

The Web Design Process

1. One-Pagers

The One-Pager

- ★ Defines the scope and purpose of the project.
- ★ Explores personas and user archetypes.
- * Gets the client and team on the same page.
- ★ Typical outline:
 - **★** Short elevator pitch
 - ★ Long elevator pitch/description
 - ★ Personas (user archetypes)
 - **★** Comparable sites/competitors

2. UX/Content

Content & User Experience

- ★ Content is crucial to good design. In an ideal world, we have complete content to design against at the onset of the project.
- ★ Before we wireframe, we need to know how much, and what kind of content we'll be dealing with.
- * Sketching user flow thumbnails can help with content placement.
- ★ Content should be crafted using good web writing techniques.

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3. Wireframing

Wireframes

- ★ Low fidelity mockups that help to place content and other major screen elements.
- ★ Wireframes don't need to be in color—less is definitely more.
- ★ You can sketch wireframes or use one of the many online or desktop tools.
- ★ Wireframes should cover all major layouts and user interactions on a site.

4. Comps

Design Comps

- ★ Core design step in the overall design process.
- ★ Translate wireframes and content into complete design ideas.
- ★ Typical tools include Photoshop, Sketch and Browser/Markup.
- ★ This step will help you define your HTML and CSS patterns (in the production step).

5. Production

Production/Development

- ★ Depending on the project, HTML and CSS should be broken down to core components and defined in a pattern library (see Bootstrap).
- ★ Good markup matters—take care in marking up your content and be sure to use elements for their semantic meaning, not their style (style can be changed thanks to CSS).
- ★ You may have to work in other frameworks like Rails, Django or Node.

6. Testing

Testing

- ★ Generally, we test along the way using our browser's developer tools (Chrome) and cross checking our work in other locally installed browsers.
- * We can also test the design itself by having users perform tasks and measuring the results.
- ★ It's also a good idea to test the performance of the website by measuring its response time (usually in milliseconds)—faster is always better.