

UXplorers' Reflexivity Statement

Nick and Lenet are human-computer interaction graduate students with backgrounds in user experience, psychology, marketing, and engineering. We have a natural curiosity for human behavior and believe that while we can measure the world empirically, human experience remains inherently subjective. Language and design are both means of bridging that gap—tools for translating personal interpretation into shared understanding.

This belief shapes our work. We are interested in group dynamics—groupthink, in-group/out-group behavior, and the tension between collectivism and individualism. In UX research, we continue to draw on psychology while cultivating empathy for how people navigate systems based on personal needs and contexts. Our combined backgrounds help us approach research from both macro and micro perspectives, balancing critical thinking, empathy, and user-centered insight.

That said, we also recognize the potential for bias. Our beliefs about perception and subjectivity may lead to over-analyzing or intellectualizing findings, especially when interpreting qualitative data.

In this usabilityathon, participants may share our demographic background: U.S.-based, college-educated, and working in tech. Some may be peers or acquaintances, which could influence how candidly they respond. To mitigate this, we issued standardized questions, applied consistent methods, and practiced ongoing reflexivity—regularly checking for bias in how we interpreted data or interacted with participants. Partner feedback helped ensure objectivity and rigor.

At Workiva, the goal is to design AI-powered anomaly detection that simplifies complex data for non-experts. Our interdisciplinary backgrounds—spanning cognitive psychology, marketing, engineering, and UX research—position us to consider both system-level logic and human-centered usability. We are especially interested in designing tools that feel intuitive, inclusive, and supportive of different mental models. The hope is to contribute to a solution that empowers users, not just with better data, but with better understanding.