

Content Creation for Non-art Majors

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April 11, 2024

Hi

Day Job:

Creative Director, Advocacy @ AHIP

Unpaid Jobs:

Board of Directors @ AIGA DC Vacation planner for 36-person friend group

Education:

B.S. Visual Communication Design, Stevenson University

Continuing education certificates: Yale School of Management, General Assembly, IDEO U, and many more.





About AHIP

AHIP is the national association whose members provide health care coverage, services, and solutions to hundreds of millions of Americans every day. We are committed to market-based solutions and publicprivate partnerships that make health care better and coverage more affordable and accessible for everyone.

Visit <u>AHIP.org</u> to learn how working together, we are Guiding Greater Health.

The Basics

Design Principles & Fundamentals

Color & Contrast

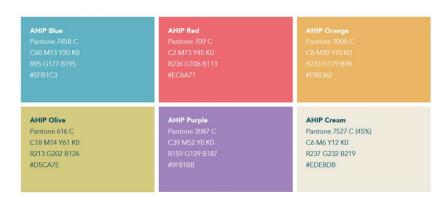
Best Practices:

- Stick to your brand's color palette!
- Limit designs to 2-3 colors:
 1-2 primary brand colors,
 1 accent/secondary color.
- Ensure contrast between background colors and font colors is sufficient for readability/accessibility.
 - Color contrast checker
- Be intentional with color use in relation to <u>color theory</u> and the emotional impact colors convey.

Color Palette: Primary Color System



Color Palette: Secondary Color System



Color Compositions:

- Pantone or PMS: Standardized colormatching system, primarily for print use.
- CMYK or 4-color: Print products
- RGB: Web, digital
- HEX: 6-digit code used for web and digital

Color Properties:

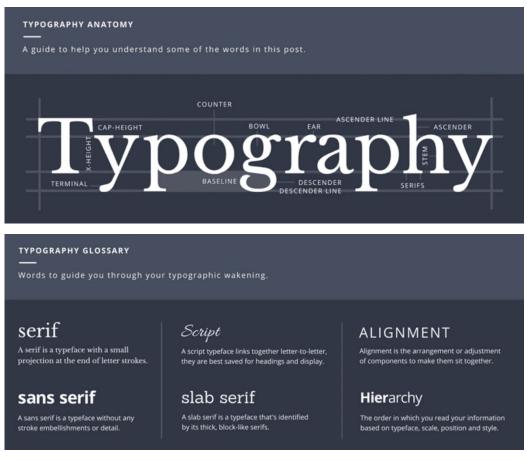
- Hue: Pure color
- Shade: Darken, add black
- Tint: Lighten, add white
- Tone: Intensity, add grey

Typography

Best Practices:

- Stick to your company's brand for font guidance. Often, they are specific about which font is for headings and which is for body copy.
- If picking fonts, choose two that are different but <u>pair well</u> <u>together</u> – often this is one serif and one sans-serif font, but not a requirement.
- Body copy should be easily digested, not a distraction.
 - Avoid narrow, thin, or decorative fonts.
 - Use <u>normal or positive leading</u> to give your copy breathing room.

**Remember: Downloaded fonts will not automatically carry over if your project is opened on another computer. Save your fonts with your project files!



