



Welcome to Designed for Everyone!

Step 1

Visit lsuh.sc/ahDigitalAccess
in your internet browser to access
files for the workshop.

Step 2

Make sure you have access to
these programs:

Microsoft Word
Adobe Express (browser)
Adobe Acrobat

Buddy-up with someone!

If you do not have a laptop, find a partner who does.

If you are not tech savvy, sit near someone who can help you.



The Human Development Center's

Outreach and Web Team

Designed for Everyone:

Creating Accessible Digital
Materials for Healthcare
and Education

With Rose Angelocci, Ph.D.
and Jolie Robichaux



Building Capacity • Inspiring Change

We are a program of the Human Development Center at LSU Health New Orleans

Louisiana's University Center Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

We support



Inclusive
Education



Community
Participation

For individuals with
developmental disabilities,
including autism, FASD,
and deafblindness.

We focus on



Early Childhood
(ages 0-5)



Education
(grades K-12)



Postsecondary
Transition



Competitive
Integrated
Employment



Deafblind
Support



Fetal Alcohol
Spectrum
Disorders



Community
Health



Work Incentive
Planning
Assistance

We provide

Direct Services

Professional Development

Interdisciplinary Training

**See all our
programs on our
website**

www.hdc.lsuhs.edu



Communication Skills for Working with People Who Are Visually Impaired or Blind

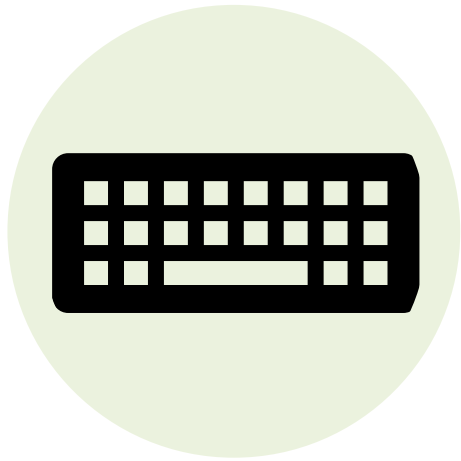
INTER 302

Course taught by Rose Angelocci,
Ph.D. available across all LSUHSC
schools.

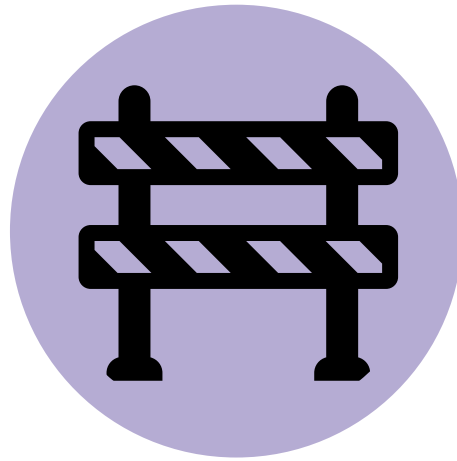




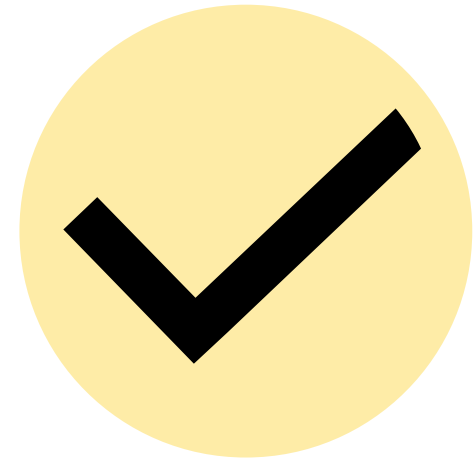
Our goal today



Understand how different people access the internet and digital information.



Become aware of barriers to the web and other digital materials.



Understand solutions to common digital barriers.



What is digital accessibility?

It's about universality.

Making websites and digital services that can be accessed and used by everyone - people on different devices, in different environments and with different abilities.



**Essential to some.
Useful for all.**

Web and digital accessibility makes
interacting with documents, websites,
phones, and other tech easier for
everyone.



It's the law!

Web Accessibility Legal Standards

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 1996

A website with inaccessible features can limit the ability of people with disabilities to access a public accommodation's goods, services, and privileges available through that website.

Rehabilitation Act, 1998 Section 508

Agencies must give disabled employees and members of the public access to information comparable to the access available to others.



The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)

An international that develops web standards.

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

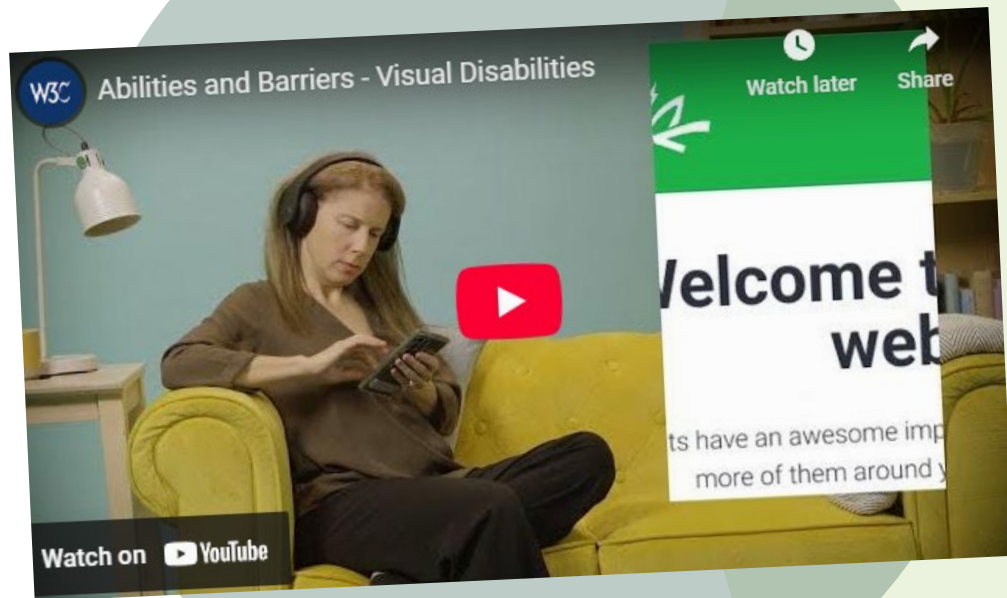
W3C developed a set of internationally recognized standards for making digital content accessible to people with disabilities.



Today's focus:

Users who rely on screen readers or alternative keyboards and mouse.

