

Module 10 Response Paper

Any information being exchanged to receive a product or service is very important and you just can't have one static form that you think is okay for all websites. Questions will vary, what is required will vary, the length, even the style will vary every single time you make one. What you must do is evaluate your audience first to know what their needs and attitudes are before anything else. And it can be difficult to design for because often web designers are focused on designing how content will rest on the page. But with forms, it is a very focused activity that is only used once.

Users zoom their focus in on forms, often times looking for feedback from the website in order to know what to do. Reading content is very free form (excuse the pun) but form is much more focused on tasks that must be completed, not necessarily in order but correctly. Users have a luxury of being able to view whatever content they want to at any time. They can dip in and out of paragraphs. However, with a form they risk losing information and doing something wrong which increases their interaction time but also their frustration.

In fact, you should differentiate the creation of data and the destruction of data. The author actually says that a button for submitting/creating data is good while a link for destruction for data is also good. The difference in the look of those two elements will help a user pause before their decision and consider the possibility and repercussion of what is about to happen. The difference between a link and a button is affordance: a button yearns to be clicked but a link is an optional click. And when the two are placed in close proximity, this can prompt users to less often hit cancel or clear so their information is never lost. You also can't just count on color to differentiate these things. Including CSS elements like box shadow and border can give buttons a raised appearance. In conjunction with a "flat UI", these buttons can appear to burst out of the screen and increase affordance.