Methodology Process Model

Designing for the Delivery of Business Results



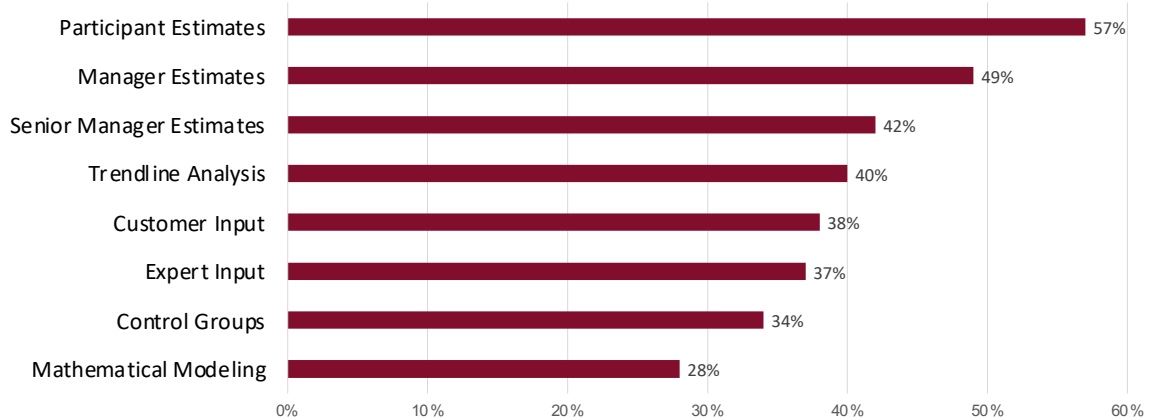
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Isolate Program Effects



*Sample of selected users n = 246

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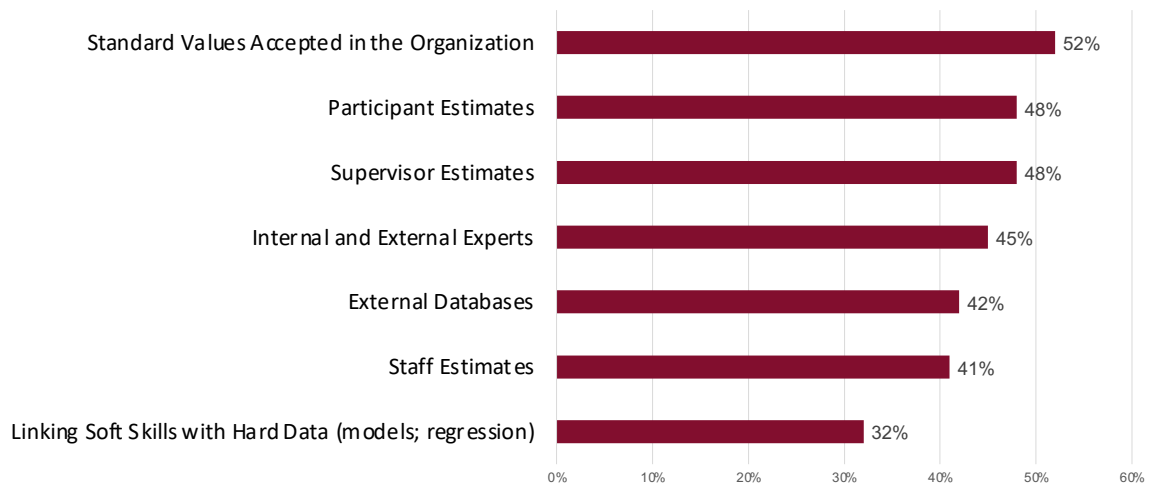
Poll: How would you isolate the effects of the Interactive Selling Skills program? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Participant estimates
- ☐ Manager estimates
- ☐ Senior Manager Estimates
- ☐ Trendline Analysis
- ☐ Customer Input
- ☐ Expert Input
- ☐ Control Group
- ☐ Mathematical Modeling

