

# DESIGN for HACKERS

What is Design?

“Design is not just what it  
looks like and feels like.  
Design is **how it works**”

- Steve Jobs

DESIGN is to  
DESIGN the  
DESIGN of a  
DESIGN.

term ← DESIGN is to  
DESIGN the  
DESIGN of a  
DESIGN.

term



DESIGN is to

process



DESIGN the

DESIGN of a

DESIGN.

term ← DESIGN is to  
process ← DESIGN the  
architecture ← DESIGN of a  
DESIGN.

term ← DESIGN is to  
process ← DESIGN the  
architecture ← DESIGN of a  
product ← DESIGN.



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looks like and feels like.  
Design is **how it works**”

- Steve Jobs

“Design is a method of  
problem solving.”

- Dieter Rams

Why should **you** care?

Learning to “***see***” through the lens of design is one of the most useful tools to add to your cognitive portfolio.

It will enable you to appreciate good design, hate bad design, and give you the means to leverage design in your favor.

# Examples of **bad** design

1

OFFICIAL BALLOT, GENERAL ELECTION  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
NOVEMBER 7, 2000

ELECTORS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT	
(REPUBLICAN) GEORGE W. BUSH PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY VICE PRESIDENT	3 →
(DEMOCRATIC) AL GORE PRESIDENT JOE LIEBERMAN VICE PRESIDENT	5 →
(LIBERTARIAN) HARRY BROWNE PRESIDENT ART OLIVIER VICE PRESIDENT	7 →
(GREEN) RALPH NADER PRESIDENT WINONA LA DUKE VICE PRESIDENT	9 →
(SOCIALIST WORKERS) JAMES HARRIS PRESIDENT MARGARET TROWE VICE PRESIDENT	11 →
(NATURAL LAW) JOHN HAGELIN PRESIDENT NAT GOLDHABER VICE PRESIDENT	13 →

(A vote for the candidates will actually be a vote for their electors.)  
(Vote for Group)

OFFICIAL BALLOT, GENERAL ELECTION  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA  
NOVEMBER 7, 2000

(REFORM) PAT BUCHANAN PRESIDENT EZOLA FOSTER VICE PRESIDENT	← 4
(SOCIALIST) DAVID McREYNOLDS PRESIDENT MARY CAL HOLLES VICE PRESIDENT	← 6
(CONSTITUTION) HOWARD PHILLIPS PRESIDENT J. CURTIS FRAZIER VICE PRESIDENT	← 8
(WORKERS WORLD) MONICA MOOREHEAD PRESIDENT GLORIA LA RIVA VICE PRESIDENT	← 10
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE To vote for a write-in candidate, follow the directions on the long stub of your ballot card.	

# Examples of **bad** design

5237 people in Palm Beach County alone voted for both Pat Buchanan and Al Gore and were therefore invalidated

George Bush won Florida (and therefore the presidency) by **537 votes**.

# Examples of **bad** design

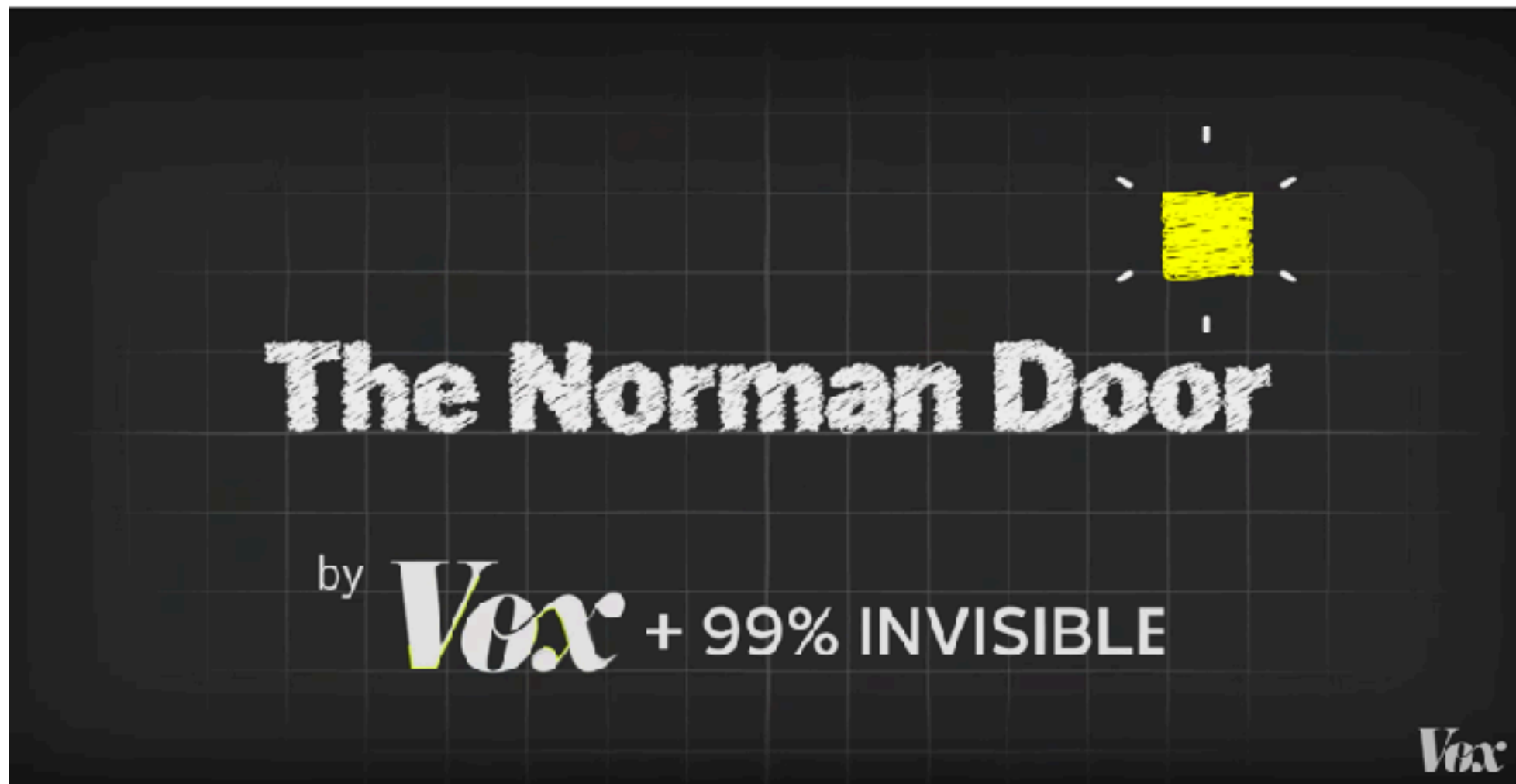


# Examples of **bad** design





# Examples of **bad** design



# Good design

The best designs are notorious for seeming not designed at all – or ‘undesigned’.

