**TASCore Design Style Guide**

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# Design Style Guide for TASCore

## What is the TASCore Design Style Guide?

The TASCore Design Style Guide is a set of guidelines to help designers and developers build trustworthy, accessible and consistent government websites. This set of standards will allow agencies to quickly prototype and deploy digital products using a baseline of patterns applicable to TASCore project.

The MCCF EDI TAS portal website was created using a conglomerate of government web standards. Design guides from several existing sources include the VA Playbook, U.S Web Design Standards (USWDS) and 18F. All of these standards are used to design systems for government websites in order to provide a more rich, robust user experience.

MCCF TAS Core has implemented U.S Web Design Standards as a visual guide and UI component library so that the MCCF TAS website will have a similar and common design among other federal portals.

## Goal

The overall goal of TAS Human Centered Design Guide is to provide digital services that improve the user experience to obtain information in a useful and productive manner. By incorporating USWDS along the VA Playbook Design standards, TAS portal contains a library of design components to allow developers to quickly provide trustworthy, accessible and consistent digital government services.

* Unifying design standards between VA Playbook and USWDS.
* Improving customer experience
* Meeting the customer needs
* Creating a responsive platform so users can view information regardless of screen size.
* Providing transparency about methods and processes
* Designing efficient end to end processes to allow information to be processed from external systems.

Background  
In the past the government has produced many websites created by different teams of developers. Each portal had a different look and feel so there was no consistency within these sites. This became a problem for end users since buttons, navigation, color, fonts and styles would be different. The user experience became more fractured as one navigated through these various portals.

Mission  
The goal for TAS Human Centered Design Guide is to provide a more consistent feel with other federal websites in order to build trust with users, help people identify official websites, and make services easier to use. By using the same design standards as the VA Playbook, the TAS Design Guide is to help build a single unified digital experience for all veterans.

Approach  
By creating a better user experience (UI), people can begin to recognize consistent website design and feel comfortable with interacting with the various components web pages.

By using a similar library of controls, TAS Design Guide will follow the same design guides as other federal portals by incorporating the design guides of the VA Playbook and the design guides of the USWDS. These standards will provide a stable set of code and guidelines in order to follow the needs of design standardization. Useful information will be clearly presented and formatted as well as providing tools that are easy to find.

Accessibility  
TASCore style provides 508 compliance so every asset meets the highest accessibility standards outlined in Section 508. All TASCore users regardless of disability status, can access this site. The accessibility styles are based upon the U.S. Web Design standards so the TASCore is accessible to all users. TASCore is compatible with assistive technology including screen readers or those who have vision impairment. See [Design Accessibility](#Accessibity) for more details.

Standards  
TASCore Style Design guide is a standardized set of UI components which are accessible, responsive, and designed for flexibility regardless of the viewport size. These standards include various elements on a web page including:

* Buttons
* Tables
* Navigation
* Typography
* Forms
* Colors
* Style sheets

## Design Principles

* Understand human need: design for people, rather than VA’s systems
* Assume every visitor is new
* Speak clearly, respectfully and directly
* Help people reach their goals every time
* Connect with customers. Create opportunities for feedback and dialog
* Research, observe, test and continuously improve
* Measure what matters
* Be device agnostic
* Employ modern development practices – be agile

## Interface design

Login

Consistent interaction with mouse, finger, stylus, finger, keyboard shortcuts, etc.

Goal- define common elements that are to be used on all pages, the default page elements for all pages.  Define which can be tailored to the user experience.  Define which are off limits.

## UX :

Guided content and Interaction design:

give users clues about behavior before actions are taken

anticipate error and mitigate common mistakes

consider feedback and response

chunk content for readability and learnability

use personas for design, understand roles and workflows

use common design patters

consistent visual hierarchy

design fault tolerance for user errors

Content Loading/Performance

Not content driven design!

Structure based design.

No information architecture yet.

Analytics?

Gestures (optional)

Style Guide for Visual Design

General Principles of Design

Color/Contrast/Color Palette

Form and function (usability perspective), Hierarchy and Focus: using hierarchies through the use of font sizes, color, emphasis, and placement

Balance and scale, dominance of content, space, and unity of content

Implementation (Shortcuts, Iconography, Typography)

Layout and spacing, responsive design, grid design

Buttons and Navigation, Call To Action buttons

Logos and Branding Standards

Search, searchability, readability

Notifications, modals/pop-ups, tool tips and Error Handling

Forms

Login

Image Compression

Image Type

Interactive Media/Video

Use of Titles, Tags, Headers, meta descriptions, custom meta data, alt content,  and URLs

Design consistency (checklist to provide controls)

Use of header and footer content areas, printing

Side bars and widgets (how to implement)

Alternate content areas, visibility and formatting: accordions, tabbed containers, etc.

Content Strategies

## **MCCF TAS Templates and Documentation Standards**

## Color Palette

The MCCF TASCore color palette is based on palettes used by USWDS and VA Playbook. These colors support the highest 508 color contrast requirements while also promoting trust by invoking a professional look and feel. It is a simple set of colors that use shades of cool blues and grays-combined with definitive styling to allow users to feel welcomed.

The **primary colors** are shades of blue and gray that are the dominate colors of the site. Also, the use of white/white space should be used so content will be evenly spaced. This will promote sincerity, calmness and professionalism.

**Secondary colors** are used to promote important highlighted features on a page such as buttons and list headers.

Shades of gray are used as **background colors** for larger content areas. Be sure to use enough contrast between adjacent colors.

Lastly, the **tertiary colors** are available for content driven messages and alerts. Use sparingly and not to overpower the primary colors.

