

How to build a wireframe in Google Slides

So far, you've learned that wireframes are vital for planning and communicating the design of a dashboard, and serve as a visual representation of the dashboard's structure and functionality. In this reading, you'll learn to create a wireframe in Google Slides through a step-by-step process, so that you can align with your stakeholders' needs, and simplify feedback.

The importance of wireframes

In the development stages of wireframing, it's crucial to align with your stakeholders' needs, and streamline feedback. As an analyst, creating a wireframe for dashboards in data visualizations can help you save time, and ensure your stakeholders act on insights effectively.

Google Slides as a wireframe tool

Google Slides is an effective wireframe tool that offers user-friendly controls and design layout capabilities. Its features include blank slides, shapes, lines, arrows, text boxes, and drag-and-drop functionality for flexible adjustments.

To create a wireframe in Google Slides:

1. Learn the features of the dashboarding application
2. Learn the features of Google Slides
3. Create a new presentation
4. Demonstrate a design plan

Learn the features of the dashboarding application

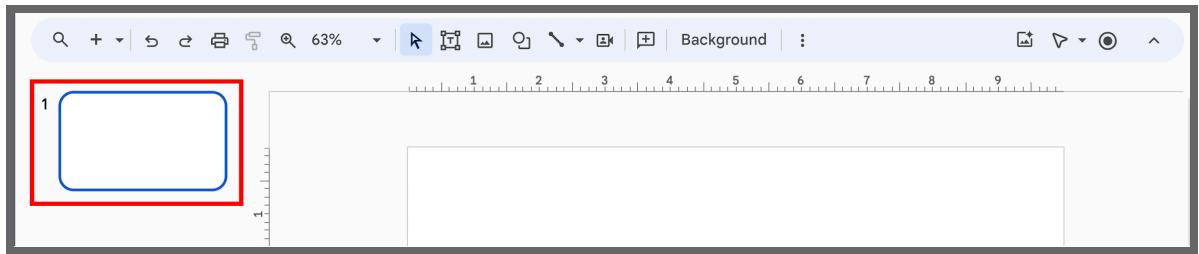
Before you create a wireframe in Google Slides, you need to know the features of the application that you'll use to create the dashboard. If your dashboard will be presented in Looker, take time to review the features in Looker, including transitions, actionable buttons, and filters. While a wireframe is a visual representation, not a final product, it's important to ensure the design is an accurate representation of the final product. As you're exploring the program, think of how a user might navigate through your dashboard. Consider questions like:

- How will users access the dashboard?
- What data might users want to filter, drill down, or zoom in on?
- What functionalities and capabilities does this program have that will be useful for the dashboard?

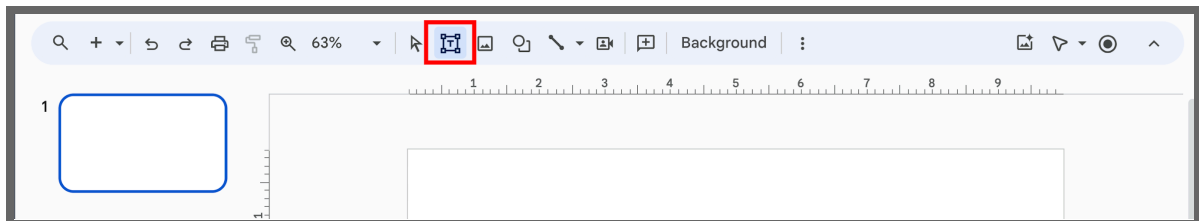
Learn the features of Google Slides

After you understand the capabilities of your dashboard application, think about how to translate them using Google Slides. If you're not familiar with Google Slides, here are some basic things you need to know to get started:

