

Habits/Patterns of Compositional Problem Solving
[DOT thumbnail team process crit]

1. TABLE GROUP

Spread out all thumbnail compositions [comps] on your desk. Your table team will spend 5-7 minutes analyzing your thumbnails and NOTING your habits/patterns of problem solving for the entire set of compositions.

TAKE NOTES in your VJ while your work is being crit. You will participate in the analysis of the rest of your team members. But will not talk while they analyze your habits

Typical habits (sense of sameness) in the solutions to look for are: dot **size**, dot **degree** of scale **shifts**, **placement** relative to the page/square (centered, off center), **distances** between dots, **distances** from edges, **density** of dots, amount of **negative** (white) space in composition.

Possible habits/patterns in solutions

- a. Scale
- b. Distances
- c. Relational shifts of scale, distance, placement and/or density
- d. Density
- e. Placement (within page)

You will discover you have compositional habits as well as work/process habits that should be paid attention to and pushed/stretched throughout the semester. Watch for them.

You are to record in your **VJ** the team's analysis of your work and apparent solution habits. **PLUS five things** you learned while other people were being crit or during today's large group discussion.

HW Write up a review using complete sentences of what you learned from your and your peers' crits. Be sure to address each of the following, scale, distance, relational shifts, density, placement and describe give specific examples in VJ even if your team did not discuss each. Complete before next surface studio.

2. INDIVIDUALLY

Create 2-3 **new/revise thumbnail solutions** for each concept (total 6 to 9) that break your habits and/or are inspired by what you learned from other peoples solutions.

For communicating MEANING (gestalt) if adjustment is needed based on more thorough understanding via team discussion, make several revisions (new thumbnails).

3. **INDIVIDUAL DESIGN DECISIONS**

Add your additional thumbnails to your original set of 30. **ReSORT** into the three categories not by what you intended but by how they appear now—proximity, similarity, and continuance. **NARROW** down to top **TEN** most interesting, unique, and clear for each of the concepts—proximity, similarity, and continuance. Then narrow down again to strongest 5 solutions for each category (conceptually and visually) for a total of 15 compositions.

4. Render with sharpies (**SOLID DOTS**; no outlines) the top five strongest (conceptually and visually) compositions for EACH principle as 5 x 5 BW compositions.

STRATEGY

- a. Cut out 15 – 5 x 5 inch **SQUARES** from smooth Bristol or white cardstock.
- b. Scale up from thumbnail, tweak design, and replicate your 15 chosen thumbnails on to the 5 x 5 squares.
- c. Within each square, using, a fine tip black pen, draw 3-6 precise circles with a circle template or compass. Carefully fill in circles completely with black sharpie.
- d. Remember you are composing these circle forms to express the following gestalt principles: **Continuance, Proximity, and Similarity.**
- e. **CRAFTSMANSHIP** matters!
- f. Label each composition lightly with pencil on back with concept and your name. After you have completed these 15 compositions, carefully evaluate each and determine which ones are the most successful. Do any need to be revised? Make it happen.

These 15 comps will be critiqued first thing next surface studio.

Complete 15 comps before next surface studio, _____, and write up your habit critique as well.