Step 6: Be ready to modify narrative as events unfold

Narrative Break/End	Narrative Shift	Narrative Change (Expansion or Contraction)
Events, external (legal, political or economic) or internal (management, competitive, default), that can cause the narrative to break or end.	Improvement or deterioration in initial business model, changing market size, market share and/or profitability.	Unexpected entry/success in a new market or unexpected exit/failure in an existing market.
Your valuation estimates (cash flows, risk, growth & value) are no longer operative	Your valuation estimates will have to be modified to reflect the new data about the company.	Valuation estimates have to be redone with new overall market potential and characteristics.
Estimate a probability that it will occur & consequences	Monte Carlo simulations or scenario analysis	Real Options

Let the games begin... Time to value companies..

Let's have some fun!

Equity Risk Premiums in Valuation

- The equity risk premiums that I have used in the valuations that follow reflect my thinking (and how it has evolved) on the issue.
 - Pre-1998 valuations: In the valuations prior to 1998, I use a risk premium of 5.5% for mature markets (close to both the historical and the implied premiums then)
 - <u>Between 1998 and Sept 2008</u>: In the valuations between 1998 and September 2008, I used a risk premium of 4% for mature markets, reflecting my belief that risk premiums in mature markets do not change much and revert back to historical norms (at least for implied premiums).
 - Valuations done in 2009: After the 2008 crisis and the jump in equity risk premiums to 6.43% in January 2008, I have used a higher equity risk premium (5-6%) for the next 5 years and will assume a reversion back to historical norms (4%) only after year 5.
 - <u>After 2009</u>: In 2010, I reverted back to a mature market premium of 4.5%, reflecting the drop in equity risk premiums during 2009. In 2011, I used 5%, reflecting again the change in implied premium over the year. In 2012 and 2013, stayed with 6%, reverted to 5% in 2014 and will be using 5.75% in 2015.

The Valuation Set up

- With each company that I value in this next section, I will try to start with a story about the company and use that story to construct a valuation.
- With each valuation, rather than focus on all of the details (which will follow the blueprint already laid out), I will focus on a specific component of the valuation that is unique or different.

Training Wheels On?

Stocks that look like Bonds, Things Change and Market Valuations

Aswath Damodaran



A break even growth rate to get to market price...



From DCF value to target price and returns...

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Assume that you believe that your valuation of Con Ed (\$42.30) is a fair estimate of the value, 7.70% is a reasonable estimate of Con Ed's cost of equity and that your expected dividends for next year (2.32*1.021) is a fair estimate, what is the expected stock price a year from now (assuming that the market corrects its mistake?)

If you bought the stock today at \$40.76, what return can you expect to make over the next year (assuming again that the market corrects its mistake)?





From a Company to the Market: Valuing the S&P 500: Dividend Discount Model in January 2015

Rationale for model

Why dividends? Because it is the only tangible cash flow, right?

Why 2-stage? Because the expected growth rate in near term is higher than stable growth rate.



From a Company to the Market: Valuing the S&P 500: Augmented Dividend Discount Model in January 2015

Rationale for model

Why augmented dividends? Because companies are increasing returning cash in the form of stock buybacks Why 2-stage? Because the expected growth rate in near term is higher than stable growth rate.



Valuing the S&P 500: Augmented Dividends and Fundamental Growth January 2015

Rationale for model

Why augmented dividends? Because companies are increasing returning cash in the form of stock buybacks Why 2-stage? Why not?



The Dark Side of Valuation

Anyone can value a company that is stable, makes money and has an established business model!

Aswath Damodaran

The fundamental determinants of value...



The Dark Side of Valuation...

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- Valuing stable, money making companies with consistent and clear accounting statements, a long and stable history and lots of comparable firms is easy to do.
- The true test of your valuation skills is when you have to value "difficult" companies. In particular, the challenges are greatest when valuing:
 - Young companies, early in the life cycle, in young businesses
 - Companies that don't fit the accounting mold
 - Companies that face substantial truncation risk (default or nationalization risk)

Difficult to value companies...

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- □ Across the life cycle:
 - Young, growth firms: Limited history, small revenues in conjunction with big operating losses and a propensity for failure make these companies tough to value.
 - Mature companies in transition: When mature companies change or are forced to change, history may have to be abandoned and parameters have to be reestimated.
 - Declining and Distressed firms: A long but irrelevant history, declining markets, high debt loads and the likelihood of distress make them troublesome.

Across markets

Emerging market companies are often difficult to value because of the way they are structured, their exposure to country risk and poor corporate governance.

Across sectors

- Financial service firms: Opacity of financial statements and difficulties in estimating basic inputs leave us trusting managers to tell us what's going on.
- Commodity and cyclical firms: Dependence of the underlying commodity prices or overall economic growth make these valuations susceptible to macro factors.
- **□** Firms with intangible assets: Accounting principles are left to the wayside on these firms.

I. The challenge with young companies...

Making judgments on revenues/ profits difficult becaue you cannot draw on history. If you have no product/ service, it is difficult to gauge market potential or profitability. The company;s entire value lies in future growth but you have little to base your estimate on. Cash flows from existing, What is the value added by growth assets non-existent or assets? negative. When will the firm What are the cashflows become a mature from existing assets? fiirm, and what are the potential How risky are the cash flows from both Different claims or roadblocks? existing assets and growth assets? cash flows can affect value of Limited historical data on earnings, Will the firm will make it equity at each and no market prices for securities through the gauntlet of market stage. makes it difficult to assess risk. demand and competition. What is the value of Even if it does, assessing when it will become mature is equity in the firm? difficult because there is so little to go on.

Aswath Damodaran

Upping the ante.. Young companies in young businesses...

- □ When valuing a business, we generally draw on three sources of information
 - **D** The firm's current financial statement
 - How much did the firm sell?
 - How much did it earn?
 - The firm's financial history, usually summarized in its financial statements.
 - How fast have the firm's revenues and earnings grown over time?
 - What can we learn about cost structure and profitability from these trends?
 - Susceptibility to macro-economic factors (recessions and cyclical firms)
 - The industry and comparable firm data
 - What happens to firms as they mature? (Margins.. Revenue growth... Reinvestment needs... Risk)
- It is when valuing these companies that you find yourself tempted by the dark side, where
 - "Paradigm shifts" happen...
 - New metrics are invented ...
 - The story dominates and the numbers lag...