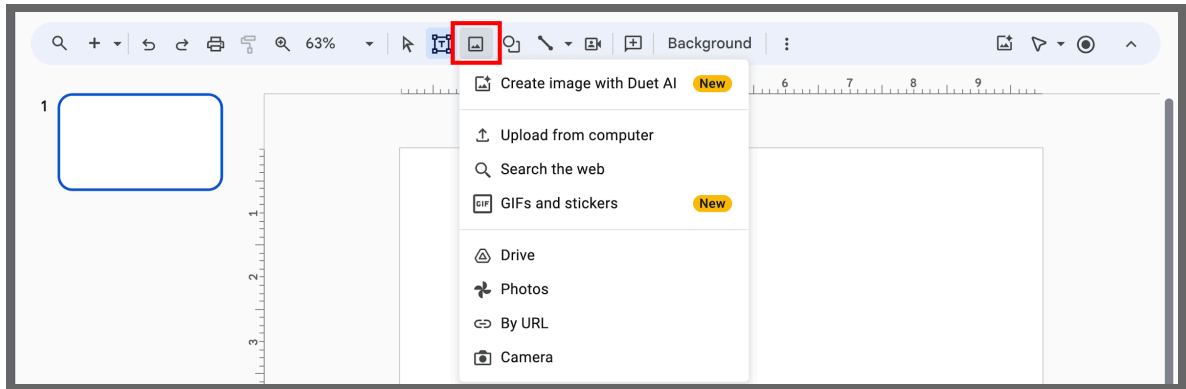
- **Blank slides:** One blank slide is all you need for a wireframe. A blank slide represents your dashboard, and the elements you add onto the canvas are placeholders for visualizations. Click the down arrow next to the "+" button to select a blank slide.



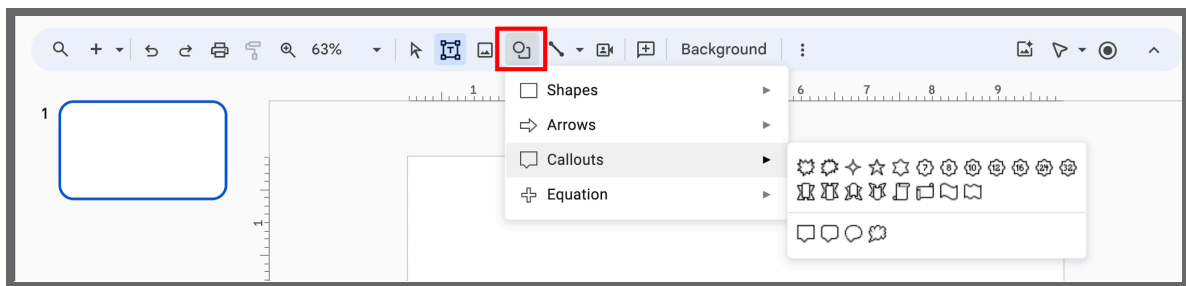
- **Shapes, lines, images, and text boxes:** You can use shapes, lines, charts, images, and text boxes to mimic common dashboard functionalities like buttons, filters, charts, and chart labels. You can drag these elements around your slide for complete customization. These elements are located side-by-side in the top ribbon in this order: text box, image, shapes, and lines.
- **Text boxes button:** Use text boxes to create labels and write notes. Text boxes can be used for clarification of graphics and charts, placeholders, and added notes.



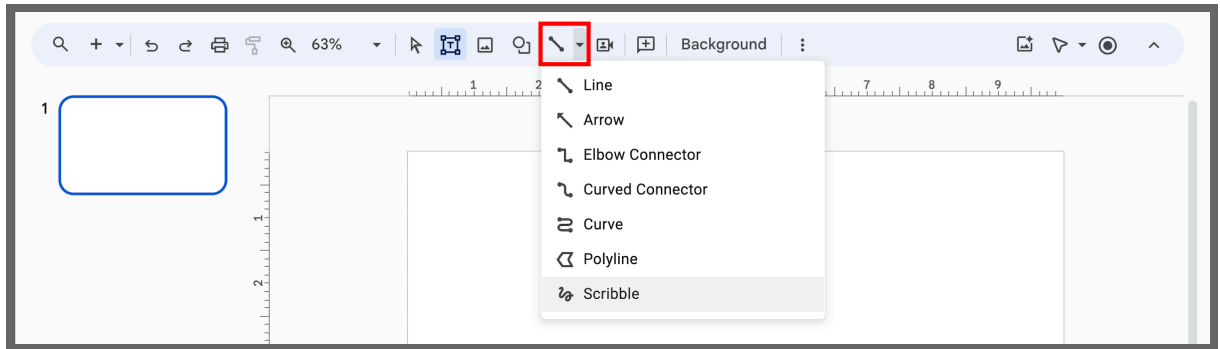
- **Images button and drop-down menu:** The variety of shapes available in Google Slides are effective placeholders for future visualizations. For example, a circle can represent a pie chart, and a rectangle can represent a bar chart or filter.



