

ONLINE TESTING ESSENTIALS

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A well-built sales funnel is never complete until every part of it has been tested and optimized.

For maximum success, marketers should dig deep and experiment with every customer interaction point. What follows is a brief guide that outlines what things are good to regularly test and optimize—including PPC, media buys, landing pages, and email campaigns.

1. TEST YOUR LANDING PAGES



HEADLINES

An attention grabbing headline encourages visitors to stay on your website and see what you have to offer. Try out different headlines and test their effect on visitor behavior.

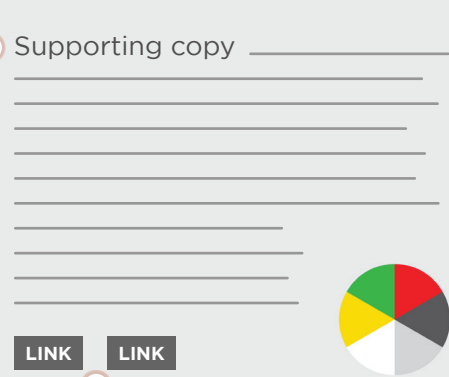
COPY

Supporting copy can strengthen a solid call to action. Change up this copy to highlight different aspects of your product and test how it affects your conversions.

TIP

Use **KISSmetrics** to A/B test your landing pages and easily view their performance with the best conversion funnels in the business.

YOUR HEADLINE



CALL TO ACTION

The part of your website that motivates visitors to become a customer/subscriber needs to be clear and powerful. Experiment with different text, buttons, and placement—and then test conversation rates.

FONT & SIZE

Some fonts are easier on the eyes than others, and experimenting with various sizes and styles can have a noticeable impact on the success of your sales funnel.

UNRELATED LINKS

Too many unrelated links within eyesight of your call to action can distract visitors and lead them away from your sales funnel. Test link placement and wording, and track if you're losing customers through them.

COLOR

The color of your page's background, text, and graphics can change the entire feel of your site. **Mix them up and test how they affect conversions.**

PATH TO PURCHASE

Test different purchase paths to identify friction in your sales funnel and remove unnecessary factors.

2. TEST YOUR SIGNUP FORMS



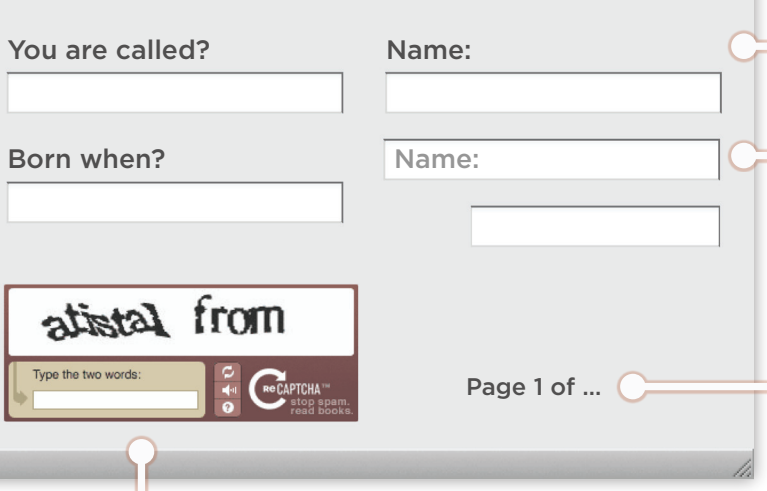
HEADLINES

Like landing page headlines, try out different headlines on your signup forms and test their effect on signup rates.

WORDING OF FIELD TEXT

Confusing or poorly worded field text can discourage visitors from filling them out.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER!



PLACEMENT OF FIELD TEXT

The position of the field text relative to the input box can affect form completion.

NUMBER OF FIELDS PER PAGE

If your form is so long that it stretches onto multiple pages, consider using fewer fields and test to see if form completions are increased.

CAPTCHAS

While CAPTCHA fields are good at keeping spammers out, illegible ones can cause many visitors to drop out of the sales funnel. You might even try testing forms without captchas.

