

Welcome to my tutorial on Adobe Illustrator! My name is Chris Yip, a rising sophomore and team leader for FeelGood BU. Illustrator, along with the other Adobe programs, are extremely useful tools in Global App Initiative's arsenal. In this blog, I plan to cover the design basics that I learned over the past year and that I incorporated into my application. Let's get started:

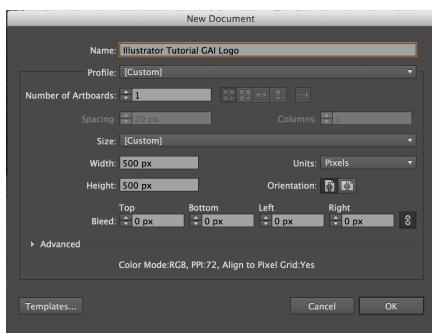
So, why use Illustrator? AI is useful because of its ability to create vector images, as opposed to pixel based. Pixel image size can only be manipulated so much before the image becomes distorted and falls apart. Vector images, on the other hand, can be changed without compromising the image quality. This is especially useful for app design; for example, screen sizes differ.

What can I use Illustrator for? Anything! With a little imagination and dedication, you can design your app to look exactly the way you want it to. My team's application was

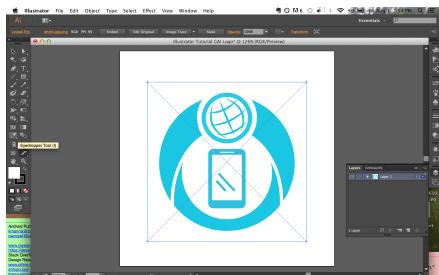
designed almost entirely on Illustrator. The ability to draw your own designs greatly increased the complexity and aesthetics of your product.

Everything you see above was created by hand on Illustrator!

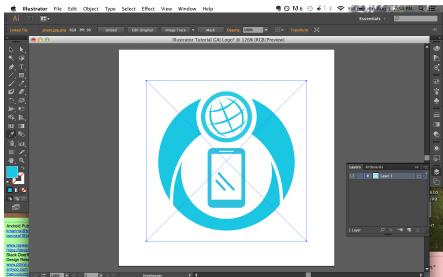
Let's get started...



We're going to start off creating our document by going to **File, New... (F+N)**. Name your project, then press OK. This is where you would adjust the size of your project and other details, but we can ignore those for this basic tutorial

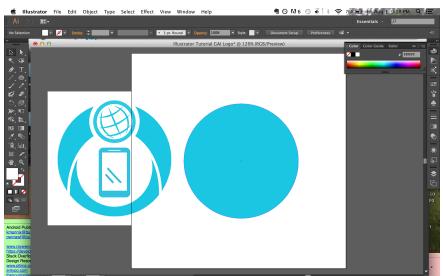


I saved a copy of the GAI logo on my desktop to use as reference. Go to **File, Place**, then drag the image to your desired size while holding down your cursor, then releasing. Hold down the **shift** key to keep the image's proportions as you resize it.



Nab that signature blue by using the **eyedropper tool** and clicking on any area colored blue. Notice that the square on the left that was white is now blue. You can save up to two colors by clicking on the arrow to the right of the square to choose the other color. The eyedropper tool is very helpful for building a client's app, especially if their organization already has their own logo or color scheme. For example,

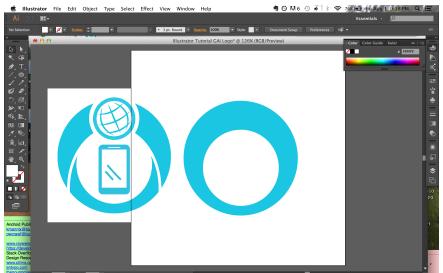
the green color in my group's FeelGood app background is taken directly from FeelGood's national logo.



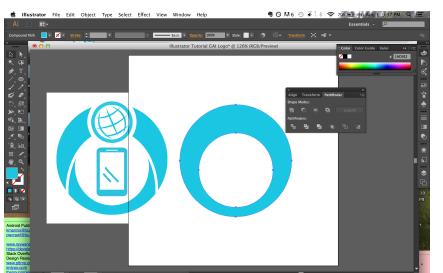
I'm going to create the main circle by selecting the **ellipse tool** (hold down the icon where my cursor is to see more tools).

*Like I mentioned before, I made the shape a perfect circle by holding down the **shift key** to maintain proportion. You can also move the shape about by holding down the **space bar**. By doing this, I could check the size of the circle compared to the GAI logo, then dragged it over and*

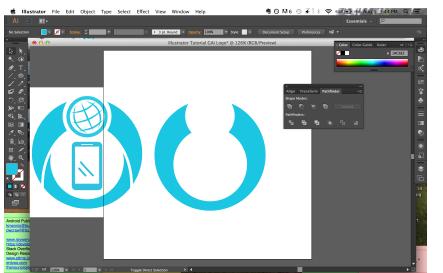
released my cursor to complete the shape. These keys are extremely helpful in illustrator and will be used often.



