

Social Media Advertising Cheatsheet

A concise reference for social media advertising, covering key platforms, ad formats, targeting options, and best practices.



Platform Overview

Facebook & Instagram Ads

Overview: Highly versatile platform with detailed targeting capabilities. Integrated across Facebook and Instagram.

Ad Formats: Image, video, carousel, collection, stories, instant experiences.

Key Features: Custom audiences, lookalike audiences, retargeting, A/B testing.

Optimization Goals: Awareness, traffic, engagement, leads, app promotion, sales.

Bidding Options: Cost per click (CPC), cost per impression (CPM), cost per action (CPA).

Twitter Ads

Overview: Real-time platform ideal for news, events, and quick updates. Strong for brand awareness and engagement.

Ad Formats: Promoted tweets, promoted accounts, promoted trends.

Key Features: Keyword targeting, interest targeting, follower targeting, tailored audiences.

Optimization Goals: Awareness, website clicks, engagement, app installs, followers.

Bidding Options: Automated bidding, target cost, maximum bid.

LinkedIn Ads

Overview: Professional networking platform ideal for B2B marketing, lead generation, and recruitment.

Ad Formats: Sponsored content, text ads, sponsored InMail, display ads.

Key Features: Job title targeting, industry targeting, company size targeting, skills targeting.

Optimization Goals: Website visits, lead generation, brand awareness, job applications.

Bidding Options: CPC, CPM, cost per send (for InMail).

Targeting Options

Demographic Targeting

Description: Targeting users based on age, gender, location, education, relationship status, and language.

Platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, TikTok.

Use Cases: Broad targeting for general awareness campaigns; segmenting audiences for tailored messaging.

Interest & Behavioral Targeting

Description: Targeting users based on their interests, hobbies, activities, and online behavior.

Platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, TikTok.

Use Cases: Reaching users interested in specific topics, products, or services; targeting users who have shown specific online behaviors (e.g., made a purchase, visited a website).

Custom & Lookalike Audiences

Description:

- Custom Audiences: Targeting users based on your own data (e.g., email lists, website visitors, app users).
- Lookalike Audiences: Targeting users who are similar to your existing customers or website visitors.

Platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, TikTok.

Use Cases:

- Custom Audiences: Retargeting website visitors, engaging existing customers.
- **Lookalike Audiences:** Expanding reach to new potential customers who are similar to your best customers.

Ad Creative Best Practices

Visual Elements

Images/Videos: Use high-quality, visually appealing creatives that are relevant to your target audience.

Tips:

- Use bright colors and eye-catching visuals.
- Ensure images/videos are optimized for mobile viewing.
- Test different creatives to see what performs hest

Branding: Incorporate your brand logo and colors into your ad creatives to increase brand recognition.

Relevance: Ensure your visuals are relevant to your ad copy and targeting.

Ad Copy

Clarity: Write clear, concise, and compelling ad copy that highlights the benefits of your product or service.

Tips:

- Use strong headlines that grab attention.
- Focus on the value proposition.
- Include a clear call to action.

Personalization: Personalize your ad copy to resonate with your target audience.

Urgency: Create a sense of urgency to encourage users to take action (e.g., limited-time offers).

Call to Action (CTA)

Clarity: Use clear and direct CTAs that tell users what you want them to do (e.g., "Shop Now," "Learn More," "Sign Up").

Placement: Place your CTA prominently in your ad creative.

Testing: Test different CTAs to see which ones perform best.

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Measurement and Optimization

Key Metrics

Impressions: The number of times your ad is displayed.

Reach: The number of unique users who saw your ad.

Click-Through Rate (CTR): The percentage of users who clicked on your ad after seeing it (Clicks / Impressions).

Conversion Rate: The percentage of users who completed a desired action (e.g., purchase, signup) after clicking on your ad (Conversions / Clicks).

Cost Per Click (CPC): The average cost you pay for each click on your ad (Total Cost / Clicks).

Cost Per Acquisition (CPA): The average cost you pay for each conversion (Total Cost / Conversions).

Return on Ad Spend (ROAS): The amount of revenue generated for every dollar spent on advertising (Revenue / Total Cost).

A/B Testing

Description: Testing different versions of your ads (e.g., headlines, images, CTAs) to see which ones perform best.

Process:

- Create multiple versions of your ad with different elements.
- Run the ads simultaneously and track their performance.
- Identify the best-performing ad and use it as your control.
- Continue testing new variations to optimize your ads further.

Elements to Test: Headlines, ad copy, images/videos, CTAs, targeting options, bidding strategies.

Optimization Strategies

Refine Targeting: Continuously monitor your targeting and make adjustments based on performance data.

Adjust Bids: Adjust your bids based on performance to maximize your ROI. Lower bids for poorly performing ads; increase bids for high-performing ads.

Improve Ad Creative: Continuously test and refine your ad creatives to improve engagement and conversion rates.