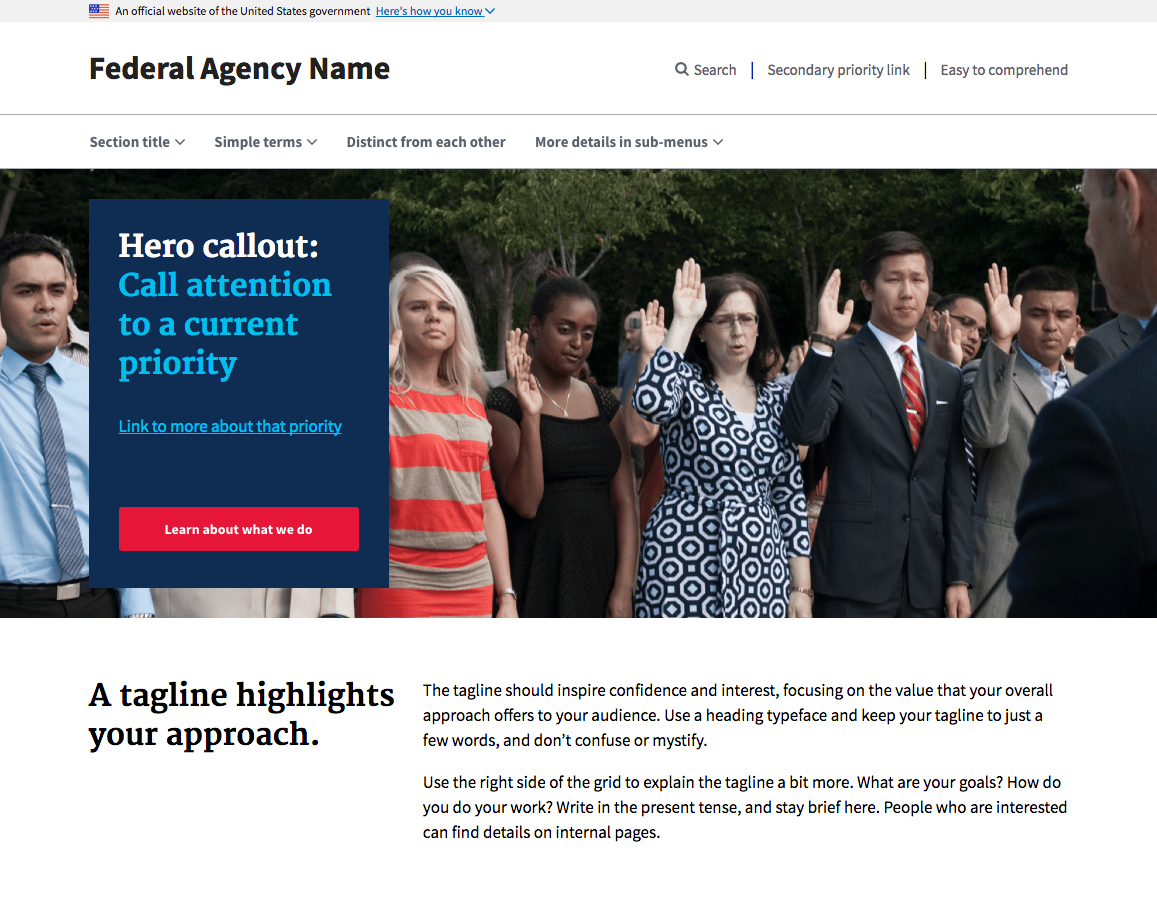
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary colors** | **Secondary Colors** |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **#0071bc** | **#205493** | **#112e51** | | **#212121** | **#323a45** | **#aeb0b5** | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **#02bfe7** | **#046b99** | **#00A6D2** | **#9bdaf1** | **#e1f3f8** | | **#e31c3d** | **#981b1e** | **#cd2026** | **#e59393** | **#f9dede** | |
| **Tertiary Colors** | **Background colors** |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **#fdb81e** | **#2e8540** | **#205493** | | **#f9c642** | **#4aa564** | **#4773aa** | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **#32a45** | **#5b616b** | **#aeb0b5** | **#d6d7d9** | **#f1f1f1** | | **#494440** | **#e4e2e0** | **#112e51** | **#dce4ef** |  | |

## Page templates

TASCore page templates are based on the styles used by the U.S. Web Design Standards. The template is fluid so components can be added to meet business needs. The templates serve as a starting foundation for building web pages and prototyping.

## Template 1: Landing Page

This tends to be the first page that a visitor arrives at or ‘lands on’. Landing pages are structured as being a standalone web page that is distinct from main website that provides information on a single focused objective. Landing pages should **not** have a global navigation to tie to the primary website. This is to limit the options available to help users find web content without fail. They need to be clear, concise and engaging with a call to action.



Replace this graphic with TASCore landing page

Landing Page code: Code Reference - [Exhibit A](#ExhibitA)

### When to Use

Landing pages are used to communicate about a product or service that has ties to the main home page. This is generally the page where a user goes after clicking on a link. Use landing pages to introduce a product, service or program using clear, immersive text. It is important to provide relevant content on the page so users understand the information being displayed.

### Tips for a Landing Page

* Don’t use forms or side navigation links.
* Keep the page design simple and not too complex.
* Offer a call to action to engage the user.

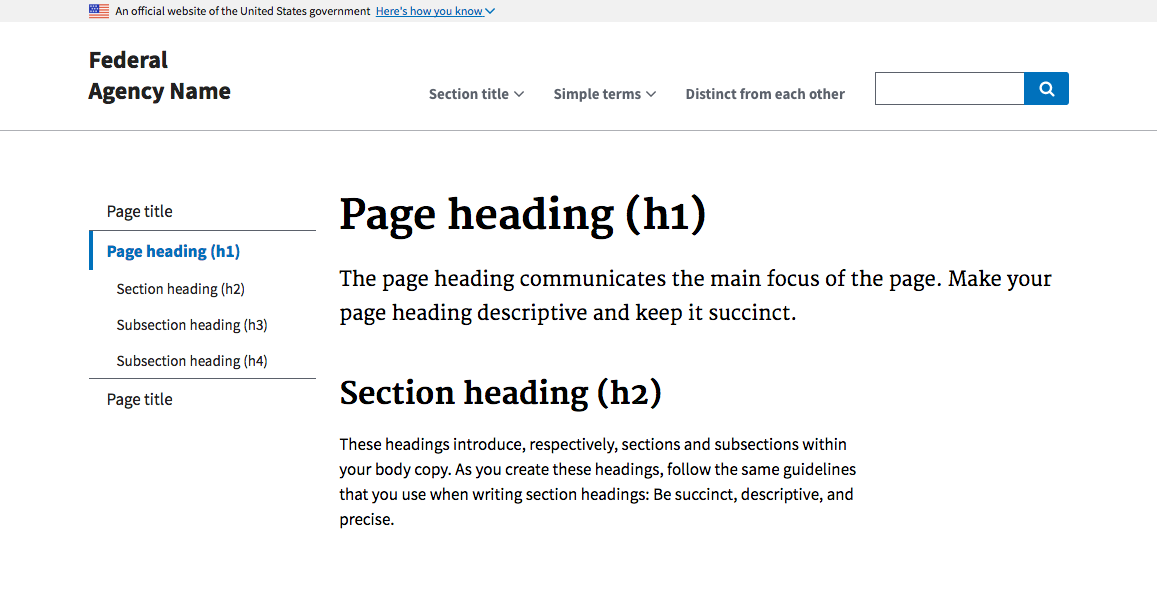
### Components Used in Landing Page

* Hero feature
* Typography – Merriweather headings and Source Sans Pro body
* Graphic list
* Media block
* Grid
* Buttons
* Footer

## Template 2: Documentation Page

This page covers more informational detail about content. This is secondary page a visitor clicks on from the landing page or from a link in search results. Body copy should be clear and informative. Documentation pages can have side navigation links, section headers along with any type of components required by the business.

Documentation Page Example



Replace this graphic with TASCore documentation page

### When to Use

Provide the visitor detailed information that was associated from the landing page.

