

1.



Activity introduction

This activity will help you create paper wireframes, which are outlines or sketches of a product or a screen. For this project, you'll start out with sketching (drawing) wireframes. Later, after you finish the paper wireframes and receive feedback on them, you'll use design and prototyping tools to create a digital version.

You learned about sketching wireframes earlier in the certificate program, but if any of this information seems unfamiliar to you or you need to review the basics about creating paper wireframes, review materials from

[Course 3 Build Wireframes and Low-Fidelity Designs](#).

For this project, you'll be creating a responsive web design, which allows a website to change automatically depending on the size of the device. As your designs develop and you create digital designs later, the content, layout, and UI elements will be adapted for each set of wireframes.

It's important to experiment with your designs and potential layouts for your responsive website. The homepage is the most important page of your website. After the homepage is complete, you can build on the design to create wireframes for the other pages of the website. For this activity, you will:

Sketch four versions of the initial layout for the homepage.

Place a star next to the best sections of each of the four wireframes.

Combine the starred sections from each wireframe to create a single homepage.

After the homepage designs are complete, repeat the same steps to build the paper wireframes for the rest of the pages on your website!



Step-by-step instructions

To build the paper wireframes for your portfolio project, follow the instructions below:

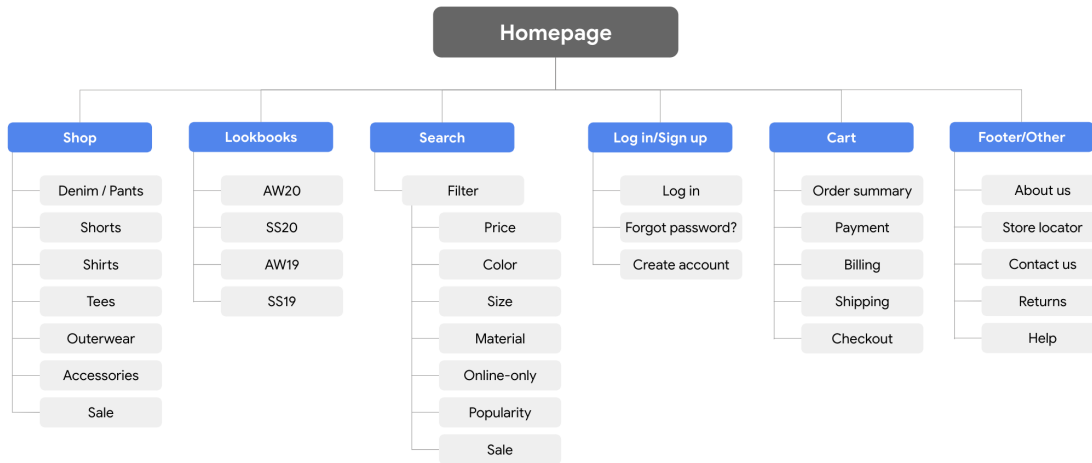
Step 1: Start with pen and paper

Wireframes are an important step in starting to build the basic outline of your website. The best part is you only need a few sheets of grid paper and a pen to get started.

Step 2: Focus on which elements to include based on the sitemap

Remember, a sitemap is a diagram of a website or application that shows how pages are prioritized, linked, and labeled. You should have created one earlier for the "Build a sitemap for your website" activity. If you haven't done so already, we recommend that you complete the sitemap activity.

Here's an example of a sitemap that was created earlier for the clothing store website Tee's Shirts:



Using the information from the sitemap, you'll start to fill the page in with the following three basic elements: lines, shapes (like rectangles and circles), and text.

Step 3: Draw the content and layout with the elements

Now you're ready to start sketching the four versions of the homepage!

To begin creating the wireframes:

Draw a rectangle on a piece of paper to represent the homepage.

Start filling in the rectangle with placeholders, shapes, lines, or text that hold the place for visual or UI elements that will be filled in later.

Generally, text is represented by horizontal lines. Images, illustrations, photos, or icons are usually represented by a rectangle with an X overlapping the rectangle. These represent placeholders that will be filled with images or components later when you convert the paper wireframes into digital wireframes.

For now, it's okay to just indicate where they will be on the page. Finally, some rectangles or squares with text inside will indicate call-to-action (a visual prompt that tells the user to take an action) buttons. The large NEXT button at the bottom of a web page is a good example of a common call-to-action button. Sometimes you will hear this referred to as a CTA.

Repeat this step three times to create *four homepage wireframes*.

Step 4: Choose the best parts of the four sketches

After you create a few wireframe sketches, study them and decide on the best sections of each wireframe. You can mark your favorite elements with a star.

Step 5: Identify starred elements and use them to create a new paper wireframe of your homepage

Now that you have four versions of your homepage already created, you can use the variations to combine the elements you starred to create one website homepage. When you're finished, you should have a new homepage made from all the elements you starred.

Step 6: Repeat steps 3-5 for the remaining pages of your website

Next, apply the same process to the rest of your wireframes. Review the variations of each page, and turn them into a single wireframe. Remember to use only the elements you starred in the previous activity to create each wireframe. When you're finished, you should have one set of wireframes made from the elements you starred to represent your entire website. Next, you'll refine your design and plan for adaptive screen sizes.