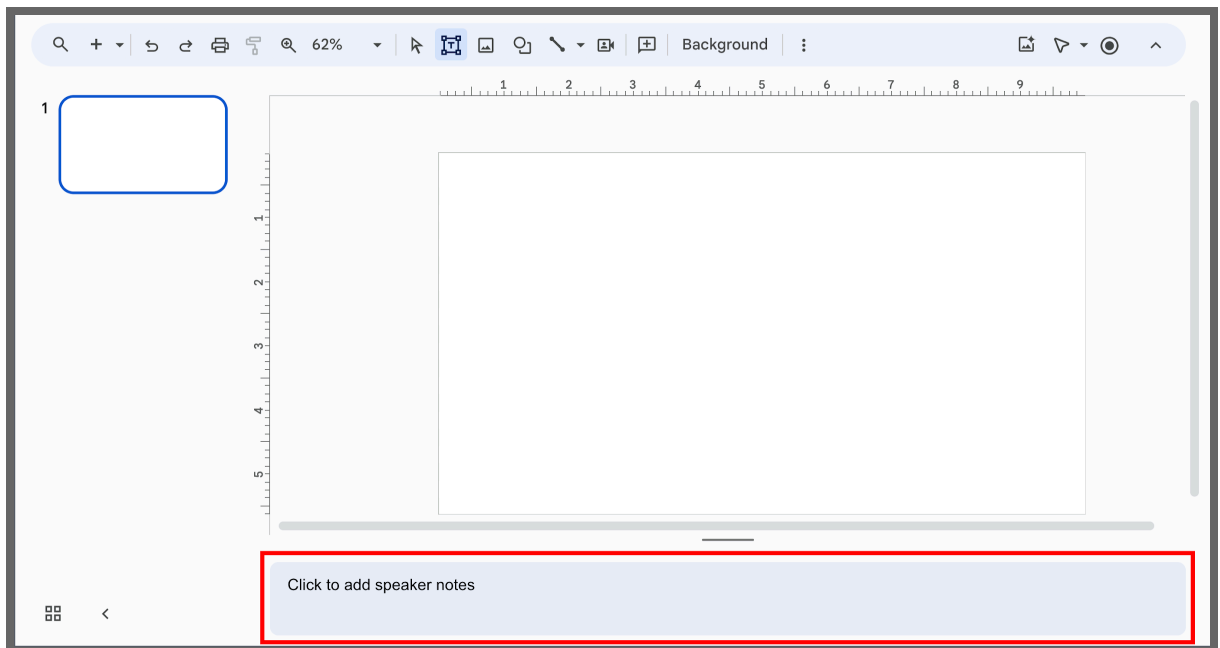
- **Shapes button and dropdown menu:** Lines and connectors can be used to plan logical flow for how visualizations will build on each other. They can also be used to delineate sections of the wireframe.



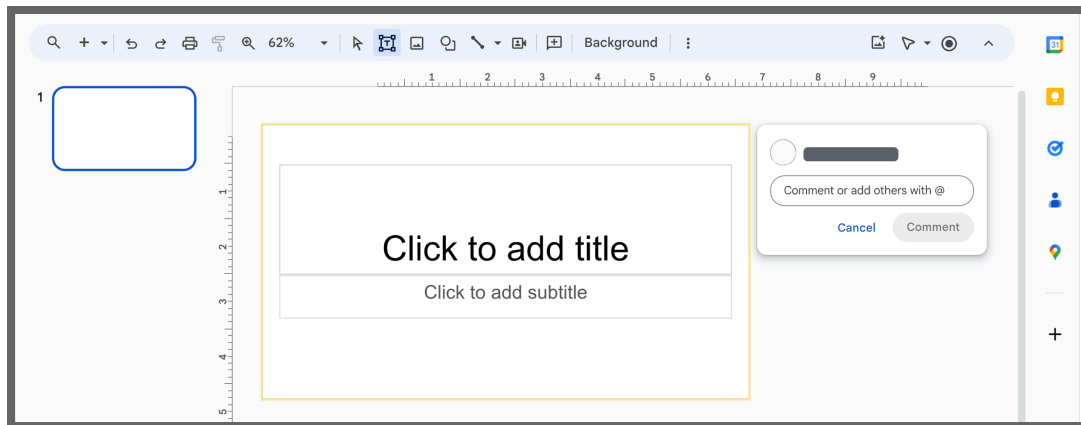
- **Lines button and dropdown menu:** Think about how a user will navigate your dashboard. If the wireframe includes a variety of buttons and filters for user navigation, you want to make sure the final dashboard includes these capabilities as well.