### Tips for a Documentation Page

* Use precise headlines
* Use subheadlines to convey more detailed information.
* Use precise body copy and keep the word count limited.

### Components Used in Documentation Page

* Header
* Typography – Merriweather headings and Source Sans Pro body
* Grid
* Side navigation
* Documentation layout (See Code Reference Exhibit B)

## Interface Controls and UI Components

TASCore style provides a set UI components that are designed for consistency and simplicity across all VA web sites. The list of components includes all the basic elements of a web page including header, global navigation, footers, fonts, color palettes, search bar etc. Review each component for more detail.

### Typography – based on the USWDS and VA Playbook

TASCore uses 3 font families:

* Source Sans Pro - used in body copy
  + Regular, weight 400
  + Bold, weight 700
* Merriweather – used in headings H1 to H6
  + Regular, weight 400
  + Italic, weight 400
* Font Awesome
  + Icons

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source San Pro – san serif font** | **Merriweather – serif font** |
| <https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Source+Sans+Pro> | <https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Merriweather> |
|  |  |
| **Font Awesome**  <http://fontawesome.io/icons/> | |
|  | |

### Pairing and Styles

Merriweather headings used with Source Sans Pro body

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Display** | font-family: ‘Merriweather’ font-weight: 700 font-size: 52px line-height: 1.3em/68px |
| **Heading 1** | font-family: ‘Merriweather’ font-weight: 700 font-size: 40px line-height: 1.3em/52px |
| **Heading 2** | font-family: ‘Merriweather’ font-weight: 700 font-size: 30px line-height: 1.3em/39px |
| **Heading 3** | * font-family: ‘Merriweather’ font-weight: 700 font-size: 20px line-height: 1.3em/26px |
| **Heading 4** | font-family: ‘Merriweather’ font-weight: 700 font-size: 17px line-height: 1.3em/22px |
| **Heading 5** | font-family: ‘Merriweather’ font-weight: 700 font-size: 15px line-height: 1.3em/20px |
| HEADING 6 | font-family: ‘Source Sans Pro’ font-weight: 400 font-size: 13px line-height: 1.3em/17px text-transform: uppercase |
| Lead  paragraph | font-family: ‘Merriweather’ font-weight: 400 font-size: 20px line-height: 1.7em/34px |
| Body copy. A series of sentences together which make a paragraph. | font-family: ‘Source Sans Pro’ font-weight: 400 font-size: 17px line-height: 1.5em/26px |
| Italic body copy. | font-family: ‘Source Sans Pro’ font-style: Italic font-weight: 400 font-size: 17px line-height: 1.5em/26px |

### Typesetting

Readable text to allow users to take in textual information.

###### Alignment

#### **The Grand Canyon**

Grand Canyon National Park is the United States’ 15th oldest national park. Named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, the park is located in Arizona.  
\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

75 characters max on desktop. Paragraphs line lengths should be between 50 and 75 characters per line while 66 characters is considered ideal. White spacing used between headers and body copy should be 60px, 30px, 20px or 15px.  
See Code Review Exhibit D

## Section heading

### Section of the page

The sprawling landscape encompasses lush forests and an abundance of wildflowers that bloom year-round. Streams, rivers and waterfalls appear along hiking routes that include a segment of the Appalachian Trail.

#### Subsection of the page

World renowned for its diversity of plant and animal life, the beauty of its ancient mountains, and the quality of its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture, this is America’s most visited national park.

Right now scientists think that we only know about 17 percent of the plants and animals that live in the park, or about 17,000 species of a probable 100,000 different organisms.

##### Subsection of the page

Entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park is free. The park is one of the few national parks where no entrance fees are charged.

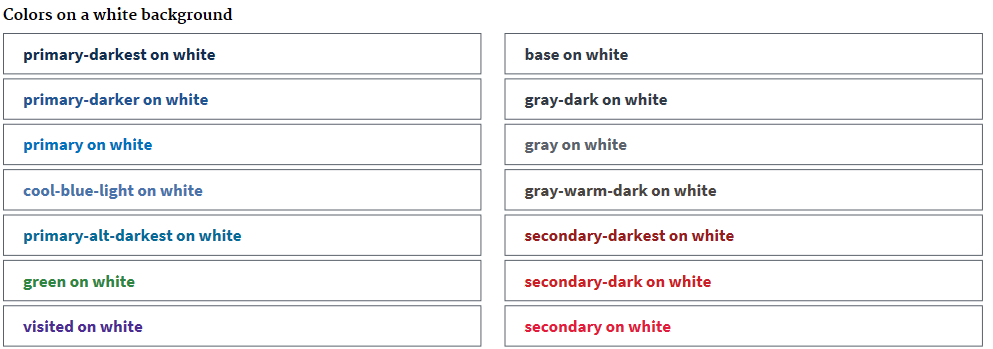
## Design Accessibility

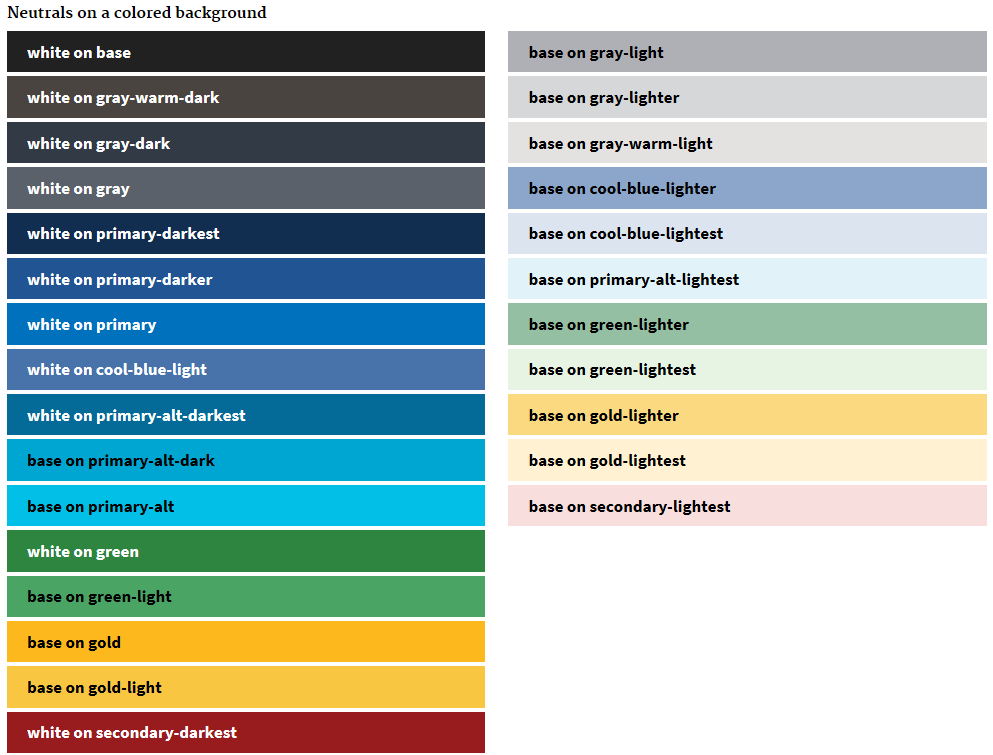
## Text Accessibility

By following the styles of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), content on web pages will accessible by everyone regardless of the disability. This set of standards provides a contrast ratio of 4.5 to 1 so text and colors can be readable even by those with color blindness.