- Rely on keyboard navigation and shortcuts
- Speech recognition for speech-to-text (STT) transcription
- Text-to-speech



What does digital accessibility look like?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bm8h1p9knzY&list=PLIHGRoeOVB1N7eF1sj-qrPJG0tSTIJDsW&pp=gAQBiAQB>



Real-World Examples

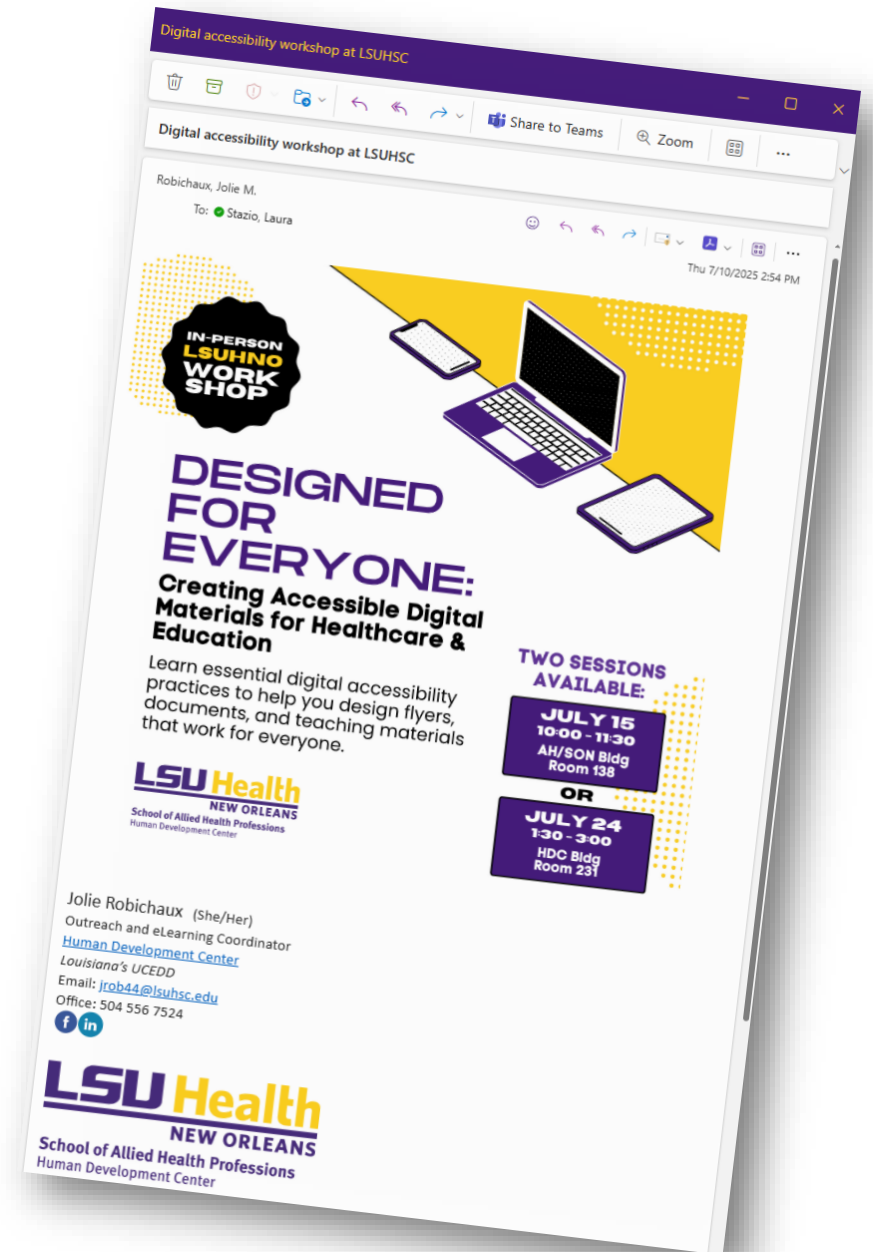
Common examples of digital barriers we experience at work.

Graphics in Emails

Screen readers cannot see what is in an image.

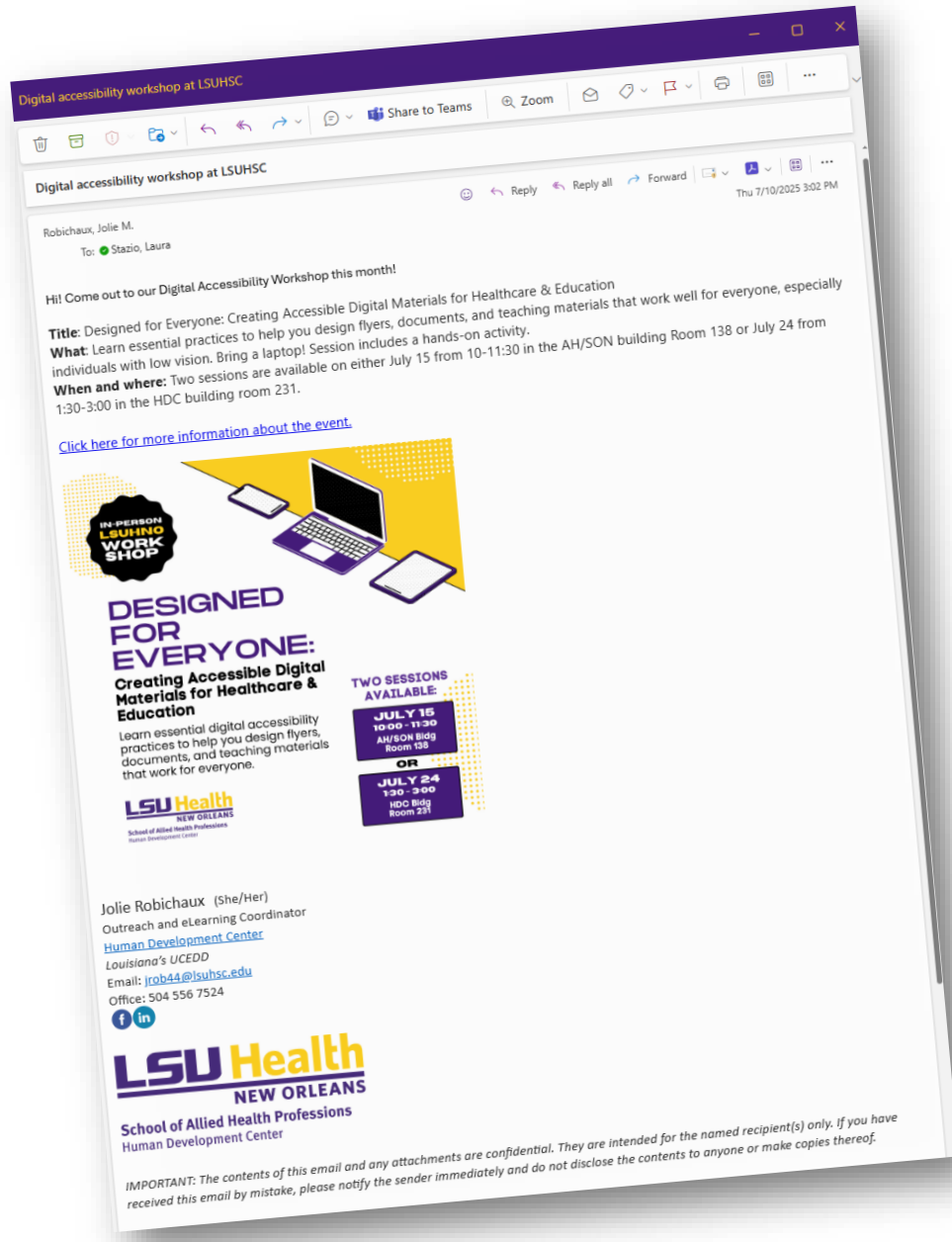
This email would appear empty to someone who uses a screen reader.

Pause to show what it sounds like to Rose.



