

Tagline fundamentals

A tagline is a slogan, clarifier, mantra, company statement or guiding principle that describes, synopsizes or helps create an interest. Taglines sum up the sell, evoke an emotional response and the best of them become a brand promise.

Tagline Basics

- A tagline must be short
- It must be differentiated from its competitors
- It must be unique
- It must capture the brand essence and positioning
- It must be easy to say and remember

- It cannot have any negative connotations
- It is typically displayed in a small font
- It can be protected and trademarked
- It evokes an emotional response
- It is difficult to create

Types of Taglines

Imperative:

Commands action and usually starts with a verb. *Nike:* Just do it, *HP:* Invent, *Apple:* Think different, *Mutual of Omaha:* Begin today

Descriptive:

Describes the service, product or brand promise. Allstate: You're in good hands, GE: We bring good things to life, UPS: Moving at the speed of business

Superlative:

Positions the company as best in class. BMW: The ultimate driving machine, DeBeers: A diamond is forever, Lufthansa: There's no better way to fly

Provocative:

Thought-provoking, frequently a question. *Microsoft*: Where are you going today?, *Philips*: Let's make things better, *Dairy Council*: Got milk?

Specific:

Establishes leadership of a category. Cisco: Empowering the internet generation, Volkswagen: Drivers wanted, CDW: Computing solutions built for business