



Reframing

Jon Kolko
Professor, Austin Center for Design

ac4d

A Frame

A perspective, or viewpoint

“Even though frames define what count as data, they themselves actually shape the data (for example, a house fire will be perceived differently by the homeowner, the fire fighters, and the arson investigator).”

Klein, Moon & Hoffman

Reframing

Forcing a shift in semantic perspective in order to see things in a new way.

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REFRAMING/

1. “Re-embeds” a product, system or service in a new (and not necessarily logical) context
2. Explores associations and hidden links to and from the center of focus
3. Posits a “what if” scenario implicitly
4. Is primarily semantic (a tool for cognition)
5. Encourages empathy
6. Forces understanding of the various touchpoints
7. Identifies implications and insights

Consider a toothbrush ...





environment

in the bathroom



perspective

consumer



embodiment

object



environment

in the bathroom

perspective

consumer

embodiment

object

reframed in a
new environment:

primary user goal:

implications and insights:



environment

in the bathroom

perspective

consumer

embodiment

object

reframed in a
new environment:

primary user goal:

implications and insights:

In the kitchen

In an airplane

At a conference



environment

in the bathroom

perspective

consumer

embodiment

object

reframed in a
new environment:

primary user goal:

implications and insights:

In the kitchen

Remove food

Teeth cleaning should allow for a way to quickly get pieces out of hard to reach places, and shouldn't require a mirror

In an airplane

Remove smells

Provide a way to quickly and nonchalantly freshen breath in close quarters and without being offensive to other passengers

At a conference

Remove lettuce before giving a talk

Teeth cleaning should include some form of sharp picking object, and should clearly indicate when you missed a chunk



environment

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perspective

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reframed from a
new perspective:

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implications and insights:



environment

in the bathroom

perspective

consumer

embodiment

object

reframed from a
new perspective:

primary user goal:

implications and insights:

dentist

hotel housekeeper

Blind date



environment

in the bathroom

perspective

consumer

embodiment

object

reframed from a
new perspective:

primary user goal:

implications and insights:

dentist

Clean teeth & prevent
future problems

Teeth cleaning should be as rigorous as possible,
and should be “future proof” for some period of
time

hotel housekeeper

Clean the hotel room

Teeth cleaning should have as small a disposal
footprint as possible, and shouldn't generate any
extra work, trash, or waste

Blind date

Look attractive

There should be a way to casually alert the date
that they have something nasty in their teeth.



environment

in the bathroom

perspective

consumer

embodiment

object

reframed as a new
embodiment:

primary user goal:

implications and insights:



environment

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reframed as a new
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primary user goal:

implications and insights:

A Plant

A Spray

A Service

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environment

in the bathroom

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consumer

embodiment

object

reframed as a new
embodiment:

primary user goal:

implications and insights:

A Plant

Clean teeth while
feeling closer to nature

There should be a plant with teeth cleaning
properties, that can live peacefully in one of the
aforementioned environments

A Spray

Clean teeth quickly
without friction

A portable spray should freshen breath but
should also clean teeth; instant or quick acting
timeframe, through a fine mist.

A Service

Gain “dentist visit”
cleanliness in
between visits

Provide a quick-stop for interim dentist
appointments – at the mall. Should be trustworthy
and clean; legal implications...

Reframing

1. **Identify the product, service or system that is being reframed.**

It's not always what your client asked for. Try to articulate the entity in a succinct statement.

Reframing

2. Create blank reframing charts on large paper.

Create three charts, one each for environments, users, and embodiments.

reframed as a new environment:	primary user goal:	implications and insights:
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reframed as a new environment:	primary user goal:	implications and insights:
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reframed as a new environment:	primary user goal:	implications and insights:
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Reframing

3. Free associate new items for the left column of each chart.

Work on all three charts at once. There are no bad ideas: criticism is completely suspended.

Reframing

4. Begin to fill in Primary Goal for all items in all charts.

Try to paint a picture of a credible story; judge responses and add criticism as appropriate, but only in relationship to the primary goal column.

Reframing

5. Begin to fill in the Implications and Insights column in all charts.

There are no bad ideas; criticism is completely suspended. An item can generate more than one implication or insight; if it does, create a new row to capture it.

Reframing

6. Extract implications and insights that are relevant.

Consider the specific constraints of your project, and list the new implications or insights that you've identified: these can then be integrated with the rest of your design criteria.

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Jon Kolko
Director, Austin Center for Design
jkolko@ac4d.com

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Wicked Problems: Problems Worth Solving,
at <http://www.wickedproblems.com>