# Good design

innovative

unobtrusive

honest

understandable

long-lasting

aesthetic

useful

as little as possible

# Good design

innovative

unobtrusive

honest

understandable

long-lasting

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useful

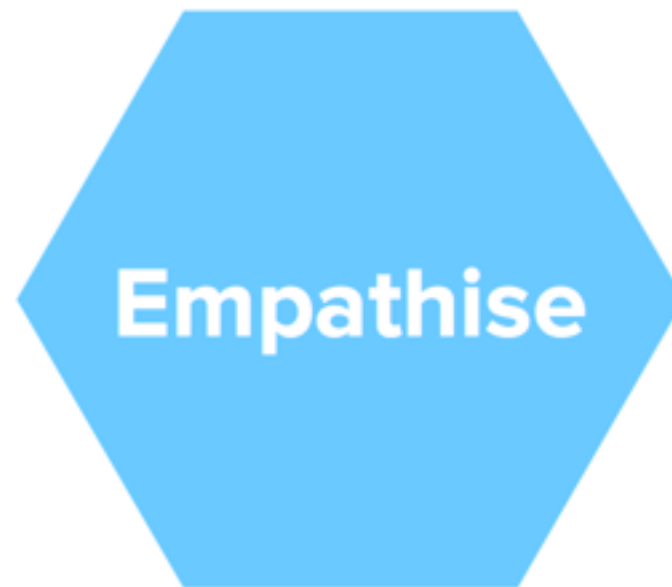
as little as possible

# Design Thinking

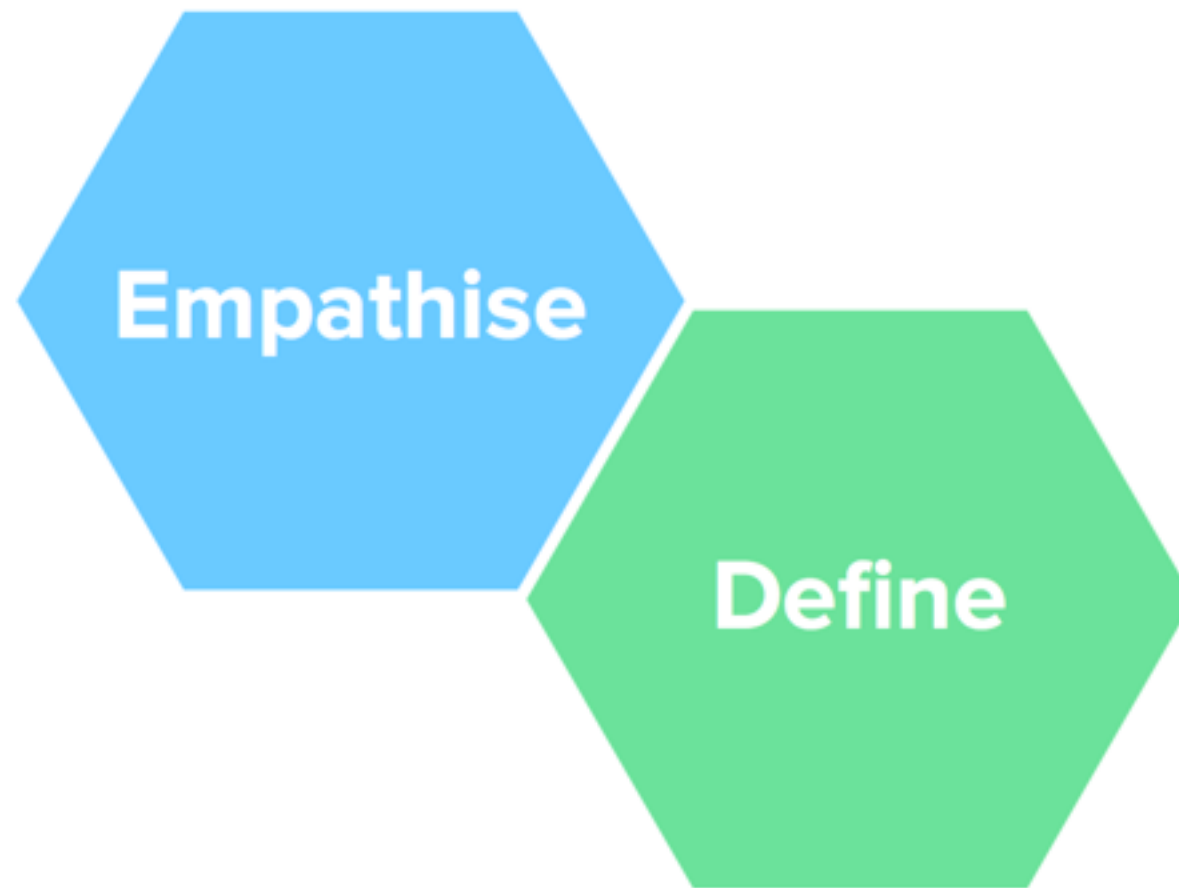
# Design Thinking

An approach to creating innovative solutions that solve complex problems in HCI, organizations, education, business, and society.