To confirm contrast ration is 508 compliant, this [link](https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/) will confirm if the contrast ration is high enough between a text color and background color. [WebAIM](https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/) site has online tool for testing ratios between the two colors. As long as the ratio is 4.5 or higher, then the colors are 508 compliant.

Below is a chart of color combinations that can be used using text color with background colors. These are all part of USWDS style guides and are all accepted by 508.





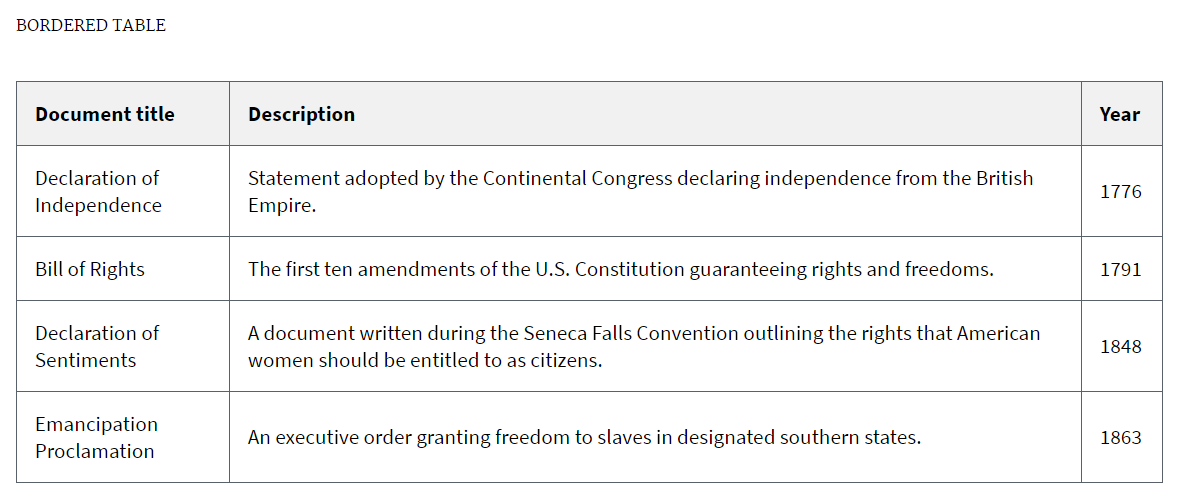
### Hiding and showing content There will be cases in which you will need to selectively “show” and “hide” content by either removing it from the visual flow or preventing screen readers from reading it. We have settled on the following conventions for each use case:

| **Visual browsers** | **Screen readers** | **Solution** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| hide | hide | Add the boolean [hidden attribute](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/HTML/Global_attributes/hidden) attribute to dynamically hide content from all users. [Remove the attribute](https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Element/removeAttribute) to show it again. |
| **show** | hide | Use the [aria-hidden="true"](https://www.w3.org/TR/wai-aria/states_and_properties#aria-hidden) attribute to “hide” content from screen readers while keeping it visually perceivable. |
| hide | **show** | Use the usa-sr-only class to show content to screen readers only. This removes the content from the visual flow of the document but retains its legibility by screen readers. |

#### Accessibility - Tables

* Simple tables can have two levels of headers. Each header cell should have scope="col" or scope="row".
* Complex tables are tables with more than two levels of headers. Each header should be given a unique id and each data cell should have a headers attribute with each related header cell’s id listed.
* When adding a title to a table, include it in a <caption> tag inside of the <table> element.

Table – based on USWDS



Refer to Code Reference Exhibit C for bordered table HTML.

#### Usability

##### When to use

* When you need tabular information, such as statistical data.

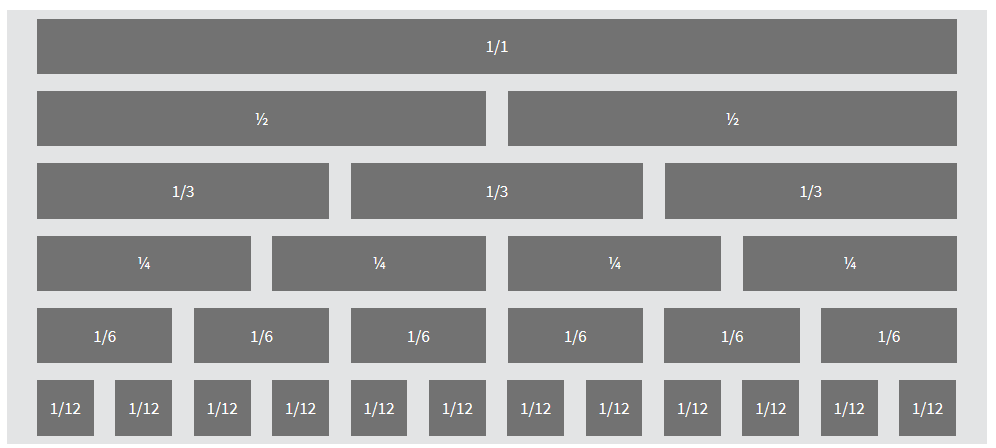
##### When to consider something else

* Depending on the type of content, consider using other presentation formats such as definition lists or hierarchical lists.

##### Guidance

* Tables are great at displaying tabular data. Minimal visual styling helps surface this information more easily.

## Grids This 12-column, responsive grid provides structure for website content.



**User Experience Basics**

User experience (UX) focuses on having a deep understanding of users, what they need, what they value, their abilities, and also their limitations.  It also takes into account the business goals and objectives of the group managing the project. UX best practices promote improving the quality of the user’s interaction with and perceptions of your product and any related services.

In order for there to be a meaningful and valuable user experience, information must be:

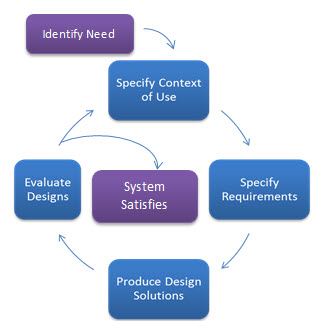
* **Useful**: Your content should be original and fulfill a need
* **Usable**: Site must be easy to use
* **Desirable**: Image, identity, brand, and other design elements are used to evoke emotion and appreciation
* **Findable**: Content needs to be navigable and locatable onsite and offsite
* **Accessible**: Content needs to be accessible to people with disabilities
* **Credible**: Users must trust and believe what you tell them

# User-Centered Design Basics

The User-centered design (UCD) process outlines the phases throughout a design and development life-cycle all while focusing on gaining a deep understanding of who will be using the product. The [international standard 13407](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_ics/catalogue_detail_ics.htm?csnumber=52075) [Site exit Disclaimer](http://www.hhs.gov/disclaimer.html) is the basis for many UCD methodologies. It’s important to note that the UCD process does not specify exact methods for each phase.