Graphics in Emails Solution

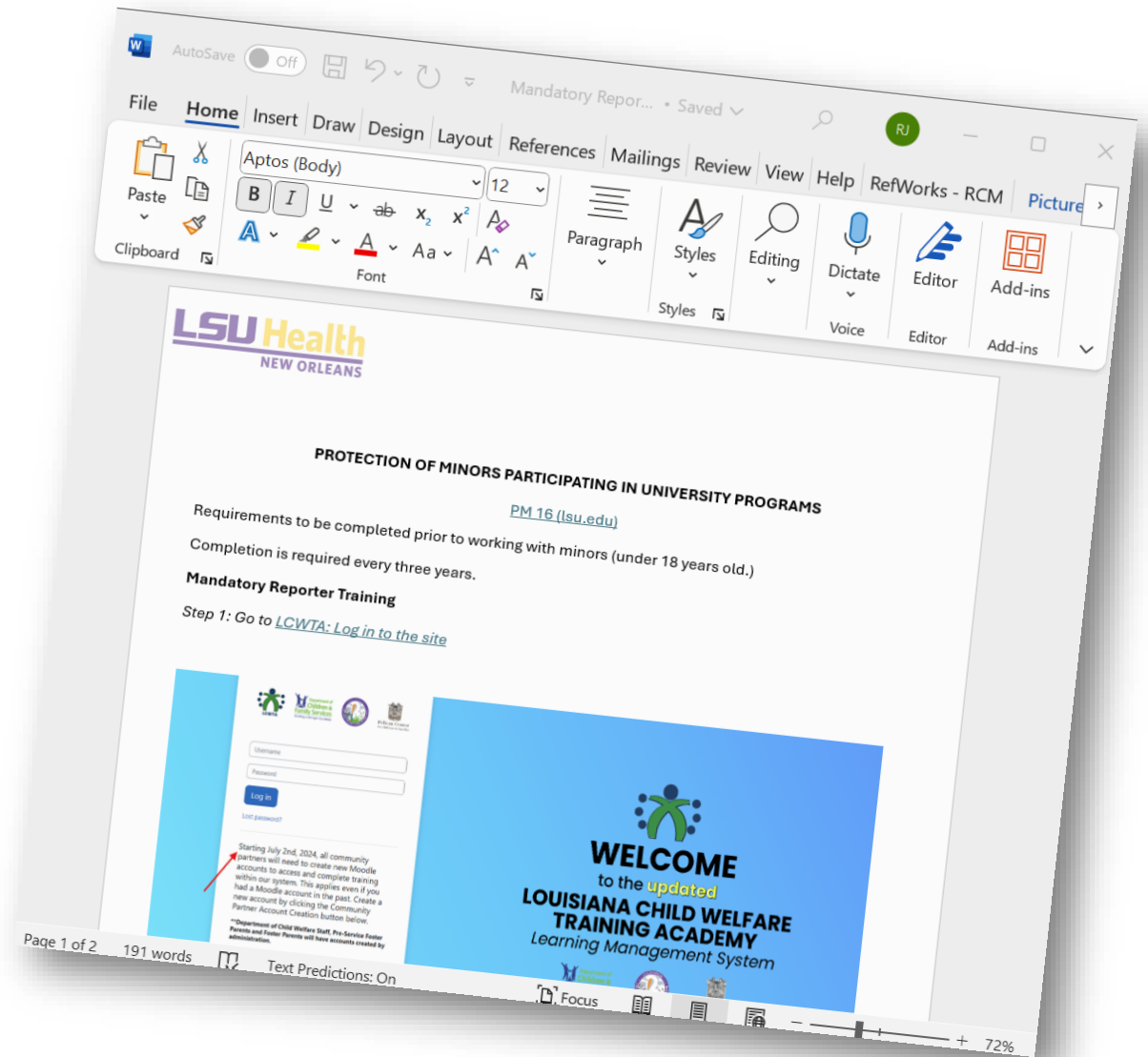
- ✓ Included image's details in the body of the email
- ✓ Embedded image has alt-text if embedded in email
 - Can attach accessible PDF



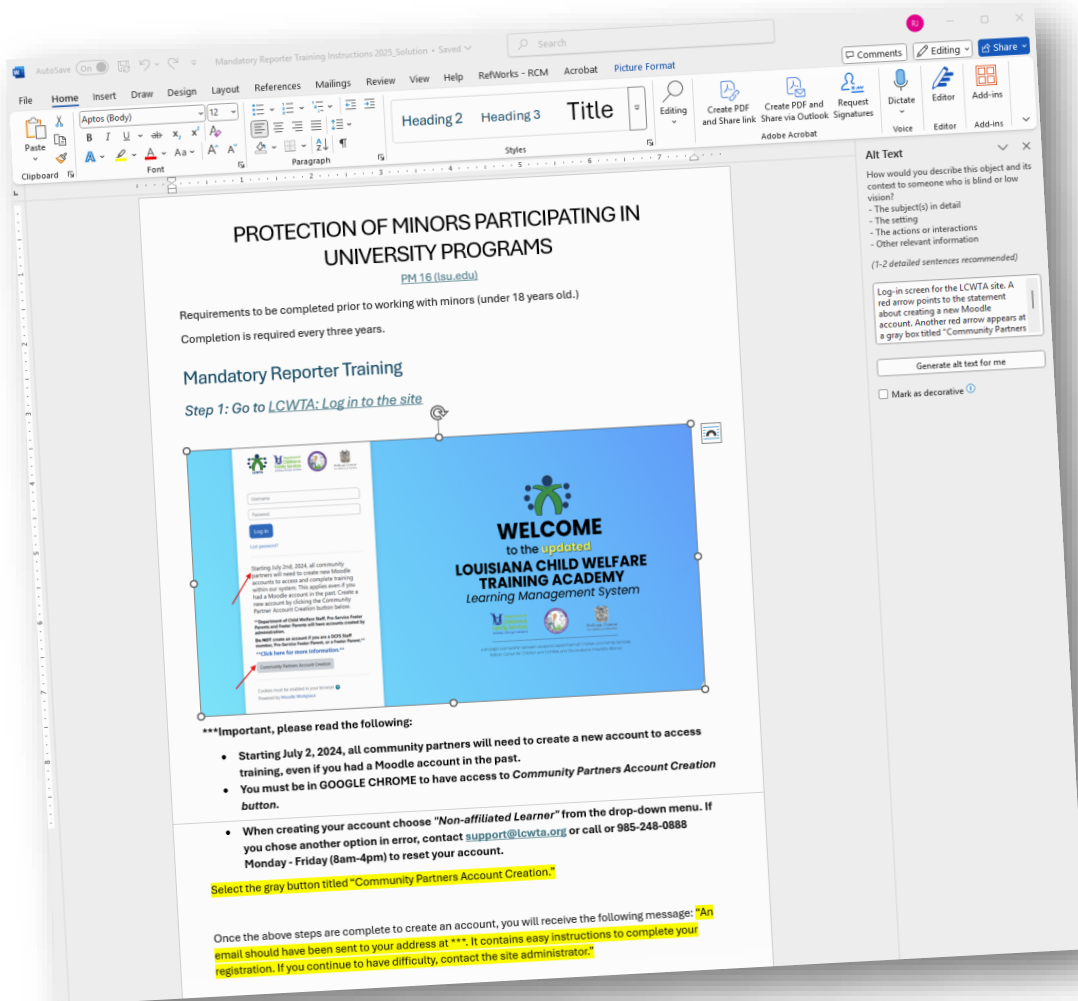
Inaccessible Word Documents

This Mandatory Reporter training how-to guide had essential information in the images that were not listed anywhere else.