- **Speaker notes:** Speaker notes, located at the bottom of each slide, is a feature you can use to write notes, reminders, or caveats about your design. Speaker notes are useful for inserting extra details about the functionality of the intended dashboard that might not be clear in the wireframe.



- **Comments:** A great feature of Google Slides is the ability to comment directly on slides. Anyone who has access to your wireframe in Google Slides can comment their thoughts, make suggestions, or ask questions, contributing to a collaborative environment. Just click the element—shape, image, or textbox—or slide you'd like to comment on, then click the “+” in the speech bubble located at the top ribbon, and start typing.



Create a new presentation

Now, you're ready to create a wireframe in Google Slides. Just click "new presentation" to get started. Use the first slide to write notes about your intentions for the dashboard by answering questions like:

- Who is the intended audience?
- How will the audience use this dashboard?
- Which key features must be included?

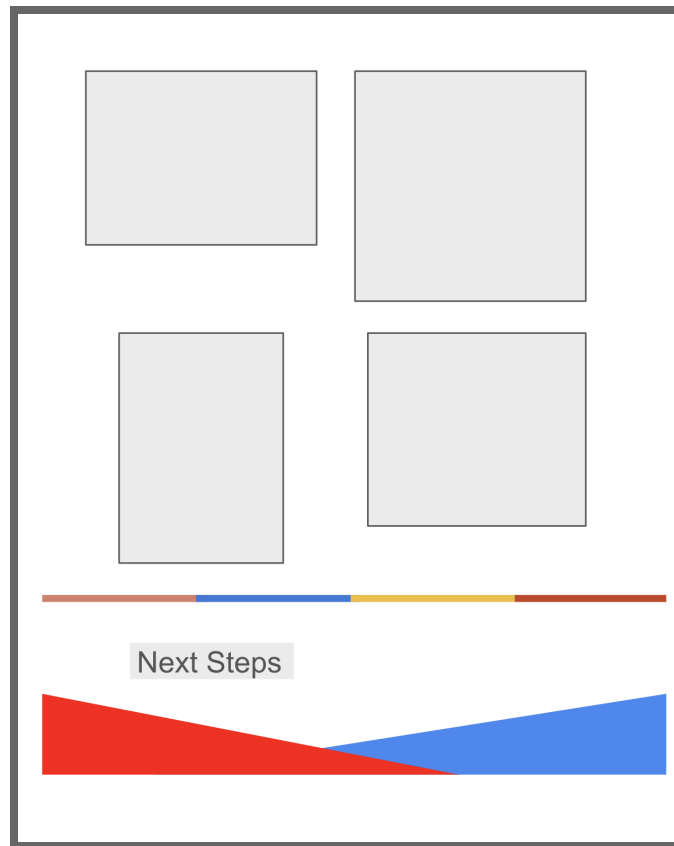
Refer back to your notes if you need a reminder about what to include.

Demonstrate a design plan

Begin working on a design plan for your dashboard by allocating shapes or charts to represent visualizations. Use text boxes or squares to represent labels and filters. A design plan will give you and your collaborators a sense of how the final product will look. A design plan is also useful for crafting a narrative about the data. Think about how you want users to navigate the data, and how they'll arrive at specific insights and conclusions. Ask yourself questions like:

- How and where will the most important information be displayed?
- What are the supporting elements that'll emphasize the main point?
 - Supporting elements include pictures, graphics, tables, and charts.
- Where should filters be placed to make them accessible?

Your completed wireframe will be a single slide with a collection of boxes, text, graphics, and charts that represent actual visualizations for the final dashboard.



Key takeaways

A wireframe is a visual blueprint essential for aligning dashboard design with stakeholder requirements, and simplifying feedback. Using the versatile features in Google Slides can help you craft an effective wireframe that reflects the final product's functionalities and design.