# Design Thinking

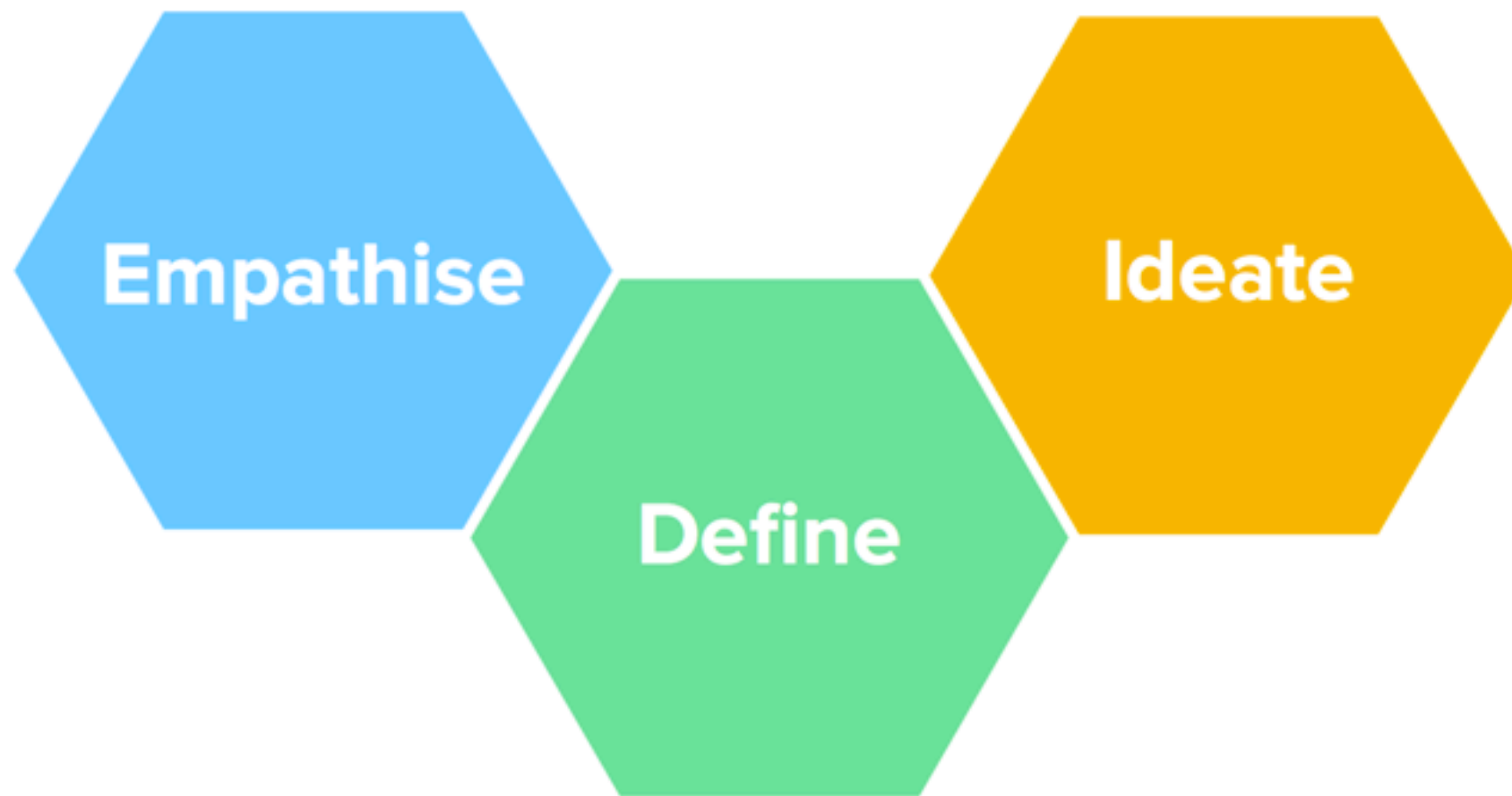


# Design Thinking

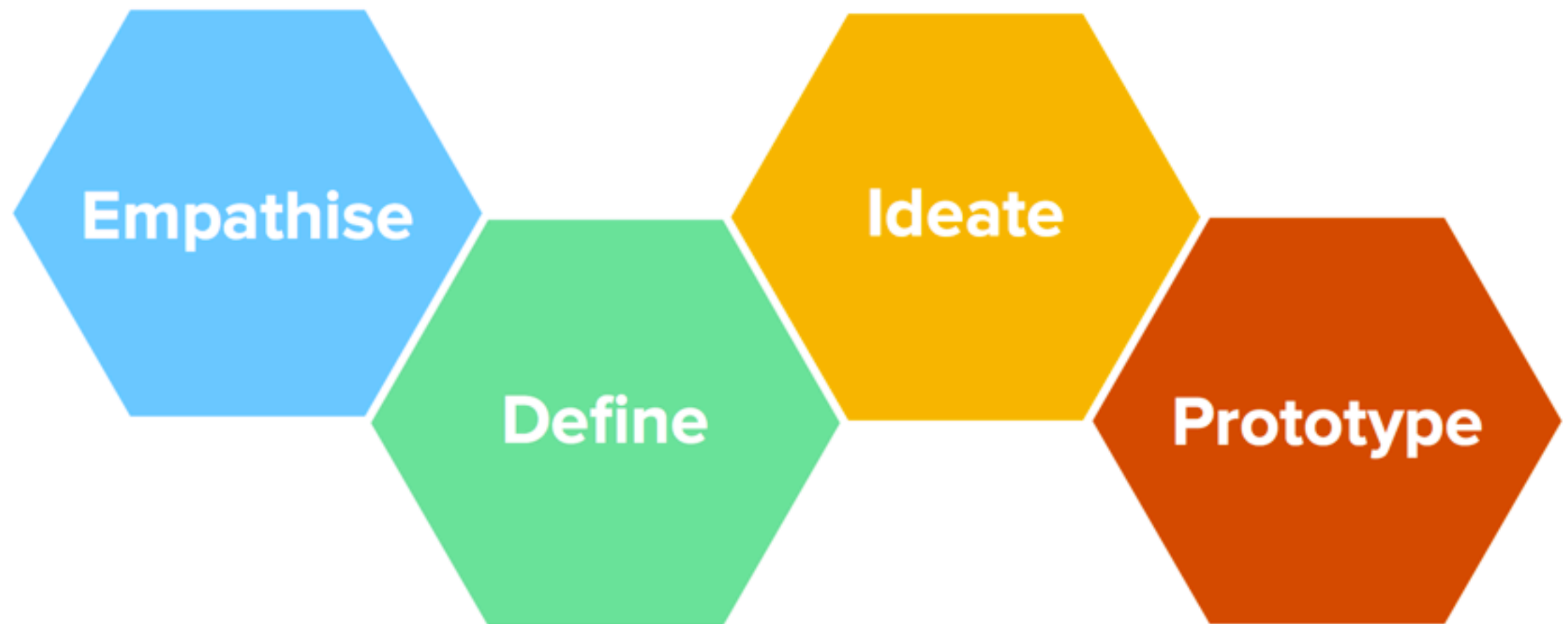




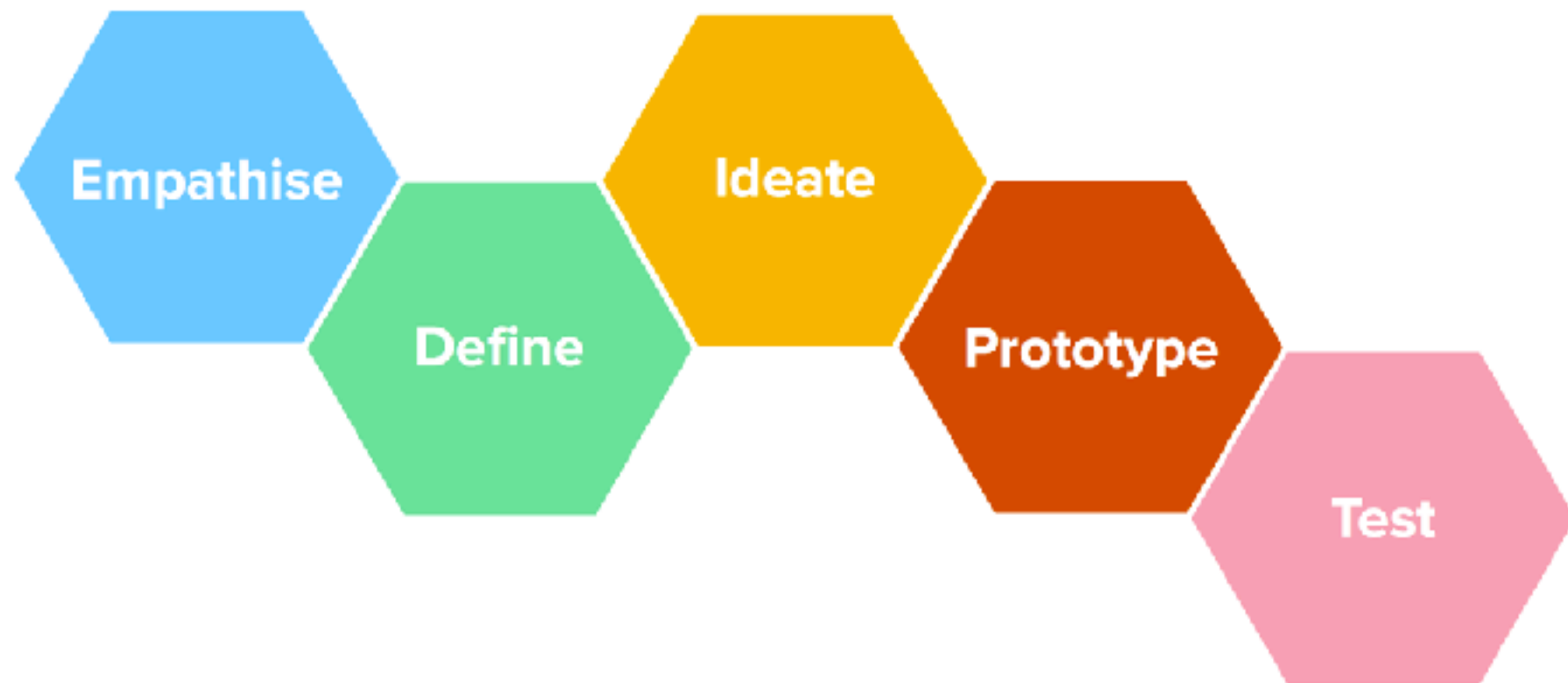
# Design Thinking



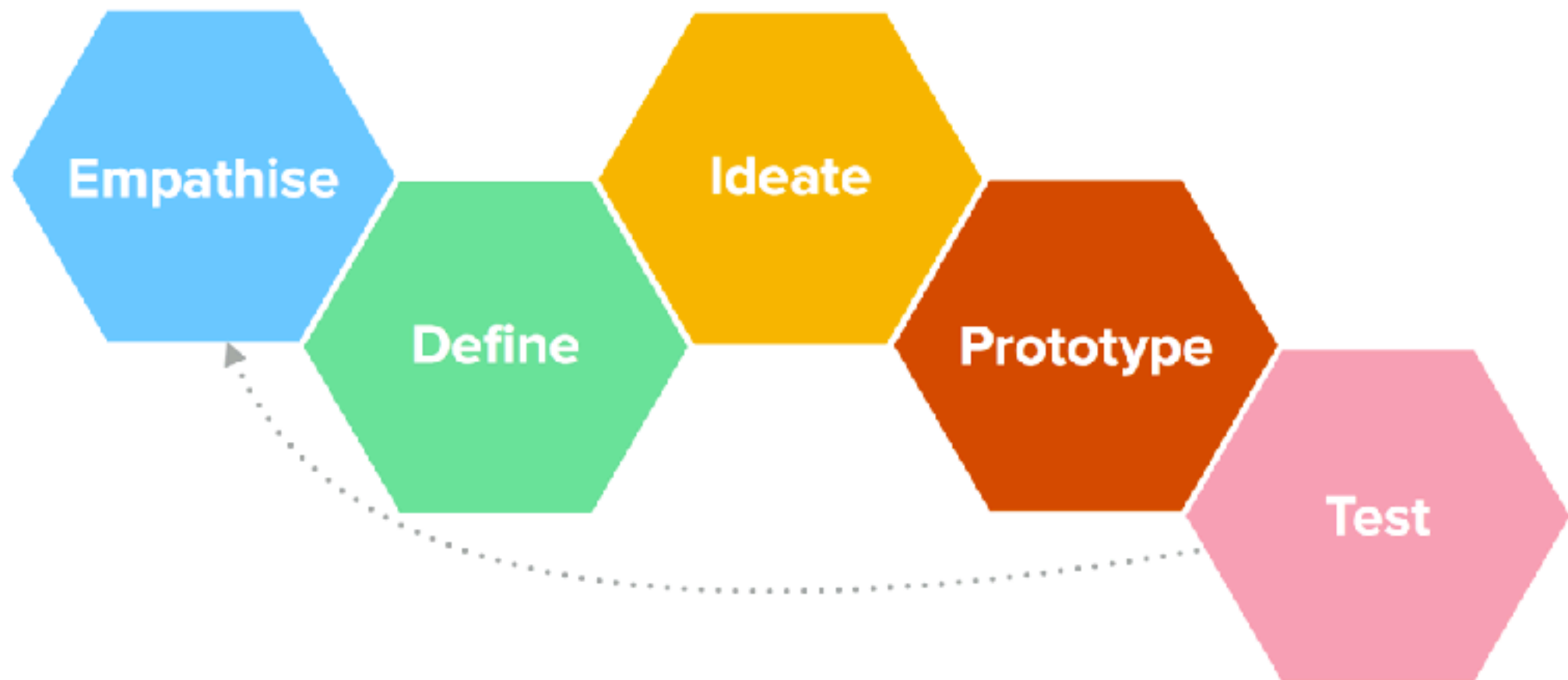