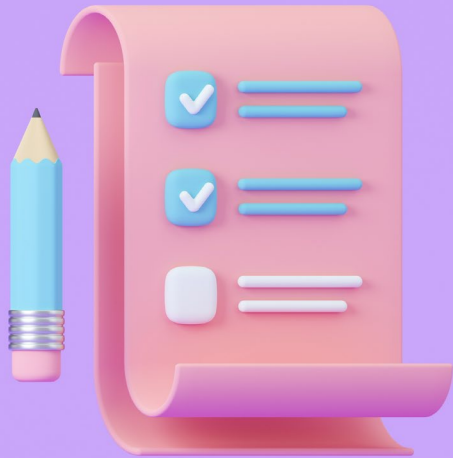
How would someone with a screen reader or low vision know how to log-in to this mandatory training?



Inaccessible Word Documents Solution



- ✓ Added headings
- ✓ Listed instructions in the text that were not obvious without the images
- ✓ Added alt-text to images to give them context to instructions



Everyday Digital Accessibility

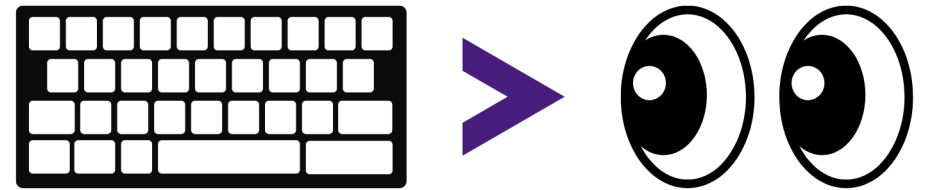
Follow these WCAG tips to ensure your website or document is accessible for all.



Digital Accessibility Checklist

Make sure to have:

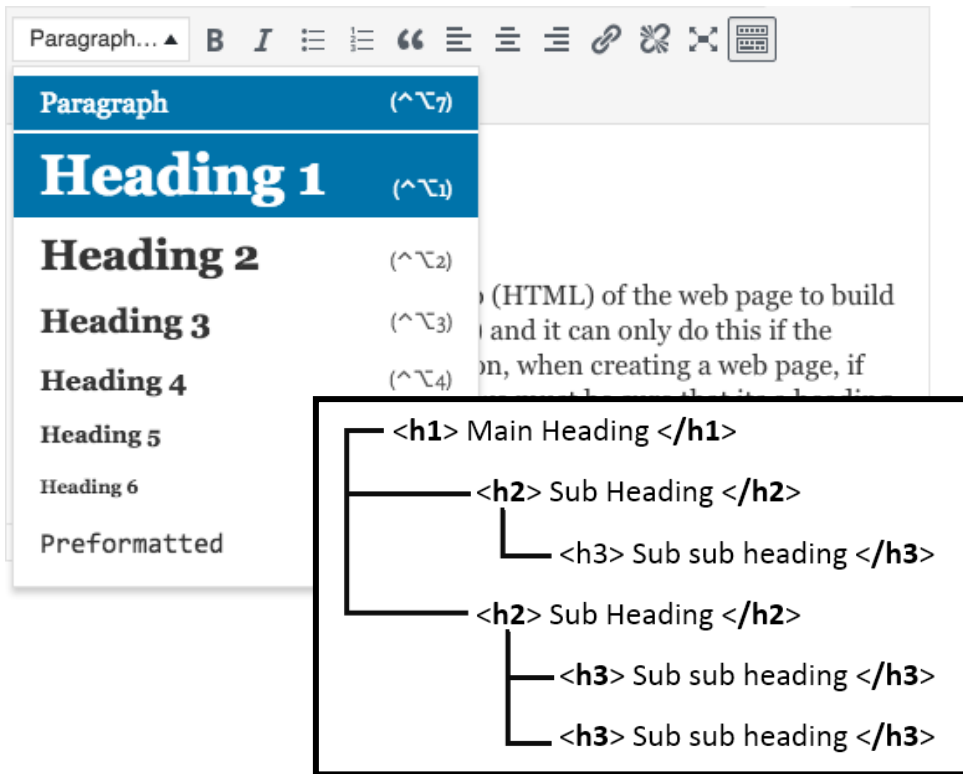
- ☐ Headings
- ☐ Alt text
- ☐ Plain language or easy to read text
- ☐ Avoid color reliance
- ☐ Avoid visual clutter
- ☐ Correct reading order
- ☐ Color contrast
- ☐ Clear font styles and size



Don't rely on your eyes
when designing!



Headings



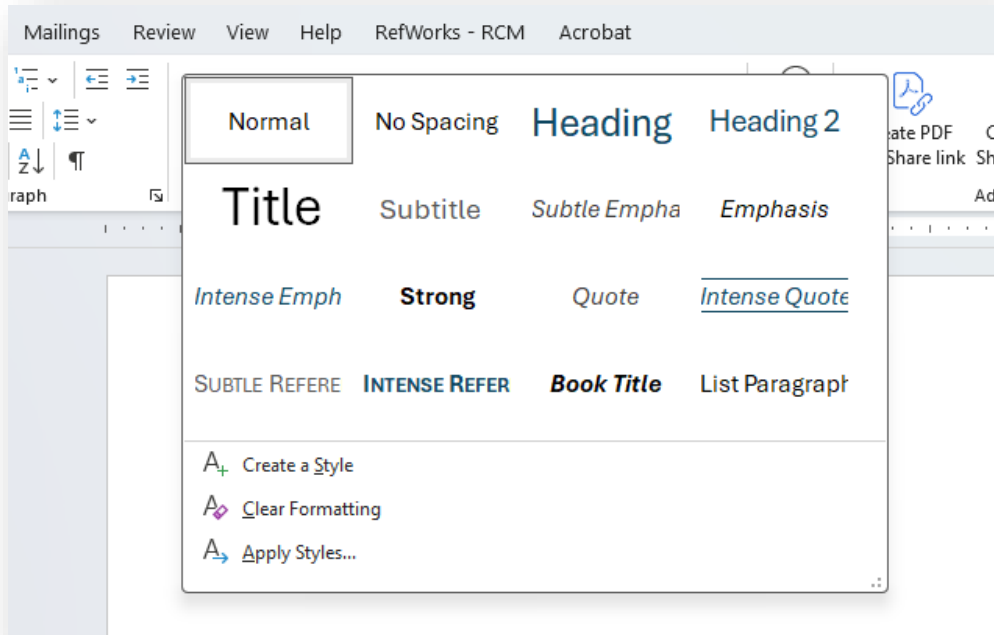
- Headings communicate the organization of the content on the page
- Breaks information into easier to read chunks
- Screen reader users can navigate a page according to its headings
- Use design layouts, templates and style sheets

Organizing Headings on the Web

- h1 Heading Demo
- h2 About this Demo
- h2 The Importance of Headings
- h3 How Screen Readers List Headings

- Start with Heading 1.
- There should only be one Heading 1 level.
- Do not skip heading levels.
- Establish a clear hierarchy of information.

Organizing Headings in Word



- Use Heading 1 for your main sections.
- You can have multiple Heading 1s, unlike the web.
- Do not skip heading levels.
- Establish a clear hierarchy of information.



