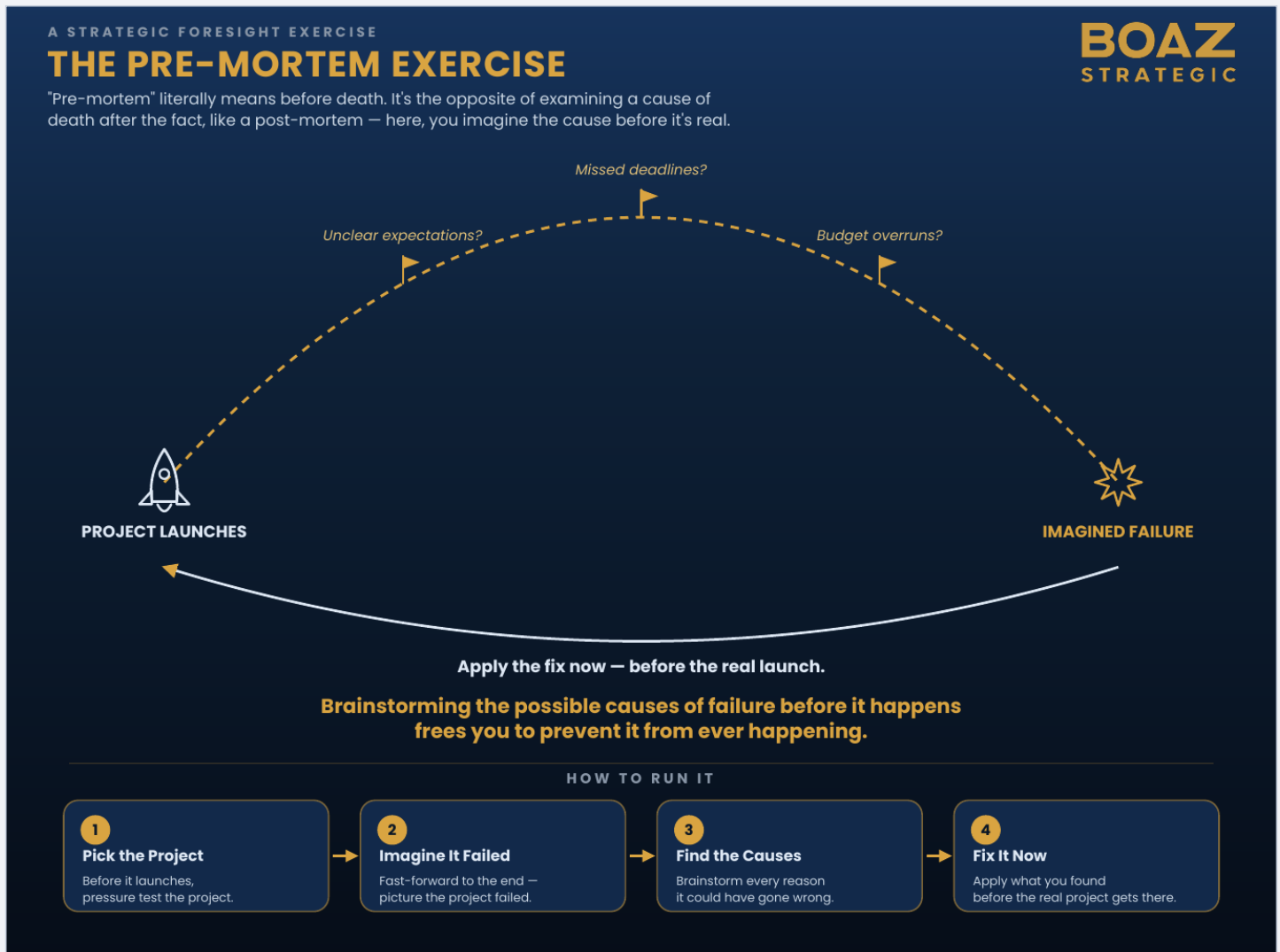


Preventing Project *Failure*

“ *What if you could plan for the success of a project by planning for its failure?* ”



You may have heard of a post-mortem: an examination of a dead body to determine the cause of death. The term literally means after death.

A pre-mortem is simply the opposite.

It determines the cause of death before anything ever reaches that point, and instead of examining a body, you examine a project. There are four steps to the exercise.

Pick your project. Then, before you launch it, imagine it has already failed. Find the cause of death — brainstorm every reason that could have caused the project to fail.

Naming the possible causes of failure before it happens is what lets you prevent it from ever happening at all.

Then fix it now. Apply what you learned about why the project died, long before it ever gets there.