TIP

Fewer form fields don't necessarily mean more sign ups. Sometimes, as in the case of lead generation, it's beneficial to add extra form fields to extract more information.

3. TEST YOUR PPC CAMPAIGNS



PPC = Pay-per-Click.

HEADLINES

Run two ads with the same body text but different headlines to isolate the effect they have on clicks or conversions.

DESTINATIONS

Experiment with sending clicks to different landing pages. Try to make your landing pages as targeted to the sending ad as possible.



COPY

Run two ads with the same headline but different body text to find out its effect on clicks and conversions.

TIP

Use **KISSinsights** to find out what copy and keywords are attracting customers, and use them in future ads.

DISPLAY URLS

Test different domain formats to determine what display URL attracts the most clicks.

4. TEST YOUR MEDIA BUYING CAMPAIGNS



SALES COPY

The copy used to attract clicks should be varied and tested to find the optimal message for every unique ad in display.

DISPLAY WEBSITES

Try a wide variety of ads on a wide variety of websites and test the responsiveness of each site's audience to build an optimized display network.

TIP

KISSmetrics can track which combination of displays ads and landing pages are producing the best ROI.



YOUR CREATIVES

The nature, design, and color of your banner ads should be constantly tested for clicks and resulting conversions.

DESTINATIONS

Like your pay-per-click campaigns, different display ads deserve unique pages optimized for their sales messages.

5. TEST YOUR EMAIL CAMPAIGNS



OPEN RATE

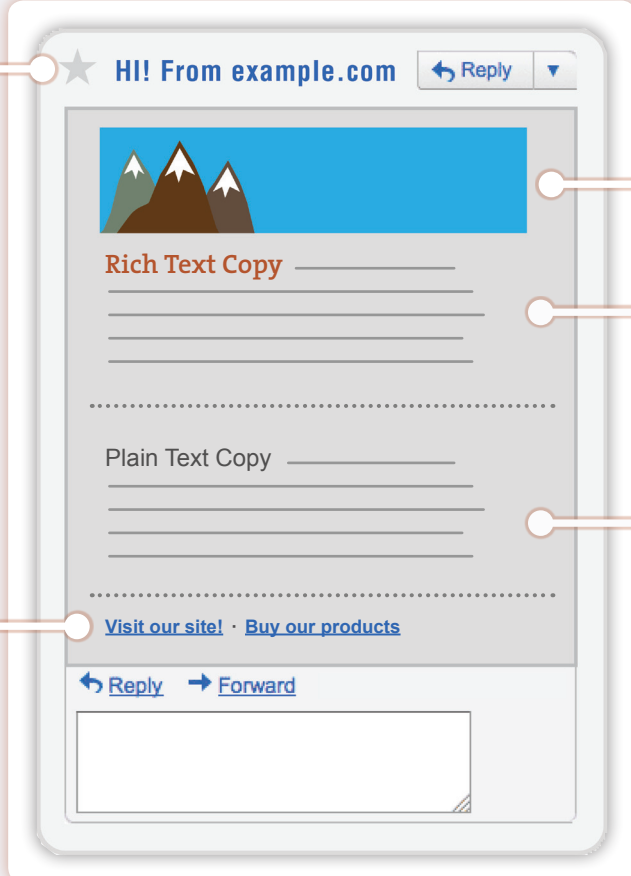
Test different subject lines and text formatting to achieve the highest possible open rate.

TIP

You can also use **KISSmetrics** to track which layouts, calls-to-action and link text perform the best for all your email campaigns.

DESTINATIONS

Landing page destinations should reflect the same sales message conveyed in your email messages. Test different on-page elements to improve conversions.



EMAIL COPY

The sales copy you use in your email will determine how many recipients click through to your website, and how many of those visitors become customers. Experiment with different copy variations and test the effectiveness of each one. Test to see which one works best for you.

RICH VS. PLAIN TEXT

Experiment with both graphically-enhanced "Rich Text" and text-only "Plain Text" message. See which format your subscribers respond to the most.



SPECIAL THANKS TO @perrymarshall

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KISSmetrics is a powerful web analytics solution that helps you make smarter business decisions. Learn more at kissmetrics.com