

Making with Data Template

By Samuel Huron, Till Nagel, Lora Oehlberg, and Wesley Willet. The template is provided under a [CC-BY-SA license](#). Check out <https://makingwithdata.org/blog/template> for more information. This is an extended version of the one used for the book.

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Project Information

Title of the Piece or Project	
Author/Artist Name(s)	
Author/Artist bio(s) (up to 50 words per author/artist — if the number of people is greater than 4 or 5, consider writing a single collective bio for the whole group)	
Author/Artist portrait(s)	(Provide a high-resolution portrait of each author.)
List any Clients, Collaborators, and Contributors or Funders that should be recognized (if any)	
Year of the Piece/Project	
Piece/Project Venue (if any)	
Piece/Project Website (if any)	
Description of the Piece/Project (20-40 words) “What is the piece, what data does it encode/use?”	XXXX is a ...

We expect the total word count for the text, including bios and captions to be quite short (roughly 750-1500 words), and grounded in high-resolution images highlighting the piece and your creative process. When writing about your project, **aim for a general audience**. All text should be written in the first person (I, we, my, our, etc.) and should be less formal than an academic paper, but more concise than an interview. We want readers to appreciate your personal experience of conceptualizing and creating the piece. With that in mind, **please avoid using any academic jargon or terminology** and try to use plain language instead. Text **should not include citations**, so if you need to mention a related project or prior work please show and describe it in the text. For now, we would like you to focus only on the text and images — **don’t worry about the final layout**.

Images of the Final Piece

Because the documentation will be **highly visual**, we suggest including several high-quality images that showcase the final piece/project. Provide 2 to 4 high-quality, high-resolution images of the final piece. If possible, these should include:

- Overview images showing the piece
- Image(s) showing details of the piece(s)
- Image(s) showing the piece in-context or in use.

For stylistic consistency, please include clean photographs and sketches without any annotations, overlays, or labels. If necessary, provide **short** captions for each image here. So we can keep track of the captions, please name or number the images and use those numbers to identify which caption goes with each image.

Project Motivation and Inspiration

Describe your internal motivation and inspiration for the piece and provide any background readers might need to understand the piece and its audience (maximum of 100 words). Avoid including technical jargon and citations. If possible, mention the approximate time frame and the context.

Project Description

Describe the physicalization in more detail. (roughly 300-600 words)

- Data Questions. What data questions do you have? Why do you deem this question interesting for your and others? Why do you think the physicalization is well suited to answering the questions?
 - Data. What is the data about? What is the source of the data? How did you prepare the data? Why did you decide to use this data? What are the attributes and attribute types of the data set?
 - Materials. A short description of the material(s) you used to create the physicalization, and the rationale for choosing these materials as well as the rationale for changing material, if you did.
 - Encoding. A short description of the visual marks and visual encodings you used (e.g. geometry, material, color, etc). Justify your design decisions. What possible alternatives did you consider?
 - Use. Describe the interactions (if any), or how you intend people to use the physicalization (e.g. observe, touch, feel, ...)
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Practices and Processes

Describe the creation of the piece (Including data encoding, design, decisions you made to transform data into forms, fabrication, methods, important criteria considered, etc.) in 3 to 8 Steps.

- For each, provide a high-resolution image (if possible) and a maximum of 100 words of text.
 - When including images, please provide high-resolution copies of them. Please name or number the images and use those numbers to identify which caption goes with each image.
 - Feel free to include experiments, dead-ends, prototypes, and other intermediate steps. You might want to show multiple experiments or design variations in a single image.
 - What possible alternatives were you considering / trying out in a prototype? Why did you opt against them?
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Materials and Tools

Provide a list of up to 8 of the most critical tools or materials used in the project (sketching tools, physical hardware, software, materials, etc.). Briefly (one sentence or less) describe how you used them or in which steps.

- **Lorem.** We used lorem to fabricate ...

Reflections

Include any reflection on challenges, failures, processes and tools that emerged during or after the project. (150-300 words)
Avoid including technical jargon or citations.
