

VENN DIAGRAMS

OBJECTIVE

Create a venn diagram to ideate and discover words, phrases, or ideas you have “in common” with 1 or 2 classmates.

Use one of the collaboration tools and techniques we discussed in class.

Slides

[This assignment exists in slide format.](#)

Details

Venn diagrams visualize the similarities and differences between two things. Both sides of that equation are important: it's not just what they have in common but also what makes them distinct. Working in a collaboration should have similar properties.

This exercise asks you to establish your similarities and differences with a peer. In doing so, you may find some of those properties are particularly interesting or important to you. When you find them, focus on creating a venn diagram to express their importance. Maybe the design even hints at a larger concept or story.

Your venn diagram does not need to be two overlapping circles. It can be anything that plays on that iconic form. What else can a venn diagram be? Could a 3-page book be a venn diagram?

Tools and techniques

You must use at least one of the tools/techniques listed below to assist in this process. Your venn diagram must live “in” the tool, although you may bring assets into the tool. For example, if you chose Google Docs, then your venn diagram should somehow live in a Google Doc.

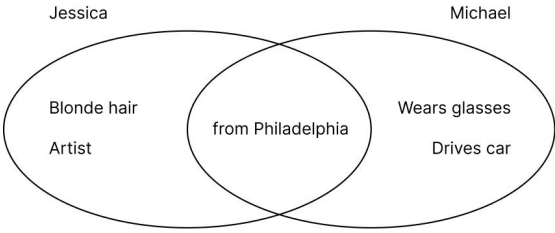
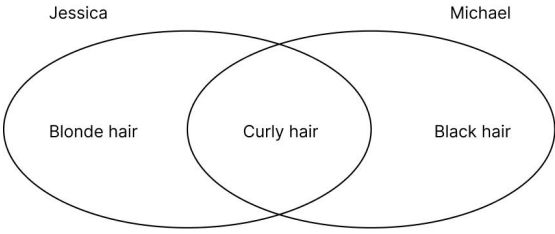
N.b. There is a [slideshow describing these tools](#), which may inspire ideas about how you use business-focused tools for creative outputs.

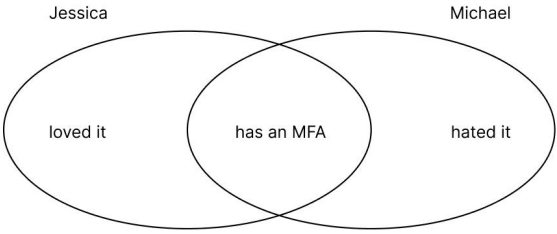
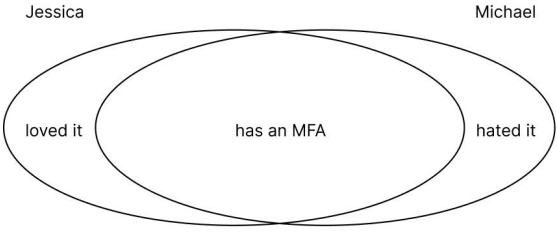
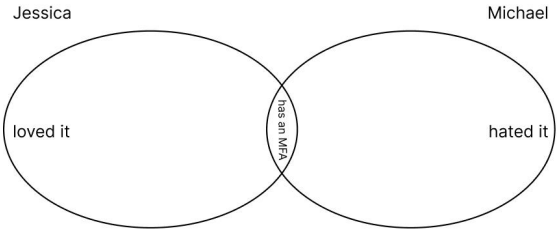
- [Google Docs](#): writing
- [Google Sheets](#): writing, accounting, scheduling
- [Google Slides](#): presentations
- [Notion](#): writing, task organizing
- [Apple's Reminders app](#): task organizing
- [Figma](#): designing, presentations
- [Miro](#): moodboarding, diagramming, whiteboarding

- [FigJam](#): moodboarding, diagramming, whiteboarding
- [Tldraw](#): moodboarding, diagramming, whiteboarding
- [Kinopio](#): moodboarding, diagramming, whiteboarding
- [Magma](#): drawing
- [Voice Thread](#): add voice annotations to other media
- [Scenery](#): video editing
- [Shrub](#): collage technique
- [Strange Garden](#): collage technique
- [Your World of Text](#): virtual graffiti world
- Drawing tools: templates, brushes, jigs
- Exquisite corpse: drawing technique

Throughlines

When creating your venn diagram, try to find throughlines that range from one end of the diagram, through the overlap, to the opposite end of the diagram. A throughline is something that conceptually links different things together. If it works well, the connection between ideas starts to tell a story.

This diagram does not have any throughlines.	
Blonde hair has nothing to do with wearing glasses. And neither one has anything to do with being from Philadelphia.	
This example shows a throughline through the composition. But it doesn't do much to tell a story	

This example's throughline starts to tell a story.	 A Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'Jessica' and 'loved it'. The right circle is labeled 'Michael' and 'hated it'. The intersection of the two circles is labeled 'has an MFA'.
Maybe the design can tell more of the story. Maybe these two have a lot in common because of their education.	 A Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'Jessica' and 'loved it'. The right circle is labeled 'Michael' and 'hated it'. The intersection of the two circles is labeled 'has an MFA'.
Or maybe they couldn't be further apart.	 A Venn diagram with two overlapping circles. The left circle is labeled 'Jessica' and 'loved it'. The right circle is labeled 'Michael' and 'hated it'. The intersection of the two circles is labeled 'has an MFA'.

Questions to consider while working

- Have you ever met before? What shared experiences have you had? Do you have similar feelings about those experiences?
- Do you have similar cultural backgrounds? Where do they diverge?
- Are your thesis topics similar?
- What kind of a child were you?

Questions I may ask during presentations

- Are there throughlines in the diagram?
- Does the diagram's design visually support the text?
- How does the chosen tool influence the diagram's design?
- Or maybe, did the diagram's content influence the choice of tool?
- Did the design use the tool in an irregular or non-standard way?
- Does the design seem like it was made by two authors? Or a single author?

Acknowledgments

This exercise is adapted from [John Caserta's "Design Studio 2" course at RISD](#).