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Convert Data to Money



*Sample of selected users n = 246

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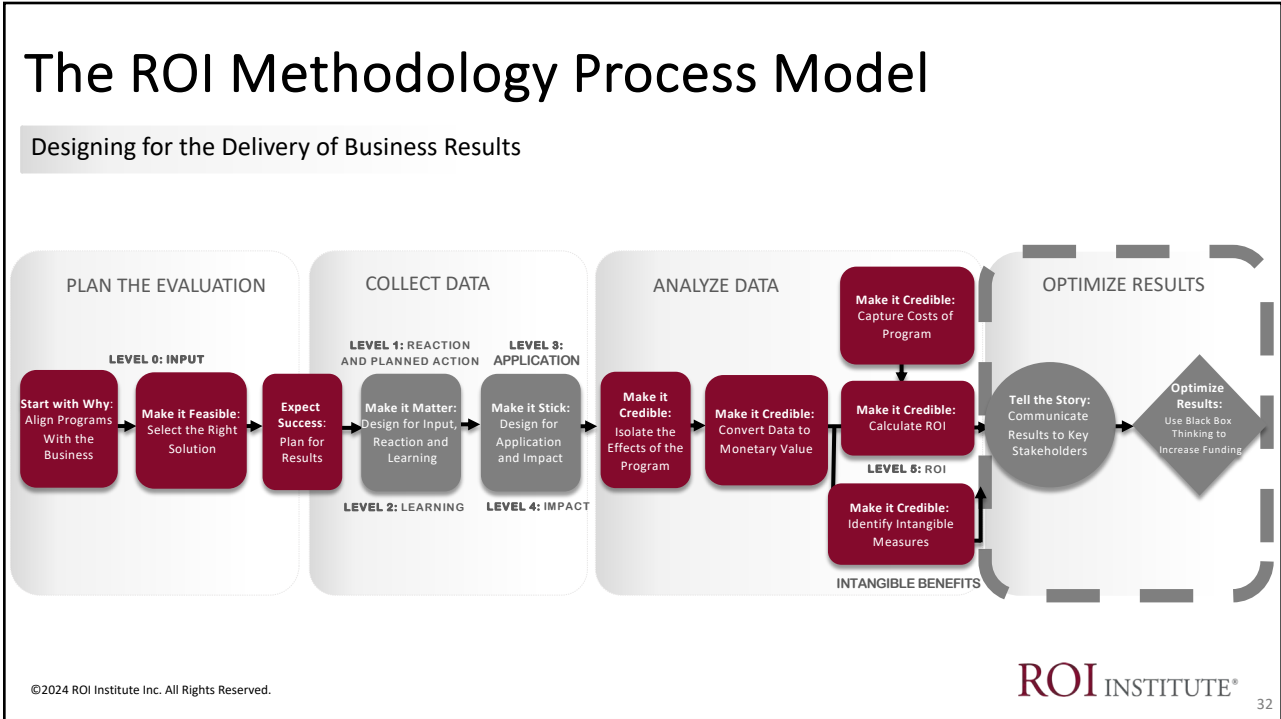
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Rapid-Fire Chat

How are you going to convert weekly sales to money?

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The Results

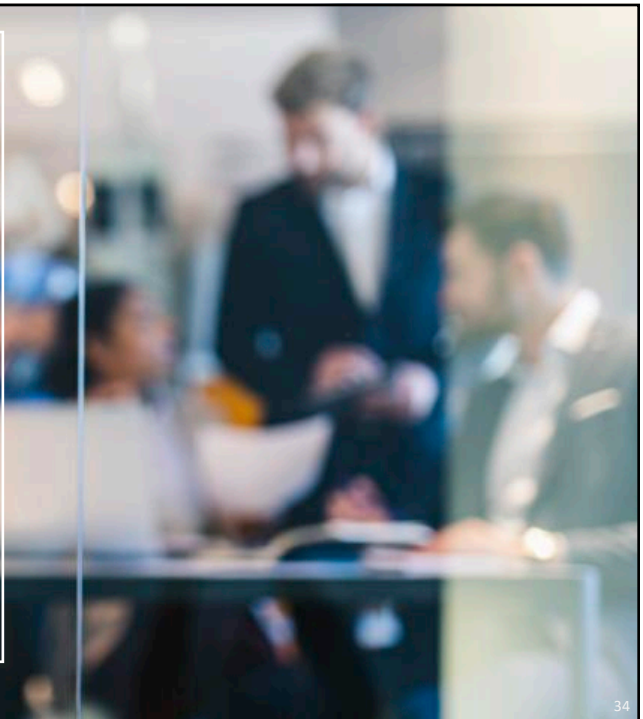


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The Solution

- Interactive Selling Skills
- Target Group: Sales Associates in Electronics
- Vendor Produced and Delivered
- 3 Days (2 Days Plus 1 Day)
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Level 1 – Selected Data

Success with Objectives	4.3
Relevance of Material	4.4
Usefulness of Program	4.5
Exercises/Skill Practices	3.9
Overall Instructor Rating	4.1
Target 4.0 / 5.0	

Level 2 – Selected Data

All participants demonstrated that they could use the skills successfully.