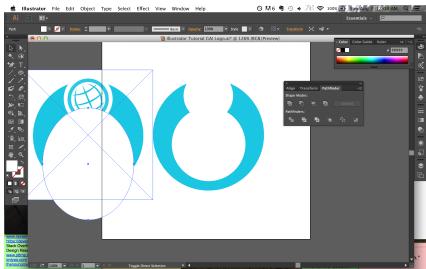
I created another white circle by switching the color by clicking the spectrum to white and dragging it into place using the logo as reference. Now for some craziness.



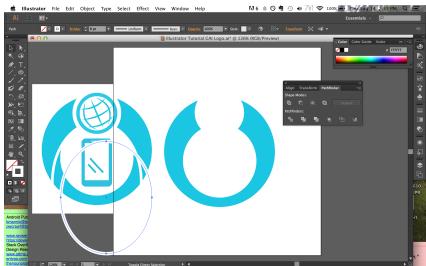
Go to **Window, Pathfinder, then click Minus Front**. You will now notice that I have one combined shape rather than two. *Note: although I could have left the white circle, layers play an important role in Adobe programs; too many layers gets really messy, especially since we still need to make the phone within the circle.*



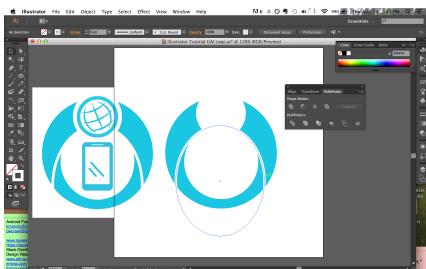
Using the same technique, I added removed this section of the ring.



This next step is brought to you by your wonderful education designer, Darryl Johnson. I made this ellipse in the shape of the white area with the phone and continuing down the two white arcs, if that makes sense.

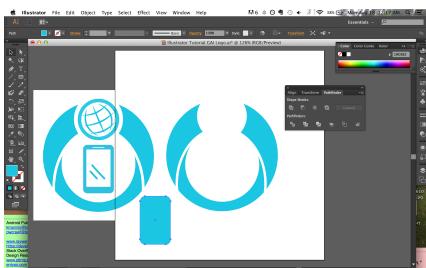


Next, I made the ellipse clear by changing the **opacity** to **100%** (at the top toolbar) and increasing the **stroke** (border) to what I thought fit, 6pt. Now with a little eyeballing I reshaped the ring to what looks like matched the original logo.



With some more eyeballing it looks pretty good.

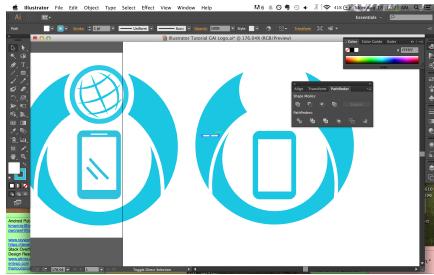
Note: If you've dragged the ring over, but can't see the little arc part, that means it's the bottom layer, similar to a stack of papers if you will. right click the ring, go to arrange, then bring to front. Now you should be able to see it.



To make the phone, go to the **rounded rectangle** icon and drag to size. Use the green alignment aids to place it in the circle.



I used the normal **rectangle** tool to make the screen, changing the color to white. (sorry about the toolbar in the way)



I used a **rounded rectangle** shape to make the ear speaker. Due to the size of the shape, I found it easier to make the shape by comparing it to the image and using the **arrow keys** to shift the shape all the way over.



To make the reflections I used the **rounded rectangle** shape again and rotated it using the **rotate tool**.



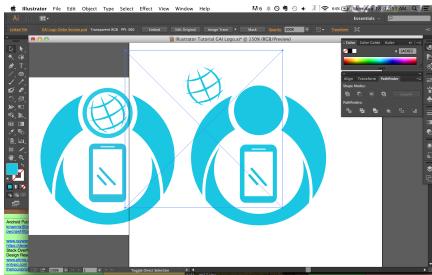
By holding down the **alt key**, you can duplicate a shape when you drag and drop it.



With a little resizing and moving, our phone is complete.



The globe is made with a standard circle. You pros should be able to figure this one out. I have faith in you.



So as much as I'd love to painstakingly create the latitude and longitude lines on the globe, I used photoshop to cut the globe out of the image and paste it onto our replica. Hmm... now where can we find a photoshop tutorial to learn how to do that?