https://www.canva.com/learn/the-ultimate-guide-to-font-pairing/

Grids & Balance

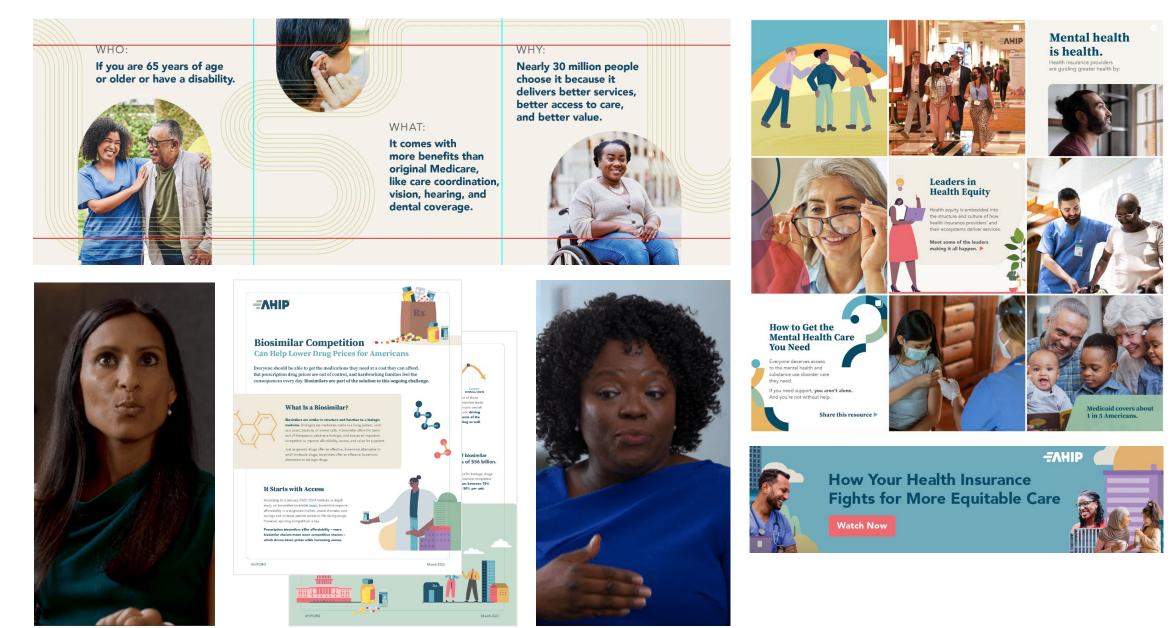
Best Practices:

- Grids are the backbone of design compositions in both print and digital media.
- Establish the grid in your composition to ensure consistent margins, spacing between elements, and alignment and to serve as a guide for <u>balance</u>.
- Grids are modular and flexible. Combine sections to establish a hierarchy.
- Bare minimum: use the <u>alignment tools</u> in the program you're using.