## User-Centered Design Process

According to [Userfocus](http://www.userfocus.co.uk/consultancy/ucd.html) [Site exit Disclaimer](http://www.hhs.gov/disclaimer.html), there are multiple principles that underlie user centered design. Design is based upon an explicit understanding of users, tasks, and environments; is driven and refined by user-centered evaluation; and addresses the whole [user experience](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/user-experience.html).  The process involves users throughout the design and development process and it is iterative. And finally, the team includes [multidisciplinary skills and perspectives](https://www.usability.gov/how-to-and-tools/methods/project-team.html).

The following are the general phases of the UCD process:

* **Specify the context of use:**Identify the people who will use the product, what they will use it for, and under what conditions they will use it.
* **Specify requirements:**Identify any business requirements or user goals that must be met for the product to be successful.
* **Create design solutions:**This part of the process may be done in stages, building from a rough concept to a complete design.
* **Evaluate designs:**Evaluation - ideally through usability testing with actual users - is as integral as quality testing is to good software development.

There are many variations of the UCD process.  It can be incorporated into [waterfall](https://www.usability.gov/how-to-and-tools/resources/ucd-map.html), agile, and other approaches. Depending on your needs, the user-centered design process is composed of several [methods](https://www.usability.gov/how-to-and-tools/methods/index.html) and tasks. What you are developing, your [requirements](https://www.usability.gov/how-to-and-tools/methods/requirements.html), [team](https://www.usability.gov/how-to-and-tools/methods/project-team.html), timeline, and the environment in which you are developing will all help determine the tasks you perform and the order in which you perform them.

## Areas Related to Building the User Experience

UX is a growing field that is very much still being defined. Creating a successful user-centered design encompasses the principles of human-computer interaction (HCI) and goes further to include the following disciplines:

* [**Project Management**](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/project-management.html) focuses on planning and organizing a project and its resources. This includes identifying and managing the lifecycle to be used, applying it to the user-centered design process, formulating the project team, and efficiently guiding the team through all phases until project completion.
* [**User Research**](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/user-research.html) focuses on understanding user behaviors, needs, and motivations through observation techniques, task analysis, and other feedback methodologies.
* [**Usability Evaluation**](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/usability-evaluation.html) focuses on how well users can learn and use a product to achieve their goals. It also refers to how satisfied users are with that process.
* [**Information Architecture (IA)**](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/information-architecture.html) focuses on how information is organized, structured, and presented to users.
* [**User Interface Design**](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/user-interface-design.html) focuses on anticipating what users might need to do and ensuring that the interface has elements that are easy to access, understand, and use to facilitate those actions.
* [**Interaction Design (IxD)**](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/interaction-design.html) focuses on creating engaging interactive systems with well thought out behaviors.
* [**Visual Design**](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/visual-design.html) focuses on ensuring an aesthetically pleasing interface that is in line with brand goals.
* [**Content Strategy**](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/content-strategy.html) focuses on writing and curating useful content by planning the creation, delivery and governance behind it.

* **[Accessibility](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/accessibility.html)** focuses on how a disabled individual accesses or benefits from a site, system or application. Section 508 is the governing principal for accessibility.
* **[Web Analytics](https://www.usability.gov/what-and-why/web-analytics.html)** focuses on the collection, reporting, and analysis of website data.

## **Code Reference**

Landing Page – Exhibit A

<!doctype html>

<html lang="en">

<head>

<meta charset="utf-8">

<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">

<title>Page title</title>

<!-- Update the link path to where your stylesheet file is located. For example: /path/to/your/assets/css/lib/uswds.min.css -->

<link rel="stylesheet" href="/css/styleguide.css">

</head>

<body class="layout-demo">

<a class="usa-skipnav" href="#main-content">Skip to main content</a>

<div class="usa-banner">

<div class="usa-accordion">

<header class="usa-banner-header">

<div class="usa-grid usa-banner-inner">

<img src="/assets/img/favicons/favicon-57.png" alt="U.S. flag">

<p>An official website of the United States government</p>

<button class="usa-accordion-button usa-banner-button"

aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="gov-banner">

<span class="usa-banner-button-text">Here's how you know</span>

</button>

</div>

</header>

<div class="usa-banner-content usa-grid usa-accordion-content" id="gov-banner">

<div class="usa-banner-guidance-gov usa-width-one-half">

<img class="usa-banner-icon usa-media\_block-img" src="/assets/img/icon-dot-gov.svg" alt="Dot gov">

<div class="usa-media\_block-body">

<p>

<strong>The .gov means it’s official.</strong>

<br>

Federal government websites often end in .gov or .mil. Before sharing sensitive information, make sure you're on a federal government site.

</p>

</div>

</div>

<div class="usa-banner-guidance-ssl usa-width-one-half">

<img class="usa-banner-icon usa-media\_block-img" src="/assets/img/icon-https.svg" alt="Https">

<div class="usa-media\_block-body">

<p>

<strong>The site is secure.</strong>

<br>

The <strong>https://</strong> ensures that you are connecting to the official website and that any information you provide is encrypted and transmitted securely.

</p>

</div>

</div>

</div>

</div>

</div>

<header class="usa-header usa-header-extended" role="banner">

<div class="usa-navbar">

<div class="usa-logo" id="extended-logo">

<em class="usa-logo-text">

<a href="/"

title="Home"

aria-label="Home">

Department of Web Design

</a>

</em>

</div>

<button class="usa-menu-btn">Menu</button>

</div>

<nav role="navigation" class="usa-nav">

<div class="usa-nav-inner">

<button class="usa-nav-close">

<img src="/assets/img/close.svg" alt="close">

</button>

<ul class="usa-nav-primary usa-accordion"><li><button class="usa-accordion-button usa-nav-link" aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="extended-nav-section-one">

<span>Section title</span>

</button>

<ul id="extended-nav-section-one" class="usa-nav-submenu"><li>

<a href="#">Subsection title</a>

</li><li>

<a href="#">Subsection title</a>

</li><li>

<a href="#">Subsection title</a>

</li></ul></li><li><button class="usa-accordion-button usa-nav-link" aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="extended-nav-section-two">