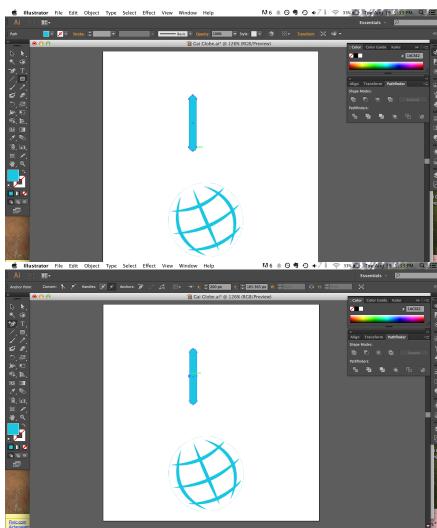
Align the lines with the blue circle...



...and you've successfully recreated the GAI logo and learned some fundamental Adobe Illustrator skills in the process. Look at you! Proud of you, champ. Now go out there and make an awesome app.

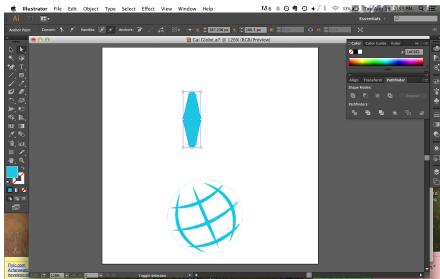
Challenge: If you're up for it, I'll show you one more skill you can use to create the globe by hand.

So this section will teach you to draw more freehand as opposed to combining shapes. To do this we will use and modify **anchors**.

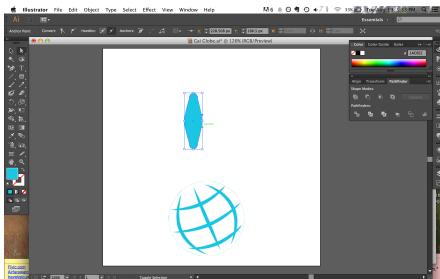


I'll demonstrate how I'd go about creating the center longitude line. First I made a long, skinny rounded rectangle shape.

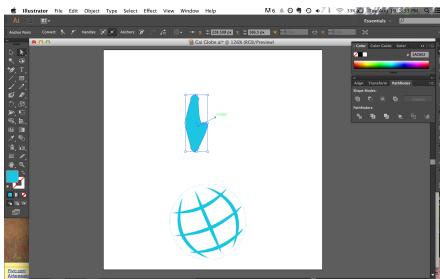
To add an **anchor point**, go to the **pen tool** and hold it down to open up more options. You should see the **add anchor point tool**. Go ahead and click along the perimeter of the shape, the center of the long side. You'll see another square pop up. This is your anchor.



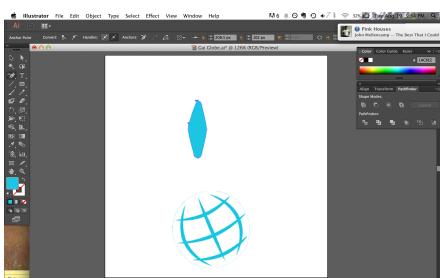
I added another one on the other side. Now by selecting the **direct selection tool**, the **white arrow**, you can “pull” the anchors to modify the shape of the object. Notice that I grabbed the center anchors and pulled them out to create this diamond shape.



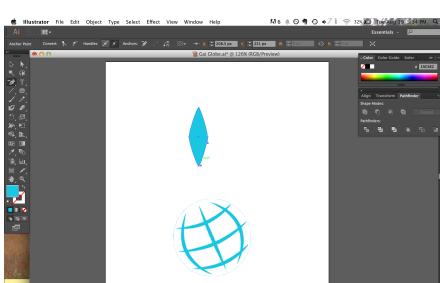
Now if you go click the anchor, you’ll notice that the top toolbar changes. Go to convert and change the anchor point to smooth. The vertex should now be rounded off as opposed to a sharp point.



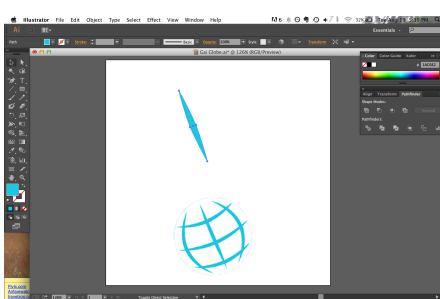
See those two lines that appear like antennae? You can grab them to change the shape like so. We won’t be using them but I just thought I’d point them out.



Mah boi John. Don’t hate on mah jamz k? Go back to the pen tool and use the **delete anchor point tool** to remove the points to the left and right of the top and bottom most anchors.



You should see a more tapered top and bottom. To finish off the shape I’m going to stretch it out to the right shape. Then, I’ll go to the bottom of the shape until I see a double-ended curved arrow. Then I can hold it down to rotate. This is a **shortcut** to the previous way of rotating that I showed before.



I think this looks pretty similar. Every other line is unique so its a matter of modifying the anchors and shape of the object until you get the look you want.