# Design Thinking



# Design Thinking



# Design Thinking



# **HACKS** for Visual Design

# Gestalt's Laws

Proximity

Similarity

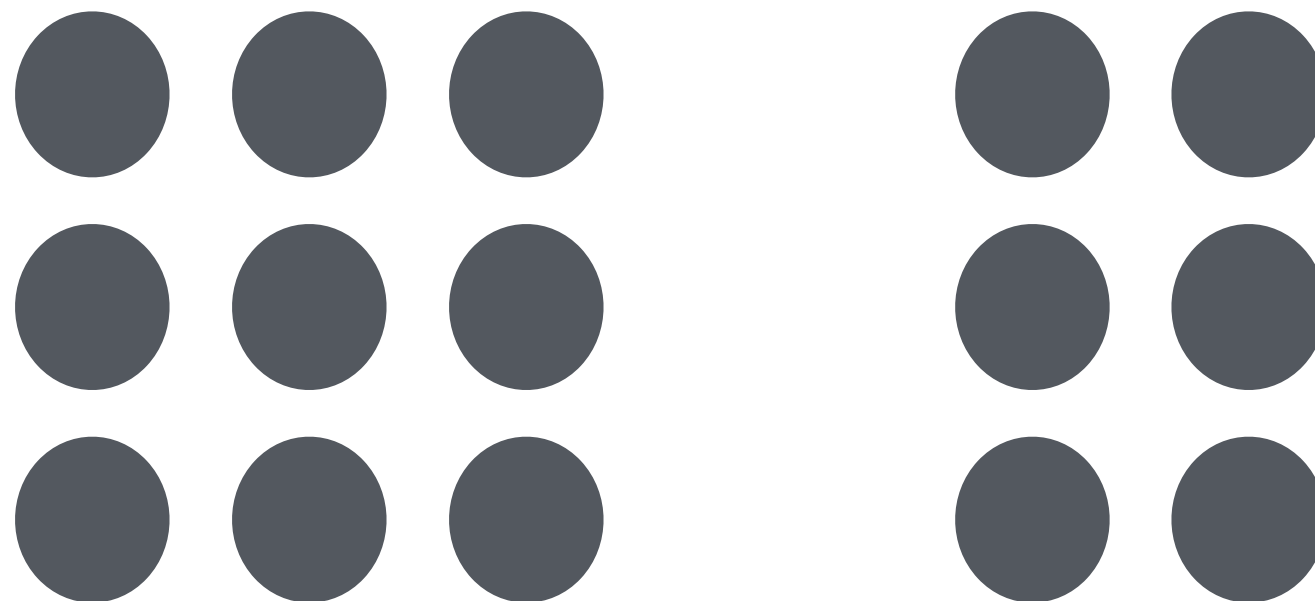
Inverse

Closure

Figure/ Ground

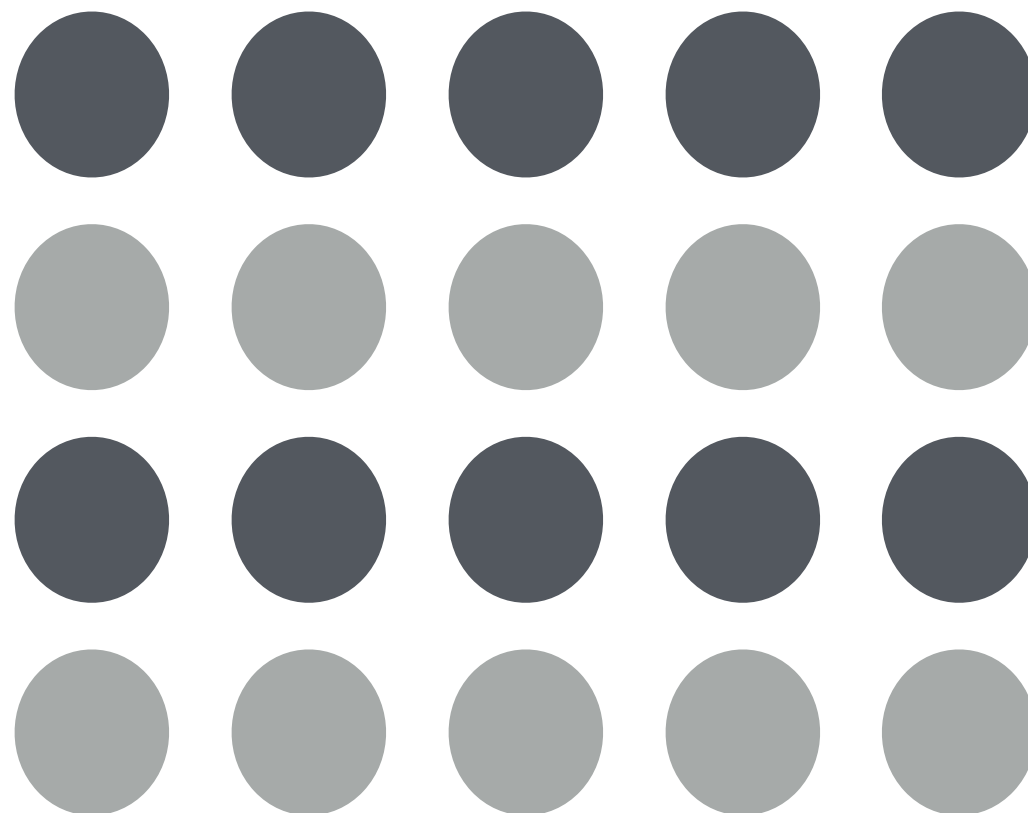
# Proximity -

Elements that are placed close together tend to be perceived as a group.