<span>Simple terms</span>

</button>

<ul id="extended-nav-section-two" class="usa-nav-submenu"><li>

<a href="#">Subsection title</a>

</li><li>

<a href="#">Subsection title</a>

</li><li>

<a href="#">Subsection title</a>

</li></ul></li><li><a class="usa-nav-link" href="javascript:void(0)">

<span>Distinct from each other</span>

</a></li></ul>

<div class="usa-nav-secondary">

<form class="usa-search usa-search-small js-search-form">

<div role="search">

<label class="usa-sr-only" for="extended-search-field-small">Search small</label>

<input id="extended-search-field-small" type="search" name="search">

<button type="submit">

<span class="usa-sr-only">Search</span>

</button>

</form>

</div>

<ul class="usa-unstyled-list usa-nav-secondary-links">

<li class="js-search-button-container">

<button class="usa-header-search-button js-search-button">Search</button>

</li>

<li>

<a href="">

Secondary priority link

</a>

</li>

<li>

<a href="">

Easy to comprehend

</a>

</li>

</ul>

</div>

</div>

</nav>

</header>

<div class="usa-overlay"></div>

<main id="main-content"></main>

<section class="usa-hero">

<div class="usa-grid">

<div class="usa-hero-callout usa-section-dark">

<h2>

<span class="usa-hero-callout-alt">Hero callout:</span>

Call attention to a current priority

</h2>

<a class="usa-hero-link" href="javascript:void(0)">Link to more about that priority</a>

<a class="usa-button usa-button-big" href="javascript:void(0)">Learn about what we do</a>

</div>

</div>

</section>

<section class="usa-grid usa-section">

<div class="usa-width-one-third">

<h2>A tagline highlights your approach.</h2>

</div>

<div class="usa-width-two-thirds">

<p>The tagline should inspire confidence and interest, focusing on the value that your overall approach offers to your audience. Use a heading typeface and keep your tagline to just a few words, and don’t confuse or mystify.</p>

<p>Use the right side of the grid to explain the tagline a bit more. What are your goals? How do you do your work? Write in the present tense, and stay brief here. People who are interested can find details on internal pages.</p>

</div>

</section>

<section class="usa-section usa-section-dark usa-graphic\_list">

<div class="usa-grid usa-graphic\_list-row">

<div class="usa-width-one-half usa-media\_block">

<img class="usa-media\_block-img" src="/assets/img/circle-124.png" alt="Alt text">

<div class="usa-media\_block-body">

<h3>Graphic headings can vary.</h3>

<p>Graphic headings can be used a few different ways, depending on what your landing page is for. Highlight your values, specific program areas, or results.</p>

</div>

</div>

<div class="usa-width-one-half usa-media\_block">

<img class="usa-media\_block-img" src="/assets/img/circle-124.png" alt="Alt text">

<div class="usa-media\_block-body">

<h3>Stick to 6 or fewer words.</h3>

<p>Keep body text to about 30. They can be shorter, but try to be somewhat balanced across all four. It creates a clean appearance with good spacing.</p>

</div>

</div>

</div>

<div class="usa-grid usa-graphic\_list-row">

<div class="usa-width-one-half usa-media\_block">

<img class="usa-media\_block-img" src="/assets/img/circle-124.png" alt="Alt text">

<div class="usa-media\_block-body">

<h3>Never highlight anything without a goal.</h3>

<p>For anything you want to highlight here, understand what your users know now, and what activity or impression you want from them after they see it.</p>

</div>

</div>

<div class="usa-width-one-half usa-media\_block">

<img class="usa-media\_block-img" src="/assets/img/circle-124.png" alt="Alt text">

<div class="usa-media\_block-body">

<h3>Could also have 2 or 6.</h3>

<p>In addition to your goal, find out your users’ goals. What do they want to know or do that supports your mission? Use these headings to show those.</p>

</div>

</div>

</div>

</section>

<section class="usa-section">

<div class="usa-grid">

<h2>Section heading</h2>

<p class="usa-font-lead">Everything up to this point should help people understand your agency or project: who you are, your goal or mission, and how you approach it. Use this section to encourage them to act. Describe why they should get in touch here, and use an active verb on the button below. “Get in touch,” “Learn more,” and so on.</p>

<a class="usa-button usa-button-big" href="#">Call to action</a>

</div>

</section>

</main>

<footer class="usa-footer usa-footer-medium" role="contentinfo">

<div class="usa-grid usa-footer-return-to-top">

<a href="#">Return to top</a>

</div>

<div class="usa-footer-primary-section">

<div class="usa-grid">

<nav class="usa-footer-nav">

<ul class="usa-unstyled-list">

<li class="usa-width-one-sixth usa-footer-primary-content">

<a class="usa-footer-primary-link" href="javascript:void(0);">Primary link</a>

</li>

<li class="usa-width-one-sixth usa-footer-primary-content">

<a class="usa-footer-primary-link" href="javascript:void(0);">Primary link</a>

</li>

<li class="usa-width-one-sixth usa-footer-primary-content">

<a class="usa-footer-primary-link" href="javascript:void(0);">Primary link</a>

</li>

<li class="usa-width-one-sixth usa-footer-primary-content">

<a class="usa-footer-primary-link" href="javascript:void(0);">Primary link</a>

</li>

<li class="usa-width-one-sixth usa-footer-primary-content">

<a class="usa-footer-primary-link" href="javascript:void(0);">Primary link</a>

</li>

</ul>

</nav>

</div>

</div>

<div class="usa-footer-secondary\_section">

<div class="usa-grid">

<div class="usa-footer-logo usa-width-one-half">

<img class="usa-footer-logo-img" src="/assets/img/logo-img.png" alt="Logo image">

<h3 class="usa-footer-logo-heading">Name of Agency</h3>

</div>

<div class="usa-footer-contact-links usa-width-one-half">

<a class="usa-link-facebook" href="javascript:void(0);">

<span>Facebook</span>

</a>

<a class="usa-link-twitter" href="javascript:void(0);">

<span>Twitter</span>

</a>

<a class="usa-link-youtube" href="javascript:void(0);">

<span>YouTube</span>

</a>

<a class="usa-link-rss" href="javascript:void(0);">

<span>RSS</span>

</a>

<h3 class="usa-footer-contact-heading">Agency Contact Center</h3>

<address>

<div class="usa-footer-primary-content usa-footer-contact\_info">

<p>

<a href="tel:1-800-555-5555">(800) CALL-GOVT</a>

</p>

</div>

<div class="usa-footer-primary-content usa-footer-contact\_info">

<p><a href="mailto:info@agency.gov">info@agency.gov</a></p>

</div>

</address>

</div>

</div>

</div>

</footer>

<!-- Update the link path to where your JavaScript file is located. For example: /path/to/your/assets/js/lib/uswds.min.js -->

<script src="/assets/js/vendor/uswds.min.js"></script>

</body>

</html>

Documentation Page – Exhibit B

<!doctype html>

<html lang="en">

<head>

<meta charset="utf-8">

<meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">

<title>Page title</title>

<!-- Update the link path to where your stylesheet file is located. For example: /path/to/your/assets/css/lib/uswds.min.css -->

