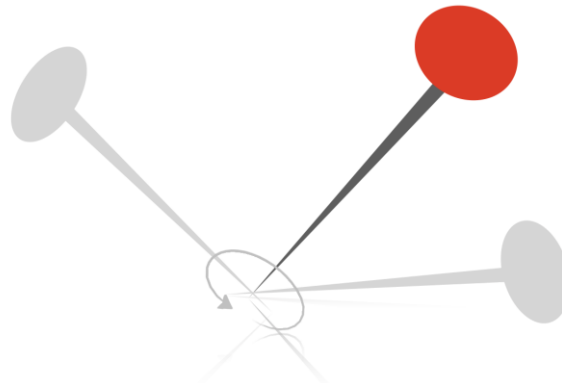


Pivot

An Idea into Action Project Tool for evaluating new directions for bringing an idea to action

Key Audiences: Those interested in new directions for change initiatives



Overview of Idea to Action Project: When exploring the complex work of bringing ideas into action, the core question for this research team is what components of the process might reveal themselves as “good bets” for more successfully translating ideas into sustained action. Discover early resources from the project which give leaders and educators some concepts and questions to consider in change processes.

A pivot describes the central point, pin, or shaft on which a mechanism turns or oscillates; while the mechanism turns or oscillates, it continues to stay anchored or grounded on its pivot. In his blogpost (<http://www.startuplessonslearned.com/2009/06/pivot-dont-jump-to-new-vision.html>), Eric Ries proposes the concept of the pivot to refer to “*how successful startups change directions but stay grounded in what they've learned. They keep one foot in the past and place one foot in a new possible future.*”

This tool invites deliberation on what new directions to pivot to when efforts seem to stall, or when it feels like the idea is getting stale, and yet still be grounded in what matters about the idea: *When should one pivot to a new direction, instead of jumping ship? What does one needs to stay grounded on?*

Take a step back and examine how the idea has been implemented in your context. Then, consider the following prompts:

1. What is most important about the idea that must not be lost?
2. What is working well with bringing the idea to action? What is not working as expected?
3. What are some possible new directions to possibly take that will still stay grounded in what is most important about the idea?
4. Which direction(s) is most feasible given schedule and resources? How will you move forward on them?