Similarity -

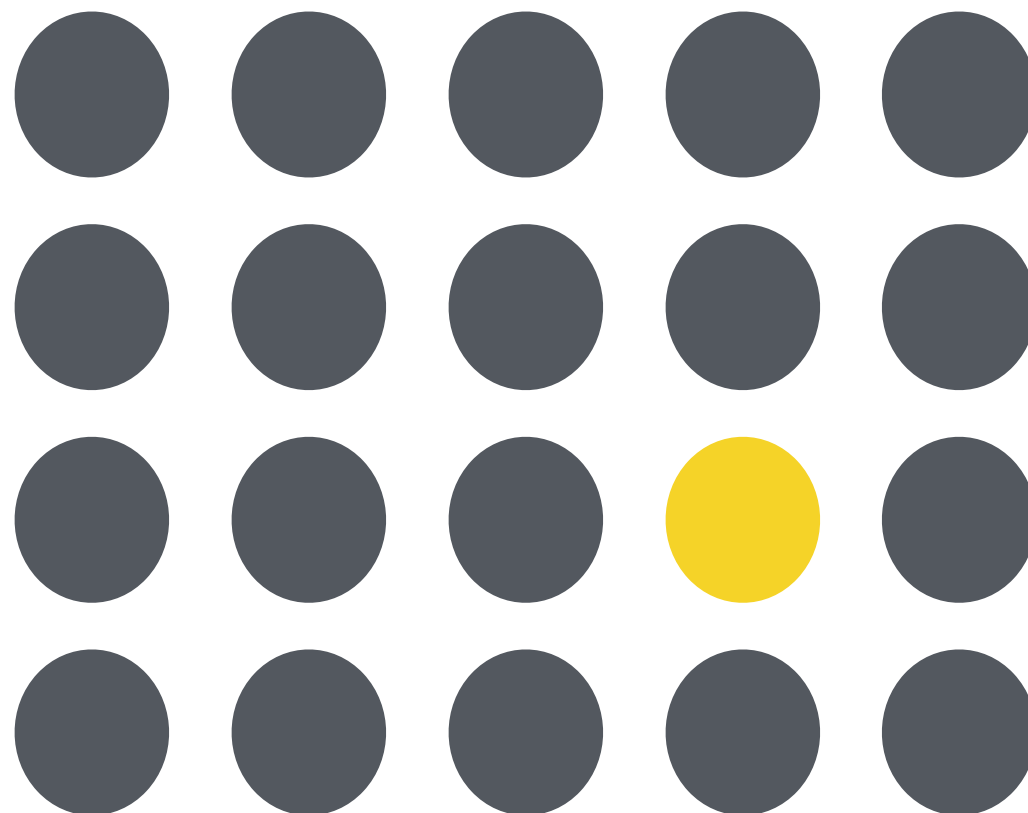
Objects that look similar to one another are perceived as a group or pattern





Inverse -

An object can be emphasized if it is *dissimilar* to the others. This is called **anomaly**



