# Four Principles for PowerPoint Accessibility – Mac Version

These instructions apply to Microsoft PowerPoint 2016 for Mac. The main accessibility principles involve:

* [Slide titles](#_Slide_Titles)
* [Reading order](#_Reading_Order)
* [Alternative text for images](#_ALT_tags_for)
* [Self-describing links](#_Self-Describing_Links)
* [Other](#_Miscellaneous) tips

## Principle One: Slide Titles

Use pre-defined PowerPoint slide templates rather than creating custom templates. These templates have slide titlesbuilt into their structure. Slide titles provide heading structure for screen reader users.

1. On the **Home** tab, choose layouts from the **New Slide** or **Layouts** drop-down menus and select a slide that includes a title and appropriate structural elements.



### If you do not want the title to be visible on your slide, do the following:

1. On the **Home** tab, go to the **Arrange** drop-down menu.
2. Click **Selection Pane** at the bottom of the menu.
3. Click the eye icon next to the title to toggle its visibility.



### Things to consider when adding slide titles:

* Each slide should have either a visible or non-visible slide title.
* Use unique heading titles for each slide. If multiple slides refer to the same topic, consider adding “continued” to the end of the slide title or hiding its visibility.

## Principle Two: Reading Order

1. On the **Home** tab, click on **Arrange**; then choose **Selection Panel**.
2. The **Selection Panel** lists the objects on the slide. Objects will be read back beginning with the bottom list item and ending with the top list item. Click and drag the shapes to adjust their reading order. A blue line will appear and guide your placement of objects.



1. On the **View** tab, select **Outline View**. Check the reading order and look for text included on the slide, but not in the outline.



1. Text added in text boxes may not appear in the **Outline View**. This text can be copied and pasted into the **Outline View**.
2. Conversely, slide titles that have been visibly hidden should still appear as text in the **Outline View**.

### Things to consider when setting reading order:

* PowerPoint’s built-in templates have pre-defined reading order. Slides created from a blank slide will likely require you to manually set the reading order.

## Principle Three: Alternative Text for Images

1. Double click the image so the **Format Picture** selections appear.
2. Select the third **Size and Properties** icon and then drop down the **Alt Text** area.
3. In both the **Title** and **Description** fields, enter the same alternative text for the image. The alternative text should present the meaning or purpose of the image rather than a literal description of its appearance.

 

### Things to consider when providing ALT Text for images:

* You do not need to include “image of” or “picture of” in the description.
* Any text within the image must be included in the Alt Text.
* Keep Alt Text succinct and discuss the image during the actual presentation.
* Be concise with your use of images and avoid clutter.

## Principle Four: Self-Describing Links

1. Go to the Internet and locate the website you wish to link to. Copy the URL.
2. Then highlight the text in your PowerPoint slide that you want to turn into a descriptive link.
3. From the **Insert** tab, select **Hyperlink**.



1. In the **Insert Hyperlink** box, paste your URL in the **Address** field. Then click **OK**.



### Things to consider when providing self-describing links:

* The link text should describe where the user will be taken. For example: [University of Montana Homepage](http://www.umt.edu/events)
* To include the URL for users who may print the slides or Outline view, place the URL in parenthesis next to the self-describing link, right-click the URL, and select **Remove Hyperlink**. Example: [University of Montana Homepage](http://www.umt.edu/events) (http://www.umt.edu)

## Accessibility Checker

* Microsoft recently added an Accessibility Checker to the 2016 Mac version of PowerPoint. It currently is only available to users of the Microsoft Insider Program. You can join the program by going to the **Help** menu, selecting **Check for Updates**, and then checking the box **Join the Office Insider program to get early access to new releases**. Now go to the **Review** tab and see if **Check Accessibility** is available. If not, repeat the steps above and this should resolve the problem.



You can open the **Selection Pane** and the **Accessibility Checker** side-by-side as you review your slides.



## Other Accessibility Tips

* Ensure sufficient font size.
* Provide sufficient contrast between the text and the background.
* Do not use color as the only way to convey information.
* Navigating tables in PowerPoint is difficult for assistive technology users; consider providing table data in an Excel or Word file, separate from the PowerPoint slideshow, or provide the data in a list format.
* Player controls for videos embedded in a PowerPoint slideshow are currently inaccessible; consider adding a self-describing link to the video on YouTube/Vimeo or provide the video file separately from the PowerPoint slideshow. Ensure the video is captioned.
* Audio files should include a transcript.
* Users may interact with PowerPoint files in various ways; provide the PowerPoint file itself instead of a PDF to allow for various user techniques.