

Better Messages for Better Results

Michael Mackert, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, UT Stan Richards School of Advertising & Public Relations
Associate Professor, UT Department of Population Health
Adjunct Professor, UTHealth School of Public Health

Health communication is the science and art of using communication to advance the health and well-being of people and populations.

HEALTH COMMUNICATION



Mission

Our people have broad and deep communication expertise that allows our Center to lead the creation of evidence-based health communication scholarship, education, and community involvement.

Our interdisciplinary group of scholars embraces opportunities to use communication to improve the health of people around the globe.





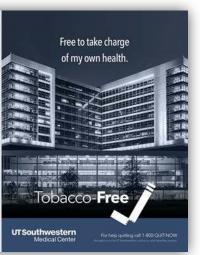


Scholarship, Education, and Community Involvement











Your audience is one single reader. I have found that sometimes it helps to pick out one person – a real person you know, or an imagined person – and write to that one. -John Steinbeck

HOW DO WE THINK ABOUT SOLVING PROBLEMS?



A Change in Approach











We Want Behavior Change





Health Promotion vs. Advertising



If you're advertising for Oreo cookies, who are you competing against?

Framing a Problem to Solve It





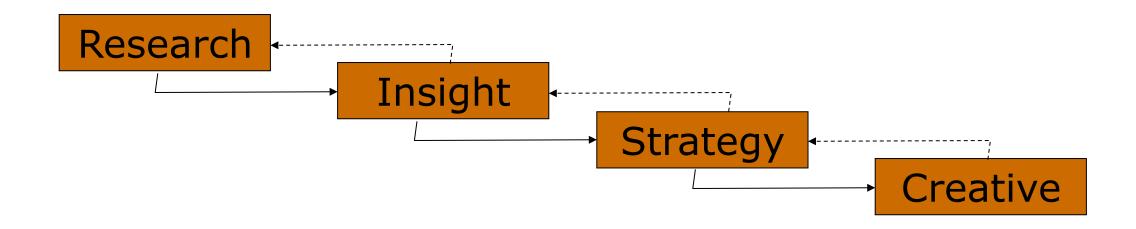
Give me six hours to chop down a tree, and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.

-Abraham Lincoln

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE MESSAGES



Developing Effective Messages



Creativity in Research





The Use of Personas

Target audience:
 Members of sororities
 on the UT-Austin
 campus who are 18-22
 years old who use
 tanning beds



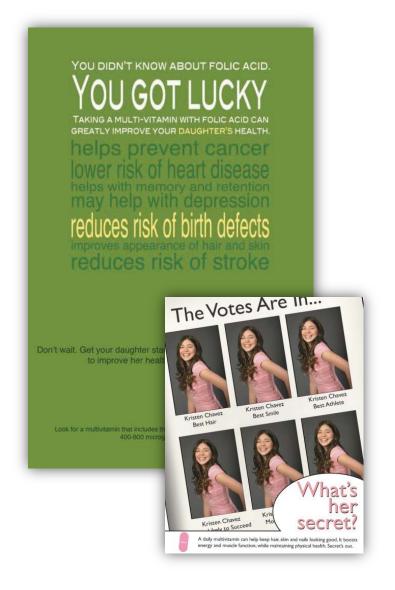
SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT THING



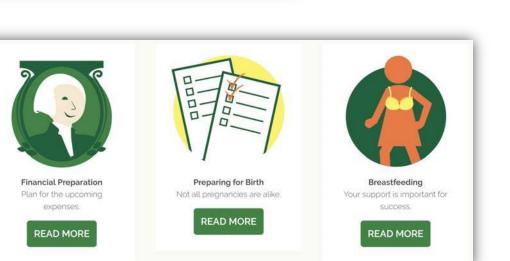
RELENTLESS



Across Health Contexts









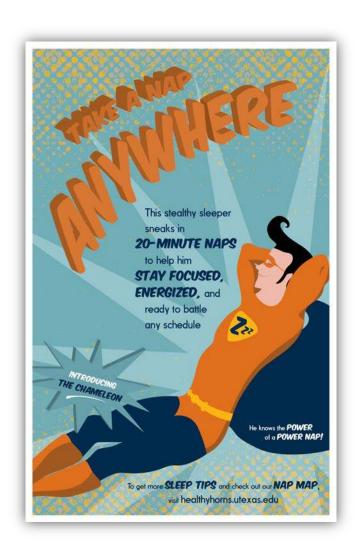
The woods are lovely, dark and deep. But I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep.

-Robert Frost

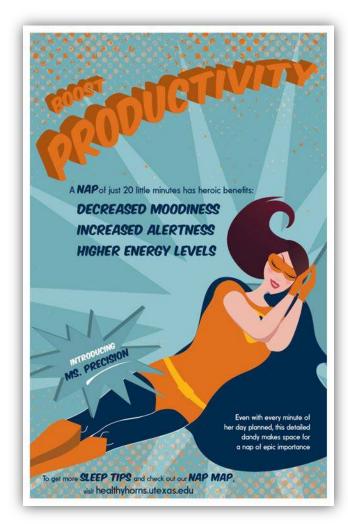
CASE STUDY: PROMOTING SLEEP



Promoting Sleep on Campus









If the highest aim of a captain were to preserve his ship, he would keep it in port forever.

-Thomas Aquinas

MICHAEL MACKERT, PH.D. DIRECTOR, UT CENTER FOR HEALTH COMMUNICATION

MACKERT@UTEXAS.EDU | @MACKERT | HTTP://HEALTHCOMMUNICATIONRESEARCH.COM

"Creating health messages that are creative and accessible is extremely hard; this practical guide provides real-world techniques and strategies that work." Dean, University of Texas Moody College of Communication Health Messages Michael S. Mackert Allison J. Lazard **Brad Love**