Alt Text



Tourists pose for pictures while touching the foot of the John Harvard Statue.

Alt text should always convey content or function. Try to:

- be accurate and equivalent to represent content and function.
- be succinct without sacrificing accuracy.
- not include phrases like "image of ..." or "graphic of ...", etc.



Writing Alt Text

Here are examples
from the University
of South Carolina



Alt Text: The USC
smoke stack stands
tall before the bright
blue, partly cloudy
sky.



This is an
example of a
Decorative Icon
that should not
have alt text.



Adding Alt Text

Alt Text can be automatically generated in some programs



School of Allied Health Professions
Human Development Center



Alt Text

How would you describe this object and its context to someone who is blind or low vision?

- The subject(s) in detail
- The setting
- The actions or interactions
- Other relevant information

(1-2 detailed sentences recommended)

A cityscape of buildings and boats on a river

Description automatically generated

Generate alt text for me

- ☐ Approve alt text ⓘ
- ☐ Mark as decorative ⓘ

[Give feedback on this alt text](#)



Correcting the Document Properties

Required Document Properties for Accessibility:

- Title – Concise and descriptive title
- Subject – Very short description of the document's subject
- Author – best practice is to put the office that owns the document rather than the person who created it

University of North Carolina Digital Accessibility Office. (n.d.). *Word accessibility*. Digital Accessibility Office, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <https://digitalaccessibility.unc.edu/word-accessibility/>

Properties ▾

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Size | 13.1MB |
| Slides | 45 |
| Hidden slides | 0 |
| Title | Designed for Everyone: Digi... |
| Tags | Add a tag |
| Categories | Add a category |

Related Dates

| | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Last Modified | 7/15/2025 3:02 PM |
| Created | 10/18/2023 4:26 PM |
| Last Printed | 7/15/2025 7:59 AM |

Related People

Author

RJ

Robichaux, Jolie M.

Angelocci, Rose M.

Add an author

Last Modified By

RJ

Robichaux, Jolie M.

Related Documents

HTML

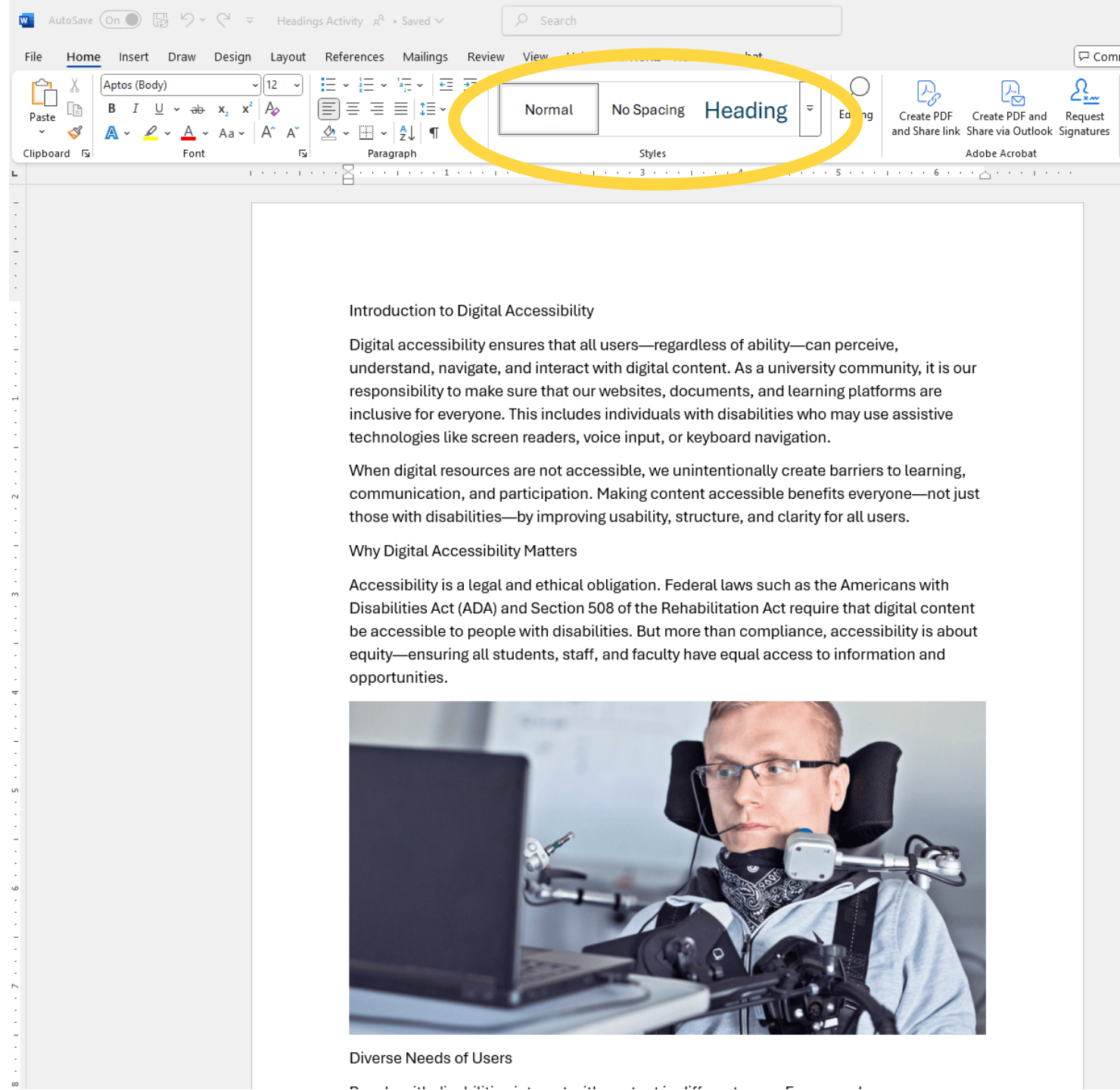
Open File Location

Show All Properties

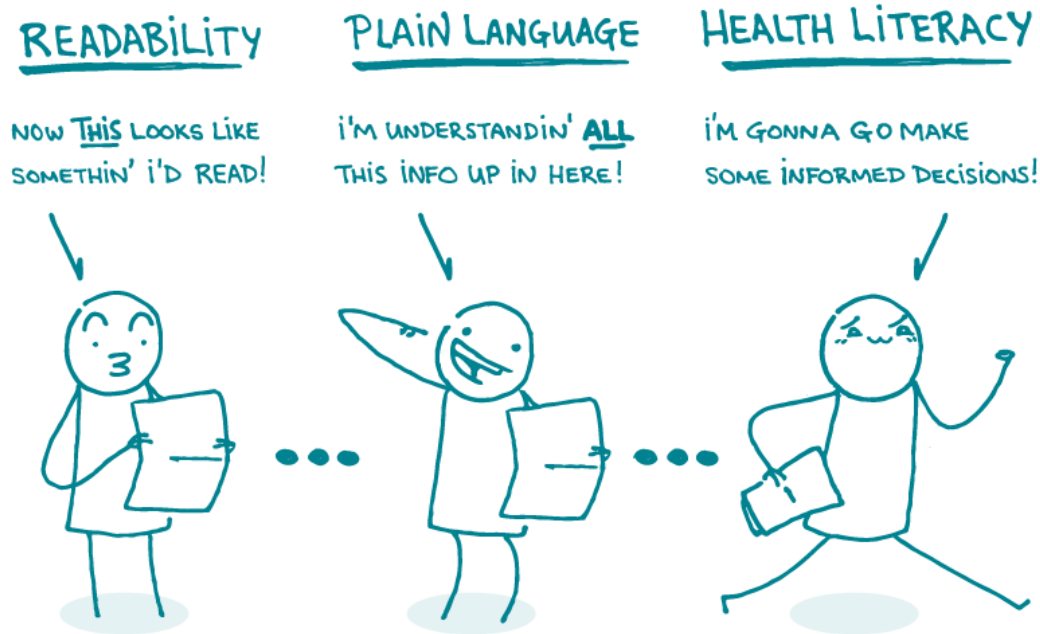
Activity: Word Heading Styles and Alt Text