<link rel="stylesheet" href="/assets/css/styleguide.css">

</head>

<body class="layout-demo">

<a class="usa-skipnav" href="#main-content">Skip to main content</a>

<header class="usa-header usa-header-basic" role="banner">

<!-- Gov banner BEGIN -->

<div class="usa-banner">

<div class="usa-accordion">

<header class="usa-banner-header">

<div class="usa-grid usa-banner-inner">

<img src="/assets/img/favicons/favicon-57.png" alt="U.S. flag">

<p>An official website of the United States government</p>

<button class="usa-accordion-button usa-banner-button"

aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="gov-banner">

<span class="usa-banner-button-text">Here's how you know</span>

</button>

</div>

</header>

<div class="usa-banner-content usa-grid usa-accordion-content" id="gov-banner">

<div class="usa-banner-guidance-gov usa-width-one-half">

<img class="usa-banner-icon usa-media\_block-img" src="/assets/img/icon-dot-gov.svg" alt="Dot gov">

<div class="usa-media\_block-body">

<p>

<strong>The .gov means it’s official.</strong>

<br>

Federal government websites always use a .gov or .mil domain. Before sharing sensitive information online, make sure you’re on a .gov or .mil site by inspecting your browser’s address (or “location”) bar.

</p>

</div>

</div>

<div class="usa-banner-guidance-ssl usa-width-one-half">

<img class="usa-banner-icon usa-media\_block-img" src="/assets/img/icon-https.svg" alt="SSL">

<div class="usa-media\_block-body">

<p>This site is also protected by an SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) certificate that’s been signed by the U.S. government. The <strong>https://</strong> means all transmitted data is encrypted  — in other words, any information or browsing history that you provide is transmitted securely.</p>

</div>

</div>

</div>

</div>

</div>

<!-- Gov banner END -->

<div class="usa-nav-container">

<div class="usa-navbar">

<button class="usa-menu-btn">Menu</button>

<div class="usa-logo" id="logo">

<em class="usa-logo-text">

<a href="#" accesskey="1" title="Home" aria-label="Federal Agency Name Home">Federal <br>Agency Name</a>

</em>

</div>

</div>

<nav role="navigation" class="usa-nav">

<button class="usa-nav-close">

<img src="/assets/img/close.svg" alt="close">

</button>

<ul class="usa-nav-primary usa-accordion">

<li>

<button class="

usa-accordion-button usa-nav-link" aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="side-nav-1">

<span>Section title</span>

</button>

<ul id="side-nav-1" class="usa-nav-submenu">

<li>

<a href="#">Page title</a>

</li>

<li>

<a href="#">Page title</a>

</li>

<li>

<a href="#">Page title</a>

</li>

</ul>

</li>

<li>

<button class="usa-accordion-button usa-nav-link" aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="sidenav-2">

<span>Simple terms</span>

</button>

<ul id="sidenav-2" class="usa-nav-submenu">

<li>

<a href="#">Page title</a>

</li>

<li>

<a href="#">Page title</a>

</li>

<li>

<a href="#">Page title</a>

</li>

</ul>

</li>

<li>

<a class="usa-nav-link" href="#">

<span>Distinct from each other</span>

</a>

</li>

</ul>

<form class="usa-search usa-search-small">

<div role="search">

<label class="usa-sr-only" for="search-field-small">Search small</label>

<input id="search-field-small" type="search" name="search">

<button type="submit">

<span class="usa-sr-only">Search</span>

</button>

</div>

</form>

</nav>

</div>

</header>

<div class="usa-overlay"></div>

<main class="usa-grid usa-section usa-content usa-layout-docs" id="main-content">

<aside class="usa-width-one-fourth usa-layout-docs-sidenav">

<ul class="usa-sidenav-list">

<li>

<a href="javascript:void(0);">Page title</a>

</li>

<li>

<a class="usa-current" href="javascript:void(0);">Page heading (h1)</a>

<ul class="usa-sidenav-sub\_list">

<li>

<a href="#section-heading-h2">Section heading (h2)</a>

</li>

<li>

<a href="#section-heading-h3">Subsection heading (h3)</a>

</li>

<li>

<a href="#section-heading-h4">Subsection heading (h4)</a>

</li>

</ul>

</li>

<li>

<a href="javascript:void(0);">Page title</a>

</li>

</ul>

</aside>

<div class="usa-width-three-fourths usa-layout-docs-main\_content">

<h1>Page heading (h1)</h1>

<p class="usa-font-lead">The page heading communicates the main focus of the page. Make your page heading descriptive and keep it succinct.</p>

<h2 id="section-heading-h2">Section heading (h2)</h2>

<p>These headings introduce, respectively, sections and subsections within your body copy. As you create these headings, follow the same guidelines that you use when writing section headings: Be succinct, descriptive, and precise.</p>

<h3 id="section-heading-h3">Subsection heading (h3)</h3>

<p>The particulars of your body copy will be determined by the topic of your page. Regardless of topic, it’s a good practice to follow the inverted pyramid structure when writing copy: Begin with the information that’s most important to your users and then present information of less importance.</p>

<p>Keep each section and subsection focused — a good approach is to include one theme (topic) per section.</p>

<h4 id="section-heading-h4">Subsection heading (h4)</h4>

<p>Use the side navigation menu to help your users quickly skip to different sections of your page. The menu is best suited to displaying a hierarchy with one to three levels and, as we mentioned, to display the sub-navigation of a given page.</p>

<p>Read the full documentation on our side navigation on the <a href="/sidenav/">component page</a>.</p>

</div>

</main>

<footer class="usa-footer usa-footer-medium" role="contentinfo">

<div class="usa-grid usa-footer-return-to-top">

<a href="#">Return to top</a>

</div>

<div class="usa-footer-primary-section">

<div class="usa-grid-full">

<nav class="usa-footer-nav">

<ul class="usa-unstyled-list">

<li class="usa-width-one-fourth usa-footer-primary-content">

<a class="usa-footer-primary-link" href="javascript:void(0);">Primary link</a>

</li>

<li class="usa-width-one-fourth usa-footer-primary-content">

<a class="usa-footer-primary-link" href="javascript:void(0);">Permanently relevant</a>

</li>

<li class="usa-width-one-fourth usa-footer-primary-content">

<a class="usa-footer-primary-link" href="javascript:void(0);">Easy to understand</a>

</li>

<li class="usa-width-one-fourth usa-footer-primary-content">

<a class="usa-footer-primary-link" href="javascript:void(0);">Site policies (example)</a>

</li>

</ul>

</nav>

</div>

</div>

<div class="usa-footer-secondary\_section">

<div class="usa-grid">

<div class="usa-footer-logo usa-width-one-half">

<img class="usa-footer-logo-img" src="/assets/img/logo-img.png" alt="Logo image">

