

Escape Velocity

Maintain momentum by focusing intently on the right work

As we learned in this chapter, there are certain skills every leader must master when striving to maintain their team’s momentum. This worksheet includes two exercises that will help you:

- Relentlessly inspect and accomplish BNAs
- Differentiate projects that are grounded from those that have achieved escape velocity

ACTIVITY #1: BNA CARD STACK

Imagine gathering a stack of index cards, and writing one BNA on each card, with the relevant key initiative in the upper left and the milestone in the upper right. Imagine relentlessly flipping through the index cards, making sure each BNA gets done. If you’re old school, you can take this advice literally, using actual index cards. Or you can use modern work management technology in the same fashion.

KEY INITIATIVE:	MILESTONE:
BNA:	

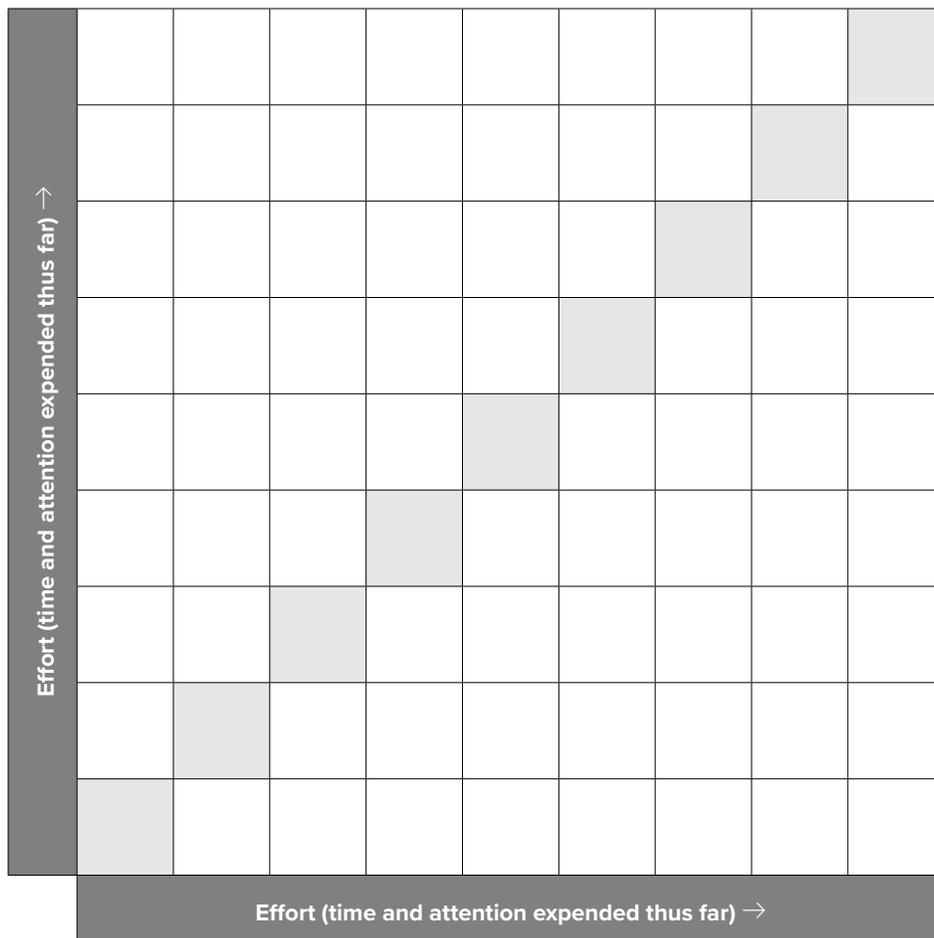
TIP: You can hand a BNA “card” to someone else—either literally or digitally—requesting that they return and report when the BNA is complete. When the BNA is done, throw the card away and move on to the next one in the stack, continually adding more when the stack gets low.

ACTIVITY #2: ESCAPE VELOCITY GRAPH

This subjective activity will help leaders determine which key initiatives need more of your time and attention. Start by writing your five KIs from Exercise #4 on the lines below.

KI-1. _____
 KI-2. _____
 KI-3. _____
 KI-4. _____
 KI-5. _____

Now plot each one on the grid (using the abbreviations KI-1, KI-2, etc.) based on how much effort has been expended and how much progress is being made.



INTERPRETING THE GRAPH

If a key initiative is positioned above the gray diagonal line, it has achieved escape velocity; let it fly. If it's below the line, that bird is grounded; give it a boost.