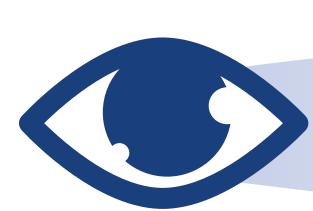
The most important marketing tool your company can invest in is your website – and its homepage is your best first impression. The average visitor spends only four seconds deciding whether to stay on your site or return to the search results¹. So what is the magic formula for a captivating homepage?



Clearly Answers 'What We Do'

To keep a visitor's attention on your site, he or she needs to be able to clearly identify the products and services you offer. Even the most well-known brand or company needs to clearly answer "Who We Are" and "What We Do" so that each visitor knows they have come to the right place.





Communicates a **Compelling Value Proposition**

A homepage is the best first impression your company can make, and you won't have long to capture your visitor's attention. When visitors arrive at your website, they should understand (in just a few sentences) the value your company brings and why you're the best choice - eliminating the need to search any further.

Resonates with the Target Audience

Websites can often become cluttered with too much jargon and technical terminology. Ensure verbiage and concepts are familiar to your target audience by using industry known language — words, phrases and terms that the user comes across on a daily basis. The more natural your website sounds, the more comfortable a consumer will be with your company.





Offers a Mobile-Friendly or **Responsive Design**

As trends move towards an increase in smartphone and tablet use (6.1 billion smartphone users globally by 2020²), your website design and user-experience should follow. Responsive websites adapt to whatever device is being used, allowing for easy view without the need to adjust the screen. Responsive designs are the simplest way for users to navigate through a website, thus increasing the user-friendly experience and generating 11% more conversions than nonresponsive sites³. Plus, it's great for SEO!



Includes Call-to-Actions Above the Fold

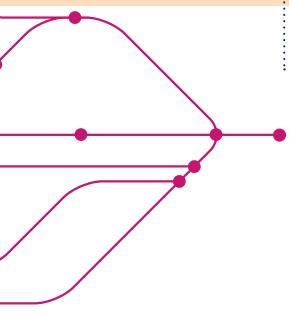
When someone visits a website, they are typically seeking solutions to their specific need. The goals of Call-to-Actions (CTA) are to move visitors through the buying process. Three main CTAs should be featured on your website, including offerings such as:

- Awareness CTAs eBooks and white papers
- Consideration CTAs testimonials and case studies • **Decision CTAs** — demos or a free trials

Your primary CTA should be 'above the fold', which means it should be visible without scrolling down the page. Instead of trying to clutter all of your CTAs at the top of your homepage, however, focus on one or two goals you would like your visitor to accomplish. **LEARN MORE**

DOWNLOAD NOW

REGISTER





Provides Intuitive and Simplified Navigation

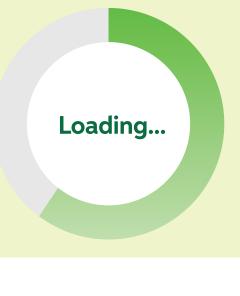
they seek is readily available — cue the main navigation! The main navigation can make or break a homepage, and if executed incorrectly, it can increase bounce rates. A great navigation is user-friendly and quickly shows visitors how to get to what they are looking for by: Limiting the number of top-level navigation items

As the control center of a website, the homepage helps visitors determine whether the information

- Keeping drop-down menus to one level
- Making sure it is responsive across all devices

Loads Quickly and Seamlessly Ensure your website loads quickly to increase SEO rankings.

If your website is slow, visitors will not only lose interest and exit your website, but they will also gain a negative impression of your company. A Google experiment found that traffic and revenue dropped 20% when a page with 30 results loaded half a second slower than a page with 10 results displayed4.





Building credibility in the eyes of your consumers is important to keeping viewers on your website. Four in five users say that being able to trust the information on a site

Utilizes Content as "Social Proof"

is very important to them in deciding to visit a website⁵. Incorporating 'social proof' on homepages helps build trust with visitors, and ultimately leads to an increase in conversions. Social proof is a psychological phenomenon referring to people's reliance on the feedback and actions of others to determine what is right and what is wrong in a given situation⁶. To leverage social proof, include content such as client logos, case studies, reviews, testimonials, and/or media attention on a homepage to show positive results and happy clients, making visitors think, "I want what they have."



utilizes your brand font, color palette and voice. Your homepage should showcase your logo and portray the look and feel of your brand. Any imagery used on your homepage and throughout the site should also be consistent with your brand identity.

You put hard work into establishing your branding, so follow it! Ensure your website





Emphasizes the Footer



9





SOURCES

as an afterthought. As a crucial last stop for visitors, the footer should always include Contact Information, Address,

Oftentimes, the homepage and header are areas of the website that designers focus on the most, leaving the footer

- Social Buttons and Copyright.
- 2. http://techcrunch.com/2015/06/02/6-1b-smartphone-users-globally-by-2020-overtaking-basic-fixed-phone-subscriptions/ 3. http://thenextweb.com/dd/2015/12/22/the-web-in-2016-long-live-responsive-design/#gref 4. http://www.nextopia.com/blog/2016/01/best-website-practices-for-2016/

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