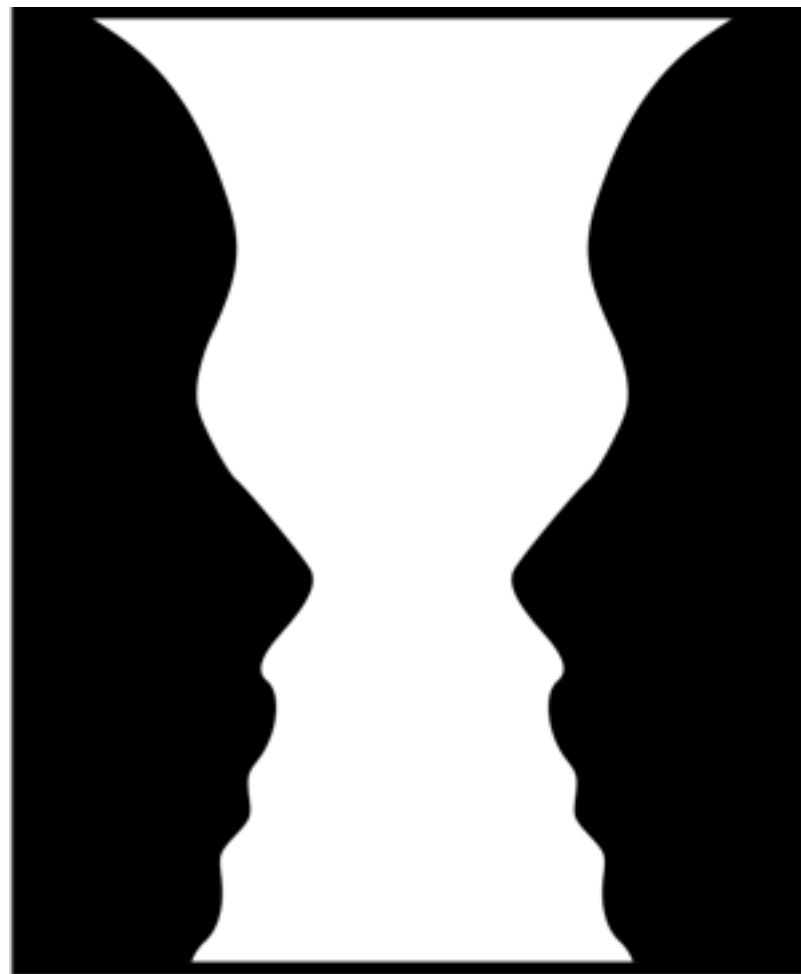
## Closure -

*Closure* occurs when an object is *incomplete* or a space is not *completely enclosed*. If enough of the shape is indicated, people perceive the whole by filling in the missing information.