<h3 class="usa-footer-logo-heading">Name of Agency</h3>

</div>

<div class="usa-footer-contact-links usa-width-one-half">

<a class="usa-link-facebook" href="javascript:void(0);">

<span>Facebook</span>

</a>

<a class="usa-link-twitter" href="javascript:void(0);">

<span>Twitter</span>

</a>

<a class="usa-link-youtube" href="javascript:void(0);">

<span>YouTube</span>

</a>

<a class="usa-link-rss" href="javascript:void(0);">

<span>RSS</span>

</a>

<address>

<h3 class="usa-footer-contact-heading">Agency Contact Center</h3>

<p>(800) CALL-GOVT</p>

<a href="mailto:info@agency.gov">info@agency.gov</a>

</address>

</div>

</div>

</div>

</footer>

<!-- Update the link path to where your JavaScript file is located. For example: /path/to/your/assets/js/lib/uswds.min.js -->

<script src="/assets/js/vendor/uswds.min.js"></script>

</body>

</html>

Bordered Table – Exhibit C

<h6>Bordered Table</h6>

<table>

<thead>

<tr>

<th scope="col">Document title</th>

<th scope="col">Description</th>

<th scope="col">Year</th>

</tr>

</thead>

<tbody>

<tr>

<th scope="row">Declaration of Independence</th>

<td>Statement adopted by the Continental Congress declaring independence from the British Empire.</td>

<td>1776</td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th scope="row">Bill of Rights</th>

<td>The first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing rights and freedoms.</td>

<td>1791</td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th scope="row">Declaration of Sentiments</th>

<td>A document written during the Seneca Falls Convention outlining the rights that American women should be entitled to as citizens.</td>

<td>1848</td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th scope="row">Emancipation Proclamation</th>

<td>An executive order granting freedom to slaves in designated southern states.</td>

<td>1863</td>

</tr>

</tbody>

</table>

<h6>Borderless Table</h6>

<table class="usa-table-borderless">

<thead>

<tr>

<th scope="col">Document Title</th>

<th scope="col">Description</th>

<th scope="col">Year</th>

</tr>

</thead>

<tbody>

<tr>

<th scope="row">Declaration of Independence</th>

<td>Statement adopted by the Continental Congress declaring independence from the British Empire.</td>

<td>1776</td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th scope="row">Bill of Rights</th>

<td>The first ten amendments of the U.S. Constitution guaranteeing rights and freedoms.</td>

<td>1791</td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th scope="row">Declaration of Sentiments</th>

<td>MadeA document written during the Seneca Falls Convention outlining the rights that American women should be entitled to as citizens.</td>

<td>1848</td>

</tr>

<tr>

<th scope="row">Emancipation Proclamation</th>

<td>An executive order granting freedom to slaves in designated southern states.</td>

<td>1863</td>

</tr>

</tbody>

</table>

Typesetting - Exhibit D

<div class="usa-grid">

<h6 class="usa-heading-alt">Alignment</h6>

<div class="alignment-example">

<h4>The Grand Canyon</h4>

<p>Grand Canyon National Park is the United States' 15th oldest national park. Named a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979, the park is located in Arizona.</p>

</div>

<h6 class="usa-heading-alt">Line length - Desktop</h6>

<div class="usa-line-length-example">

<p>Yosemite National Park is set within California’s Sierra Nevada mountains. It’s famed for its giant, ancient sequoias, and for Tunnel View, the iconic vista of towering Bridalveil Fall and the granite cliffs of El Capitan and Half Dome.</p>

<p class="help-text">75 characters max on desktop</p>

</div>

<h6 class="usa-heading-alt">Spacing</h6>

<h1>Section heading</h1>

<p class="usa-font-lead">Great Smoky Mountains National Park straddles the border of North Carolina and Tennessee.</p>

<h2>Section heading</h2>

<h3>Section of the page</h3>

<p>The sprawling landscape encompasses lush forests and an abundance of wildflowers that bloom year-round. Streams, rivers and waterfalls appear along hiking routes that include a segment of the Appalachian Trail.</p>

<h4>Subsection of the page</h4>

<p>World renowned for its diversity of plant and animal life, the beauty of its ancient mountains, and the quality of its remnants of Southern Appalachian mountain culture, this is America's most visited national park.</p>

<p>Right now scientists think that we only know about 17 percent of the plants and animals that live in the park, or about 17,000 species of a probable 100,000 different organisms.</p>

<h5>Subsection of the page</h5>

<p>Entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park is free. The park is one of the few national parks where no entrance fees are charged.</p>

</div>

## Font Conversion Table

Rem = REMS, px = Pixel, pt = point  
1rem = 16px = 12pt  
2rem = 32px = 24pt  
3rem = 48px = 36pt

## CSS Classes

Max-Width

.usa-content p, .usa-content ul:not(.usa-accordion):not(.usa-accordion-bordered), .usa-content ol:not(.usa-accordion):not(.usa-accordion-bordered) {  
 max-width: 66ch;  
}

.usa-content-list {  
 max-width: 66ch;   
}

## Glossary

## **Hero feature:** Hero features are used at the top of your landing page to help set the tone for the content of your site and to help users understand what your brand is all about. The Hero feature offers a callout which provides a high-level overview of the content on the site and will often reference the Hero image that sits behind it.

## **Graphic list:** The Graphic list is used to showcase a number of related items and their respective images in a grid pattern.

## References

<https://www.usability.gov/>  
Site that provides information to help improve the user experience and provides useful tools and resource templates available for download.

<https://www.vets.gov/playbook/>  
Unifying and simplifying VA’s digital touch points, dramatically improving customer experience

<https://standards.usa.gov/>  
The Standards are a design system that allows federal agencies to quickly prototype and deploy digital products using a baseline of design patterns.

<https://18f.gsa.gov/>  
Partners with federal agencies to build, buy, and share digital services that improve the user experience of government.

<https://www.section508.gov/>  
Site that provides understanding to Section 508 Laws and New Standards.

**US3496**

Need developer centric documents, using MCCF/ VA technical writing standards and template to create a style guide that will provide front end UI developers to maintain a consistent look and feel across all web pages and web apps.

This document should include but should not be limited to: styling, definition of CSS and or CSS classes that apply to any elements, VA branding, typography, grid layout methodology, wireframes, and other layout criteria, including widget styling (for those we know about)

**US3497**  
Need a generic guide to UX design converting topics not included in the style guide. This should be interaction based in terms of approach, and will focus on consistent workflow and usability, not layout and styling

**US3498**

Need an overall test guide that helps front end developers test for usability, accessibility, etc. This will mostly consist of checklists and development guidelines. Preference is that this document facilitate peer review and integration testing before UAT is initiated and other high level testing. This should be from the Product Team developer perspective.