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Level 3 – Selected Data

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I utilize the skills taught in the program.	78%	22%	0%	0%	0%
	With Each Customer	Every Third Customer	Several Times Each Day	At Least Once Daily	At Least Once Weekly
Frequency of use of skills	52%	26%	18%	4%	0%

Target:

100% of participants report use of skills

50% of participants report skills used with every customer

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Level 4 – Average Weekly Sales

Weeks After Training	Trained Groups	Control Groups
1	\$9,723	\$9,698
2	\$9,978	\$9,720
3	\$10,424	\$9,812
13	\$13,960	\$11,572
14	\$11,491	\$9,683
15	\$11,044	\$10,092
Average for Weeks 13,14,15	\$12,075	\$10,449

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Annualized Program Benefits

Average Weekly Sales per Employee — Trained Groups	\$12,075
Average Weekly Sales per Employee — Untrained Groups	\$10,449
Increase in sales	\$1,626
Profit Contribution is 2% of Store Sales (\$1626 x .02)	\$32.50
Total Weekly Improvement (\$32.50 x 46 participants)	\$1,495
Total Annual Benefits (\$1,495 x 48 Weeks)	\$71,760

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Cost Summary

Facilitation Fees: 3 courses @ \$3750	\$11,250
Program Materials: 48 @ \$35/participant	\$1,680
Meals/Refreshments: 3 days @ \$28/participant	\$4,032
Facilities: 9 days @ \$120	\$1,080
Participant Salaries Plus Benefits (35% factor)	\$12,442
Coordination/Evaluation	\$2,500
Total Costs = \$32,984	

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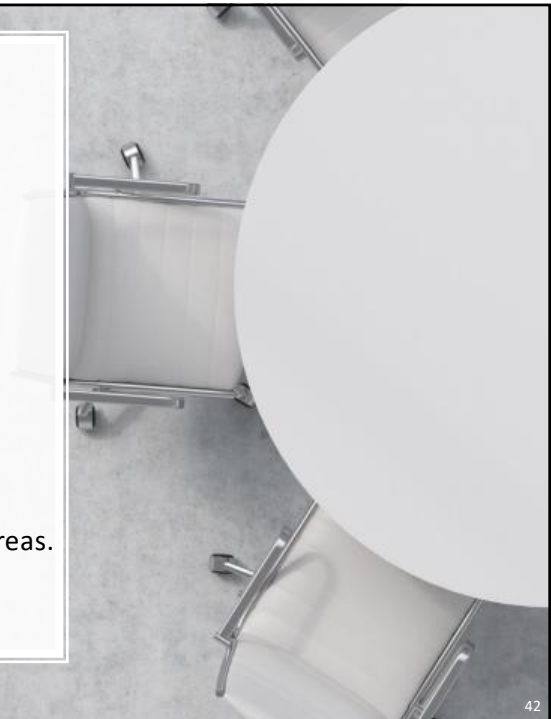


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The Payoff

- Justify/defend budgets.
- Align projects to business needs.
- Show contributions of selected projects.
- Earn respect of senior management/administrators.
- Build staff morale.
- Improve support for projects.
- Enhance design and implementation processes.
- Identify inefficient projects to redesign or eliminate.
- Identify successful projects to implement in other areas.
- Earn a “seat at the table”.



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Be Proactive

Remember, when it comes to delivering results:

- Hope is not a strategy.
- Luck is not a factor.
- Doing nothing is not an option.

**Change is inevitable.
Progress is optional.**

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Scan the QR code or [click this link](#) to access resources from today's session, including a copy of our book *Measuring the Success of Sales Training*.

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ROI Learning Center

Hosted by Training Magazine Network
Created by ROI Institute, Inc.

Four realities occur in today's learning and development environment, globally.

1. Most top executives want learning and development to be aligned with the business.
2. The concept of ROI is familiar to most people.
3. Connecting learning and development to the business is not that difficult.
4. Thousands of L&D professionals are routinely doing this.

The ROI Learning Center provides tools, templates, and case studies to help prepare you for success in today's environment. Our goal is to take the mystery out of the ROI process.

Start at Level 1 and explore each level at your own pace. Each of the five levels will bring you closer to calculating the ROI of your program or project. There is also a calculator to help you calculate ROI when you have the appropriate data.

<https://www.trainingmagnetwork.com/roilearningcenter>

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- Level 1 Reaction
- Level 2 Learning
- Level 3 Application
- Level 4 Impact
- Level 5 ROI
- ROI Calculator

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Jack Phillips, Ph.D.
Chairman,
ROI Institute

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Need an ROI study on an important program or project?

ROI Certification is the Solution!

By attending ROI Certification, you will:

- Build serious measurement and evaluation capability.
- Maximize learning through weekly group coaching with ROI Institute leaders.
- Complete an ROI evaluation study on an important program.
- Earn the Certified ROI Professional® (CRP) designation and digital badge.
- Join the ROI Network with more than 6,000 ROI professionals.
- Advance your professional skills and improve organization outcomes.

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