Titled Sections

Best Practice: How to Implement Titled Sections

Titled sections help the user skim a page's contents and identify interesting or useful information. Simply put, they are sections of content that have a title which clearly indicates the subject of that section. Although the solution appears straightforward enough, when implemented with care, its benefits are far-stretching. Take the following steps to implement titled sections successfully:

1 | **Divide the contents** into logical and meaningful chunks.

2 | **Assign short titles** to these pockets of information; typically, two words should be enough for categories you use in a top-navigation bar. For other types of titles, you can use more words, but no more than a concise sentence.

3 | Now **choose the superficial aspects of the design**, such as font, font size, color, and width. Test these superficial aspects in combination with the rest of the display. For example, you must make sure the title color does not conflict with the background color and they are perceptible by those who have any degree of color blindness.

4 | Make sure you **place the titles in close proximity to the corresponding contents**, while using white space to separate the different sections.

5 | **Sometimes**, designers **use borders** in combination with titles to divide contents, but they are not always necessary and they can draw the user's eye needlessly. However, a pale (e.g., light grey) border can increase the sense that a body of information is independent from all other contents, so this might be useful when you do *not* want users who are viewing chunks of information to think these are connected in any way.