

**Criterion:** (*pl. criteria*) - a required design element that is used to evaluate the success of a design. This is basically your goal for the project.

**Constraint:** things that control or put limits/restrictions on actions for achieving design goals. This includes time, materials, etc.

**Priority:** a design element that is regarded as more important than another.

**Trade-off:** a balancing of factors, all of which are not attainable at the same time. What do you have to sacrifice to complete the project?

**Prototype:** (noun) a first or early design example that is used as a model for what comes later.

**Modification:** a change in your design meant to improve performance.

**Control Variable:** something that is constant and unchanged in an experiment or test.

**Dependent Variable:** a variable you measure and whose value depends on that of another. This usually relates to the data you collect.

**Independent Variable:** something in an experiment or test that you change on purpose to see the result of. This is what you are testing for.