Time: 5 minutes

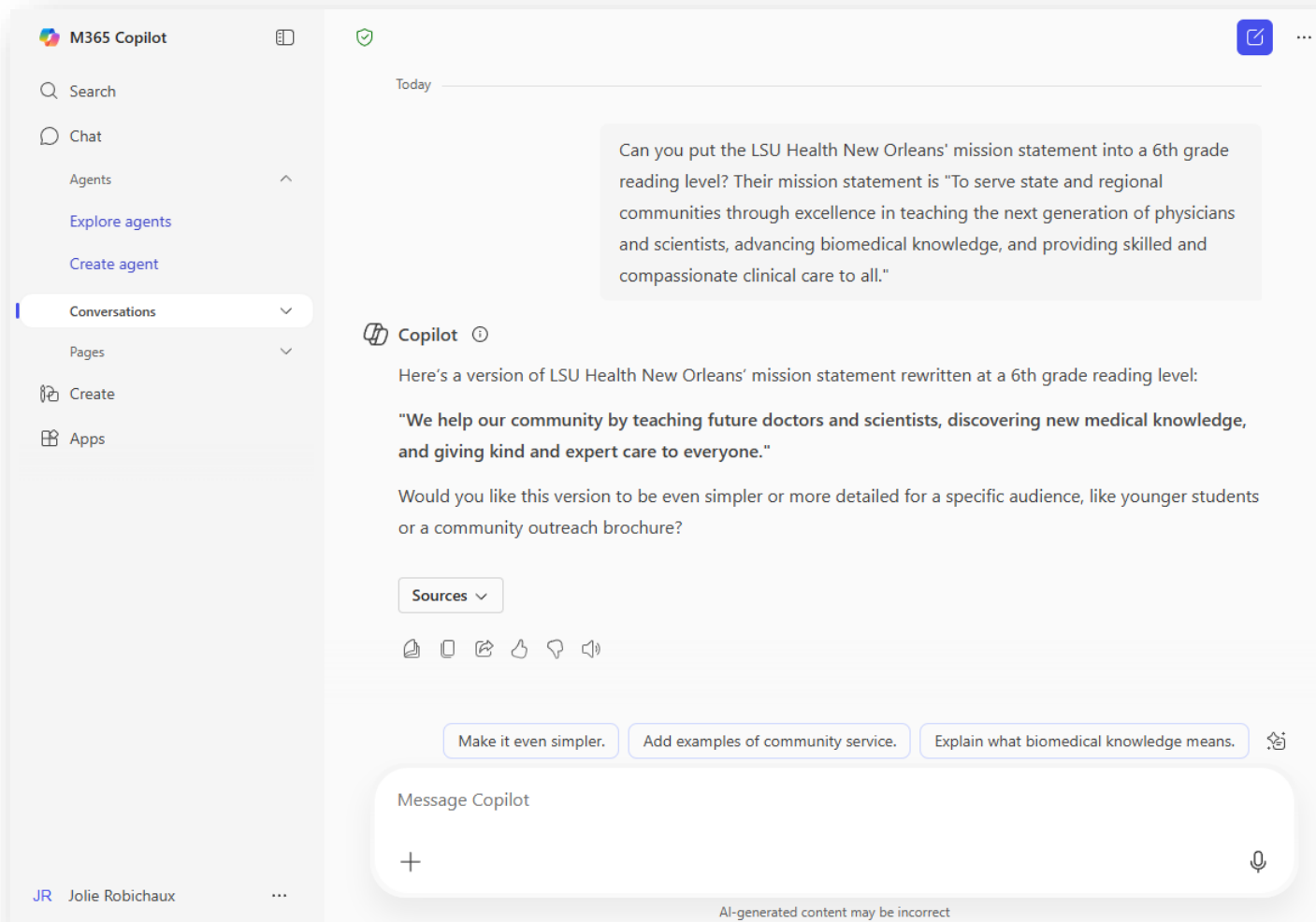
1. Use Word's Heading Styles to create Heading levels 1, 2, and 3
2. Add alt text to the images



Plain Language and Easy Read



- Always use natural language
- Be mindful of your audience; Avoid technical jargon and unusual words
- Organize the information
- Keep it conversational
- Design for a 6th to 8th grade reading level



Resource: AI for reading levels

- Design for a 6th to 8th grade reading level
- AI tools can help you achieve this!



Color Reliance

Mushrooms

- Angel Wing
- Chanterelle
- Conocybe Filaris
- Lilac Bonnet
- Morel
- Meadow
- Maitake
- Webcap

green = edible

red = poisonous

Edible Mushrooms

- Chanterelle
- Morel
- Meadow
- Maitake

Poisonous Mushrooms

- Angel Wing
- Conocybe Filaris
- Lilac Bonnet
- Webcap





Color Reliance

Mushrooms

- Angel Wing
- Chanterelle
- Conocybe Filaris
- Lilac Bonnet
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- Webcap

green = edible
red = poisonous

- Color can never be the only means of conveying content or information.
- Never rely on color text, i.e., red or green text alone to provide information
- This includes highlighted, bold, and underlined text in an email!

| Edible Mushrooms | Poisonous Mushrooms |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chanterelle• Morel• Meadow• Maitake | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angel Wing• Conocybe Filaris• Lilac Bonnet• Webcap |

Color Contrast



Here are some examples of text with almost exactly 4.5:1 contrast.

- Gray (#767676) on white
- Purple (#CC21CC) white
- Blue (#000063) on gray (#808080)
- Red (#E60000) on yellow (#FFFF47)

- Contrast and color use are vital to accessibility.
- High contrast ensures information is distinguishable.
- The WCAG requires a minimum contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1

Contrast Checker

[Home](#) > [Resources](#) > Contrast Checker

Foreground Color

#0000FF



Lightness



Background Color

#FFFFFF



Lightness



Contrast Ratio

8.59:1

[permalink](#)

Normal Text

WCAG AA: **Pass**

WCAG AAA: **Pass**

The five boxing wizards jump quickly.

Large Text

WCAG AA: **Pass**

WCAG AAA: **Pass**

The five boxing wizards jump quickly.