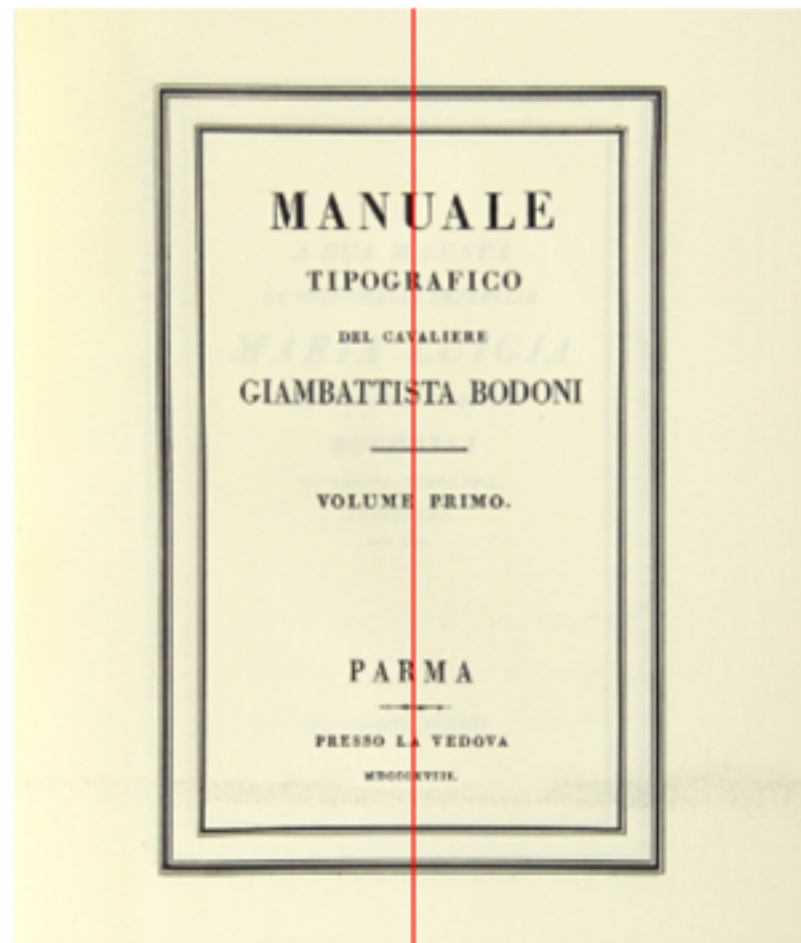
## Figure/ Ground -

The eye differentiates an object from its surrounding area. a form, silhouette, or shape is naturally perceived as **figure** (object), while the surrounding area is perceived as **ground** (background).



# Other Tips

# Symmetry



# Asymmetry



# Asymmetry

The screenshot displays a Facebook interface with a blue header bar. The search bar at the top contains the text "Search for people, places and things". The left sidebar features the user's profile "Kritika Duxad" and a list of shortcuts including "The Great Indian Drama", "HH Bots", "Contagious Curry Me", "Illinois AUP", "Adva UIUC Presents", "Cash da Tween", "The Great Indian Drama", and "Berkley India 2019". The main content area shows a post by "David Pollak" in two groups, featuring a video of students and a text update from the "University of Illinois Student Alumni Ambassadors" group. The right sidebar lists contacts and group conversations.

Facebook interface showing a post by David Pollak. The post includes a video of students and a text update from the University of Illinois Student Alumni Ambassadors group. The interface also displays a sidebar with shortcuts and a right sidebar with contacts and group conversations.

# Asymmetry





# Scale

scale can be used to draw

**attention**

or create

**surprise!**

# Hierarchy

signals of separation

# Hierarchy

Think with the Senses.

Feel with the Mind.

Art in the Present Tense

Venice Biennale

52nd International Art Exhibition

10 June - 21 November

National and Regional Pavilions  
and Presentations.

Parallel Exhibitions and Projects

# Hierarchy

Think with the Senses.  
Feel with the Mind.  
Art in the Present Tense

## **Venice Biennale**

52nd International Art Exhibition  
10 June - 21 November

National and Regional Pavilions  
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# Hierarchy

Think with the Senses.  
Feel with the Mind.  
Art in the Present Tense

## Venice Biennale

52nd International Art  
Exhibition

10 June - 21 November

National and Regional  
Pavilions

and Presentations.

Parallel Exhibitions and  
Projects

# Grids

add consistency to the  
layout

organize contents in a  
rhythmic way

# Your Name

Profession  
City, State

your.name@example.com  
111-222-3333  
www.your-website.com

## SUMMARY

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Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipisicing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Job Title**  
**Company Name**, Location  
Jan 2013 – Dec 2013

Facillimum id quidem est, inquam. Sin kakan malitiam dixisses, ad aliud nos unum certum vitium consuetudo Latina traduceret.

- Hoc sic expositum dissimile est superiori. Haec mihi videtur delicatior, ut ita dicam, molliorque ratio, quam virtutis vis gravitasque postulat.
- Et quidem iure fortasse, sed tamen non gravissimum est testimonium

# Krishna Dusad

krusad2@illinois.edu • (312) 964-6163

Deepset: [deepset.com/krishnadusad](https://deepset.com/krishnadusad)  
Github: [github.com/krishnadusad](https://github.com/krishnadusad)  
Research: [research.fb.com/krishnadusad](https://research.fb.com/krishnadusad)

## EDUCATION

**University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign**  
B.S. in Computer Science  
(Fall '15 to Spring '18)  
Concentration in Big Data and Intelligence  
Minor in Statistics  
Cumulative GPA: 3.74  
Honors: Dean's List, James Scholar

## SKILLS

Proficient: C++, Python, R, JavaScript, SQL,  
HTML, CSS, MongoDB, NodeJS, AngularJS,  
TensorFlow, RGE  
Familiar: LaTeX, Verilog, Swift, MIPS,  
Haskell, Java.

