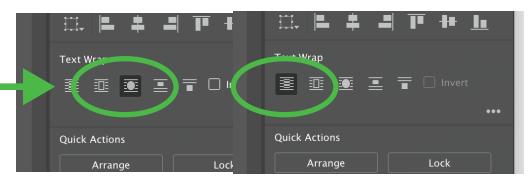
1.

When I try adding a blue rectangle background to artboard 1, this is what I see. The margin around the shape is telling me there is a text-wrap applied (when placed within a body of text, the text will be pushed to the margin).



With the rectangle selected, go to the Text Wrap panel. You'll probably see the text-wrap icon highlighted, like this.

Select the icon for No Wrap, like in this example.

2.



Now you'll probably see this white rectangle. This means the text box has a white fill applied.



Go up to the options bar and choose no fill. Now it should have no stroke and no fill. Note: if you don't see the options bar at the top, go to the upper right corner and choose "Essentials Classic" for your work view.