Graphical Objects and User Interface Components

WCAG AA: **Pass**

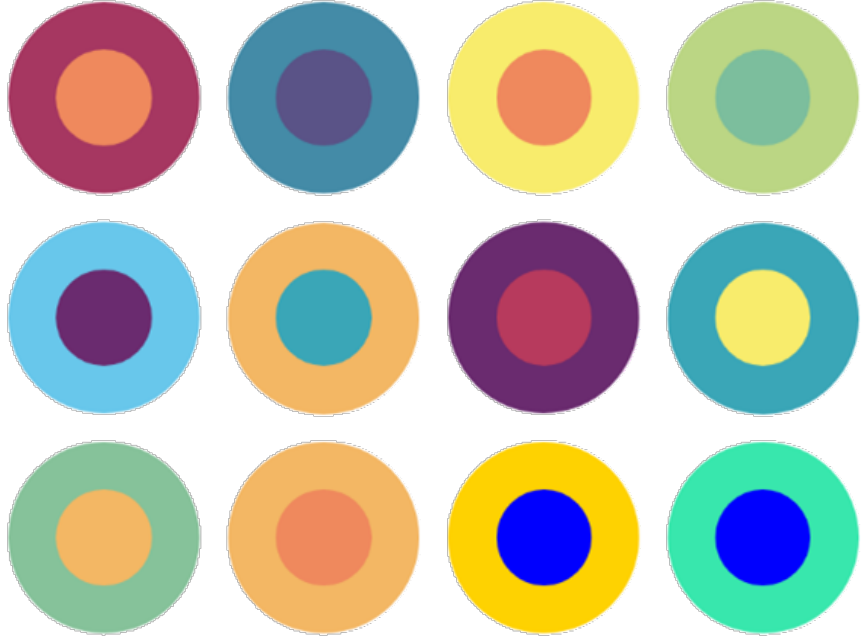


Text Input

Resource: WebAIM Contrast Checker

<https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/>

- Allows you to test color combinations
- Cannot use Mozilla Firefox



Time: 5 minutes

Activity: WebAIM Contrast Checker

<https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/>

1. Download the Contrast Checker Word Doc
2. Go to the Contrast Checker link
3. Which color combination in the circles passes the WCAG guidelines?

Easy to Read Font

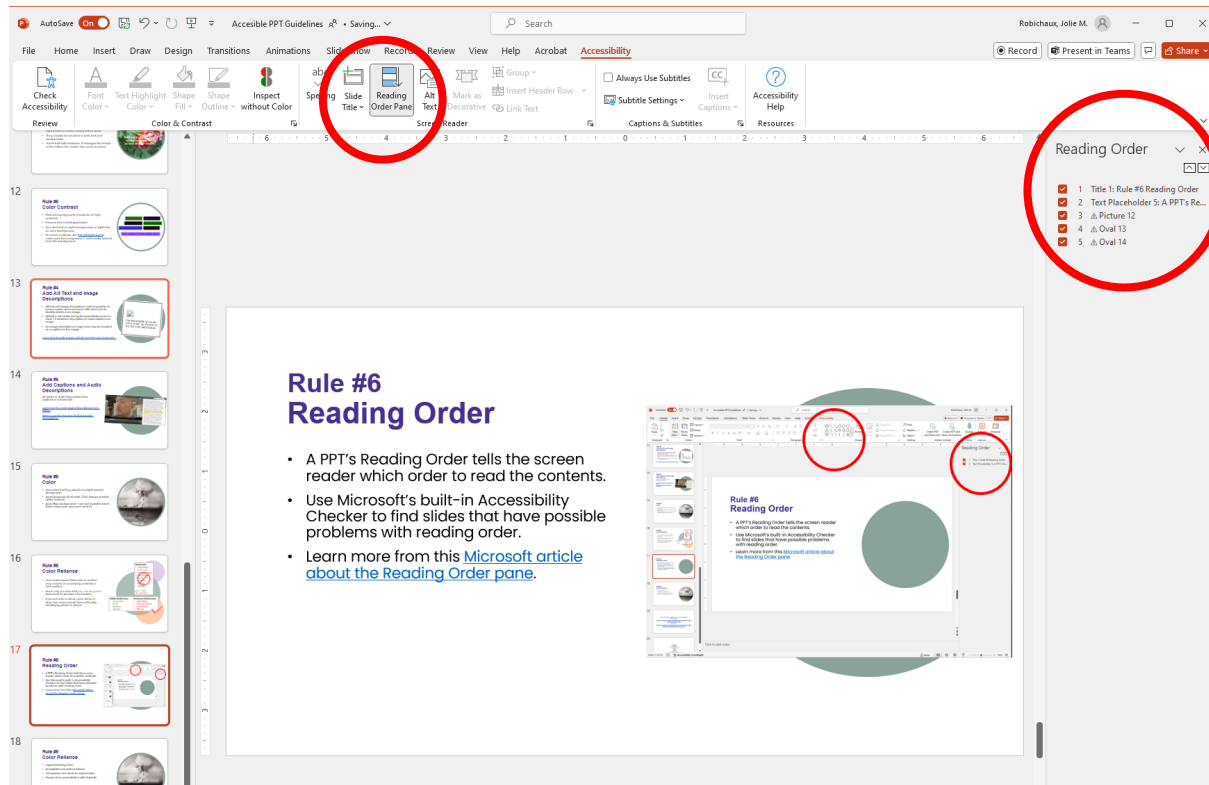
Size

- Digital documents
 - Text size does not matter for digital documents because users can zoom
- Slideshows:
 - Headings: 32 points
 - Text: 22-28 points

Fonts

- Use sans-serif fonts.
- Calibri
 - Arial
 - Tahoma
 - Verdana
 - Poppins

Reading Order



- Reading Order tells the screen reader which information to follow next.
- It should follow a logical and visual flow.
- You can set the reading order in PPT and PDF.

Example: Wonky Flyer

Original flyer made in Canva



DESIGNED FOR EVERYONE:

**Creating Accessible Digital Materials
for Healthcare & Education**

TOPIC:

In healthcare and higher education, clear and accessible communication is critical—not just for compliance, but for quality teaching and patient care.

This workshop will introduce essential digital accessibility practices to help you design flyers, documents, and teaching materials that work well for everyone, including individuals with low vision or those who rely on screen readers.

Bring a laptop! Session includes a hands-on activity to demonstrate the mechanics of accessibility in digital materials.

TWO SESSIONS AVAILABLE:

JULY 15
10:00 - 11:30
AH/SON Bldg
Room 138

OR

JULY 24
10:00 - 11:30
HDC Bldg
Room 231

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS
School of Allied Health Professions
Human Development Center

The workshop is hosted by faculty and staff of the Human Development Center, Louisiana's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities.

Avoid visual clutter

- Clean designs reach a broader audience
- Clutter is distracting and can be overstimulating
- White/empty space is good
- Avoid blocks of text
- Less is best

Powell, D. (2019, October 6). *Designing for accessibility: How we created expert-approved templates*. Solopress.
<https://www.solopress.com/blog/print-inspiration/designing-for-accessibility-how-we-created-expert-approved-templates/>



Large left aligned title

Using sentence case, bold or semi-bold weights are recommended. While also avoiding italics, underlining, simulated handwriting fonts and decorative typefaces.

Recommended size of 14pt for people that are visually impaired

When printing, use a cream or off-white non-glossy paper to reduce glare.

Colour contrast

Foreground text should meet the minimum colour contrast ratio.