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK

**Computer Science:**  
Data Driven Design (Graduate)\*  
AI for Autonomous Vehicles (Graduate)\*  
Applied Machine Learning\*  
Algorithms & Models of Computation  
Foundations of Data Science  
Data Structures and Software Principles  
Discrete Structures  
Computer Architecture  
Introduction to Programming  
Database Systems  
Art & Science of Web Development

## Design:

User Interface Design (CS)  
Design Studio  
Experience & Meaning in Design

## Statistics:

Introduction to Probability Theory  
Advanced Statistics & Probability

(\*) - Currently Taking

## EXPERIENCE

**Undergraduate Researcher** Spring 2017  
Data Driven Design Group Champaign, Illinois  
• Working to test the relevance of current rating/ranking methods such as Wilson's Score across various domains and try to formulate some theory on rankings around RL.

**Software Engineering Intern** Summer 2016  
National Center for Supercomputing Applications Champaign, Illinois  
• Led project to design and develop a web app using G3.js to extract and visualize provenance information of research objects in the Illinois Data Bank through Graphs.  
• Was amongst top 6 interns recognized by the Director for achieving the maximum progress (Out of 30+ interns).

**Course Assistant** Spring 2017 & Fall 2016  
Introduction to Computer Science Champaign, Illinois  
• Lead discussion, hold office hours and answer queries in an online forum to help students with concepts, coding code and clear doubts.

## INVOLVEMENT

**Autonomous Underwater Vehicle** Spring 2017 & Fall 2016  
Founding Member Champaign, Illinois  
• Helped start a student-run organization to build a fully autonomous submarine to compete at the RoboSub International Competition in San Diego.  
• Working on localization using LSL-SLAM.

**NCSA Student Advisory Board** Spring 2017 & Fall 2016  
Founding Member Champaign, Illinois  
• Part of the student board created to spread awareness about NCSA's student programs on campus and increase outreach in minority and underrepresented groups.

## SELECTED PROJECTS

**Alfred** (Github Link) 2016  
Your friendly, reliable secretary. Winner: Virus Research Prize  
• Created a chatbot to manage group events, scheduled meetings on company calendar, send text, call and email reminders/announcements from within the chat app based on commands and keyword detection and web hooks.

**Embark** (Hack Links) 2016  
Travel solutions beyond the ordinary. Winner: Best Use of Amazon's API  
• Created an app which went from shortlisting possible travel location to looking for the cheapest flight tickets, airline/train tickets, hotel deals and finally planning your whole trip all in 5 simple steps.

# Your Name

[your.name@example.com](mailto:your.name@example.com)  
111-222-3333  
[www.your-website.com](http://www.your-website.com)

Profession  
City, State

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Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

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- Hoc sic expositum dissimile est superiori. Haec mihi videtur delicatior, ut ita dicam, molliorque ratio, quam virtutis vis gravitasque postulat.
- Et quidem iure fortasse, sed tamen non gravissimum est testimonium multitudinis. Haec quo modo convenient, non sane intellego.
- Nam bonum ex quo appellatum sit, nescio, praepositum ex eo credo, quod praeponatur aliis.

## EDUCATION

**Degree**  
**School Name, Location**  
2013 – 2013

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Quod si ita se habeat, non possit beatam praestare vitam sapientia. Illa videamus, quae a te de amicitia dicta sunt.

- Duo enim genera quae erant, fecit tria. Immo alio genere; Numquam facies. Claudii libidini, qui tum erat summo ne imperio, dederetur.
- Qui enim voluptatem ipsam contemnunt, iis licet dicere se acupenserem maenae non antepone.



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## SELECTED PROJECTS

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Winner: Virus Research Prize  
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# Avi Romanoff

avi.bio • avi@romanoff.me

## Education

### Carnegie Mellon University

B.S. Cognitive Science and  
Human-Computer Interaction  
Class of 2018, GPA: 3.4  
President, Alpha Epsilon Pi

## Engineering

Frontend: React, Backbone  
Backend: Node.js, Flask, Django  
Native: iOS, Android, GTK+  
Databases: MongoDB, SQL  
Infrastructure: AWS, Docker

## Languages

JavaScript, Python, Go  
C, Objective-C, C++

## Design

Process:  
Wireframing  
Directed storytelling  
Paper prototyping  
Personas  
Storyboarding  
Tools:  
Sketch  
InDesign  
Coffeine

2/20/2017

## Experience

### Apple (Summer 2016)

Software Engineering Intern — Apple Watch

Researched, designed, and prototyped novel user experiences to tackle longstanding challenges in human-computer interaction. Presented to managers, directors, and the VP of Technology.

### expii (Summer 2015)

Full-Stack Engineer

Collaborated with designers and educators to build and expand a collaborative online learning platform for math and science.

### elementary OS (2013-2014)

Software Engineer, Core Team Member

Led development of core apps & frameworks for popular open-source desktop OS. 5,000,000 downloads, available in 50 languages.

### HackCMU (2016)

Director

Organized 300-person beginner-focused hackathon at Carnegie Mellon. Secured funding, directed logistics, MC'd all events.

### MellonHeads (2014-2016)

Founding president

Led team of 10 spreading hackathon culture at Carnegie Mellon. Organized and raised funding for events attended by hundreds.

## Selected Projects

### OnReal.news

1st Prize, Facebook Global Hackathon Finals 2015

Tack developing stories around the world in real time through videos from direct witnesses. Best of 21 finalist teams from 11 countries.

### Fuji

Grand Prize & Best UX, PennApps X

Build, design, test, and run iPhone apps in your browser on any operating system. No Apple hardware required. Best of 237 teams.

more projects online at avi.bio/projects