Anatomy of Letterforms

Vocabulary

Arm

Bowl

Baseline

Bracket

Meanline

Capline

x-height

Ascender

Counter

Crossbar

Descender

Shoulder

Stress

Stem

Serif

San serif

Terminal

Tail

Uppercase

Lowercase

Brief

We will explore all the different parts of a letterform. Just like our bodies every little part and shape of a letter has a name. You will create a diagram of a word with labels for every part of each letter.

General Specs:

Page Size	US letter 66picas x 51picas (11" x 8.5")
	Orientation: landscape
	Uncheck: FACING PAGES

Margins	top 3p (.5")
	bottom 4.5p (.75")
	left 7.5p (1.25")
	right 3p (.5")

Columns	columns: 5
	gutter 1p (.167")

Instructions

1. Create a 1-page document (see specs above)

2. Choose a word the has meaning to you (a fun word). Starting at the second column type your word in a SERIF typeface (i.e. Garamond, Baskerville, Scala, Caslon, Georgia).

3. Using the Tracking and Kerning and Alignment tools in InDesign balance the letters and the word within in the dimensions of the space. Make sure the letters are as big as they can be, but still fit within your page margins.

4. Using the RULER TOOL from your guide menu, place horizontal lines indicating the: baseline, meanline, and capline. Make sure you recreate that line with the line tool as part of your diagram.

5. Research the vocabulary words on the left hand side. You can look at the '
Anatomy presentation under the 'Resource' category on our class blog. You can also go online and search for terms such as 'Anatomy of Letterfoms' to find examples.

6. Once you have they type lockup set, start to build your Anatomy grid by carefully adding the vocabulary words on the left side of this sheet. You can use arrows to pinpoint the area you are referring to. The goal is to make this diagram, clean and clear and beautiful.

7. When completed save your INDESIGN file as
1. COMD1127_yourname_anatomy.idml
2. Then save again as a PDF: Go to File, Export, Layout as PDF. Save with the same name but with extension PDF: COMD1127_yourname_anatomy.pdf