Minimum ratio: **4.5:1**

Fonts

Use sans serif fonts as they provide relief to the eye. Use fonts like:

- Helvetica
- Verdana
- Arial

This weekend only

End of winter sale

20% off flyers and posters

Starting September until October

Terms and conditions apply.
See website for details

 solopress

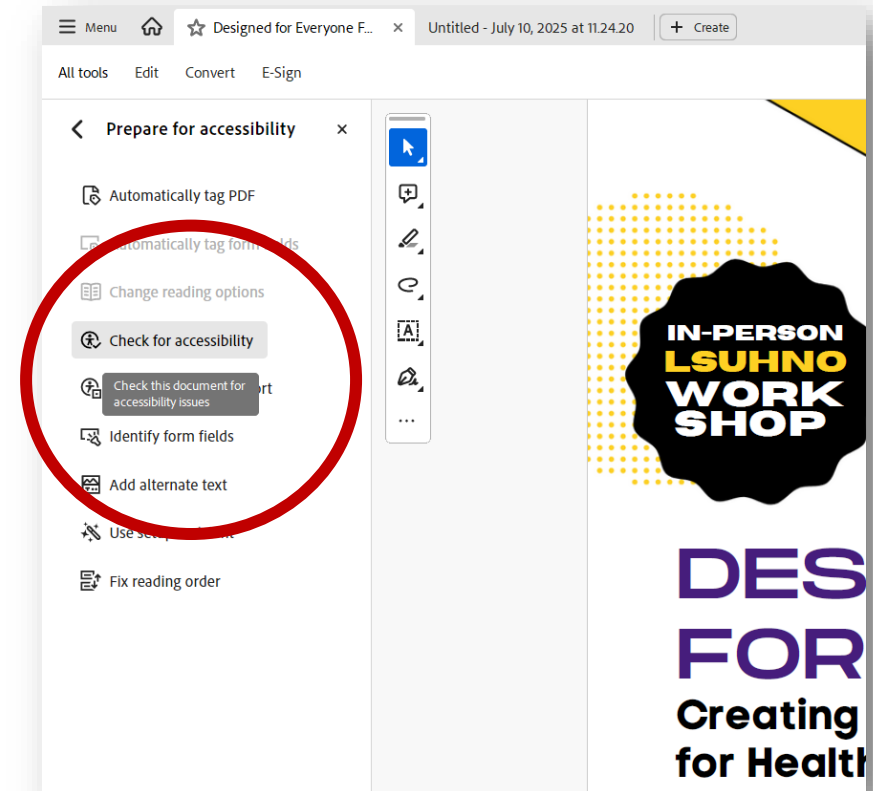
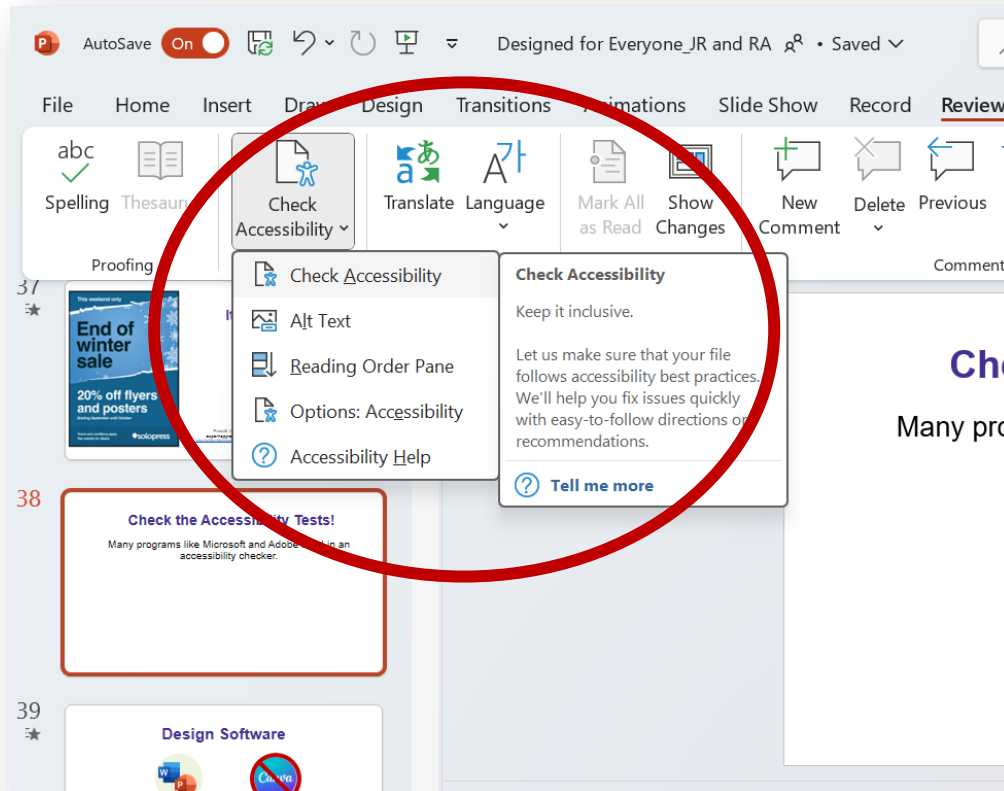
It can still be pretty!

- ← Contrasting colors
 - ← Left-aligned
 - ← Large font size
- ← Clear messaging
 - ← Structured order
- ← Spread out content

Powell, D. (2019, October 6). *Designing for accessibility: How we created expert-approved templates*. Solopress. <https://www.solopress.com/blog/print-inspiration/designing-for-accessibility-how-we-created-expert-approved-templates/>

Check the Accessibility Tests!

Many programs like Microsoft and Adobe build-in an accessibility checker.





Check the Accessibility Tests!

WAVE® is a suite of evaluation tools that helps web authors make their web content more accessible to individuals with disabilities.

www.wave.webaim.org/

Design Software



Microsoft Products

Word and PowerPoint
have the best built-in
accessibility features.

Easily exports to PDF.

Few templates.



Canva

Pretty and easy to
use.

NOT Accessible.

Design Software



Microsoft Products

Word and PowerPoint
have the best built-in
accessibility features.
Easily exports to PDF.
Few templates.



Canva

Pretty and easy to
use.
NOT Accessible.



Adobe Express

Fun templates.
Comparable to
Canva.
Easy access reading
order.

Final Activity



Part 1:
Create graphic in
Adobe Express

10 minutes to
design



Part 2:
Check for accessibility
in Adobe Acrobat



Part 3:
Send graphic in
email

Final Activity



Part 1:
**Create graphic in
Adobe Express**

**10 minutes to
design**

Type of design: “Instagram Portrait Post”

Event copy (in case you need inspiration):

Title: Digital Accessibility Workshop

Body Text: Learn how to create accessible digital materials for healthcare & education

Date: July 24 from 1:30 to 3:00 PM in the HDC building, Room 231.

Register: lsuh.sc/ahDigitalAccess

Brought to you by The Human Development Center

That's all folks!

Contact us:

Rose Angelocci, Ph.D., range@lsuhsc.edu

Jolie Robichaux, jrob44@lsuhsc.edu



**Please take our
survey 😊**

<https://forms.office.com/r/SJA6XYY46X>

Other accessibility needs to consider

- Captions for videos
- ASL interpreter
- Provide a copy of presentation slides or research poster
- Instead of sharing a PDF, provide a Word document
- Audio descriptions in video
- Video transcripts