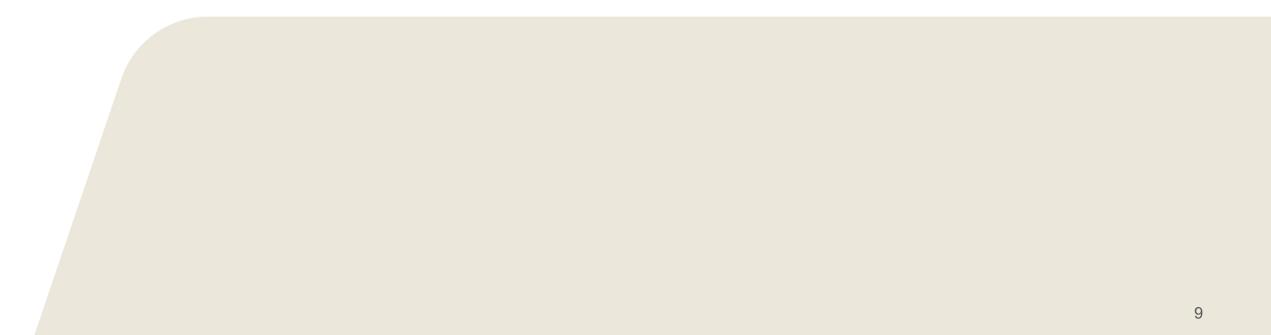


https://www.canva.com/learn/grid-design/

AHIP Examples



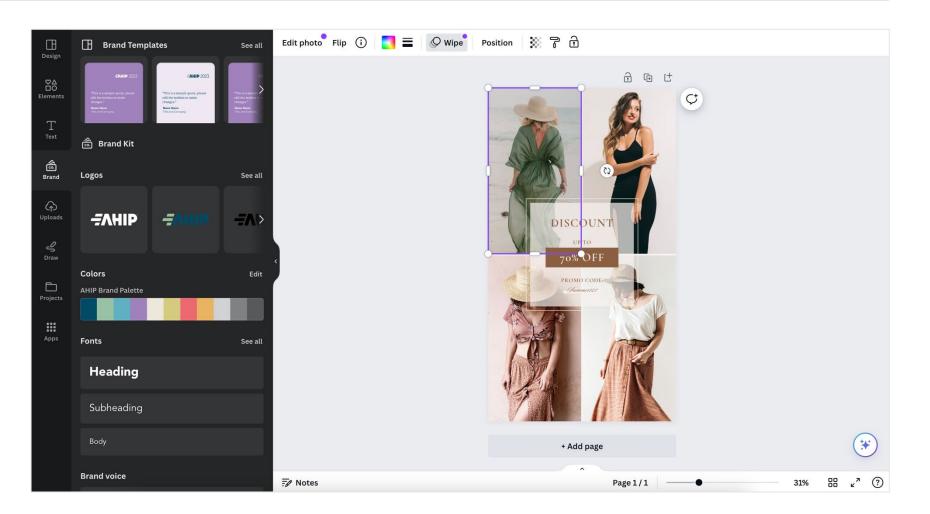
Tools & Resources



Canva

Canva.com

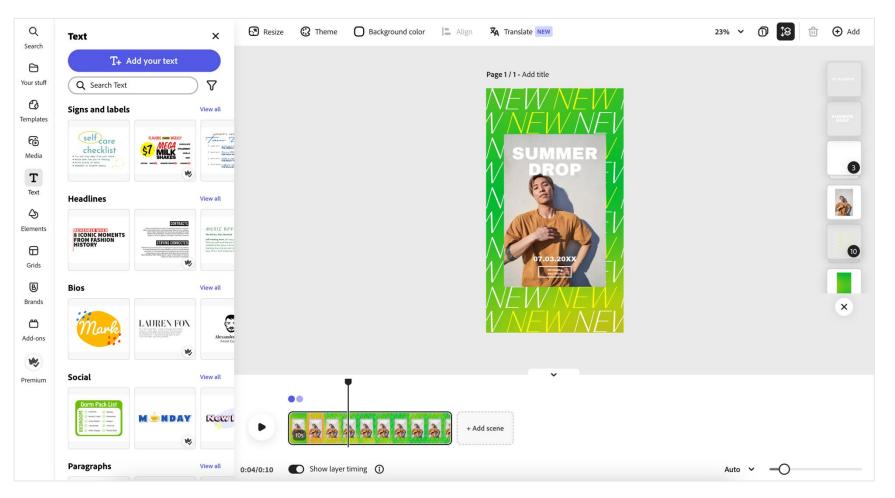
- Endless template options to get you started.
- The interface is very user-friendly.
- Customizations are easy to understand and apply.
- Premium accounts have access to brand kits: upload fonts, color palette, logos/graphics, and even create branded templates to use across your team.



Adobe Express

new.express.adobe.com

- Included with Adobe Creative Cloud account or available individually for a low monthly fee.
- Clean interface, but less intuitive for non-designers.
- Thousands of templates, grid layouts, and customizations available.
- Tools are familiar to those who use other Adobe Creative Cloud products.



Really into this whole design thing?

Work Like The Pros:

- Adobe Creative Cloud & Figma are the industry standards for design tools.
- Free training is available on YouTube and formal certificate courses are available to those seeking a more in-depth knowledge.

Courses:

- General Assembly
- Coursera
- Masterclass
- LinkedIn Learning
- IDEO U (design thinking)

Books:

- Thinking with Type, Ellen Lupton
- Grid Systems in Graphic Design, Josef Muller-Brockmann
- <u>How To</u>, Michael Bierut
- How to Think Like a Graphic Designer, Debbie Millman

Inspiration:

- Dribbble
- Behance
- Webby Awards
- GDUSA

More Resources

Fonts, Photos, Audio, & More:

- Google Fonts
- <u>Adobe Fonts</u> (requires login)
 - Font Packs
- <u>DaFont</u> Use with caution. Fonts are not created by typography experts and can be missing characters or malfunction.
- <u>Pexels</u> & <u>Unsplash</u> Royalty-free photography
- <u>Freepik</u> Endless templates, vector graphics, photos, and videos. Some paid, most free.
- <u>YouTube Audio Studio</u> Millions of free audio tracks. Ensure the licensing says "creative commons" before using.

Other:

- <u>50 Essential Free Resources</u>
- <u>The 5 Basic Principles of Graphic Design & Their</u> <u>Importance</u>
- <u>The Missing Guide to Grids</u>
- <u>A Guide to Common Aspect Ratios, Image Sizes, and</u>
 <u>Photograph Sizes</u>
- <u>Always up-to-date guide to social media image sizes</u>
- Image Licensing 101



Thank You

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