

Interface Design CAC 430

The “Eight Golden Rules” of interface design according to Shneiderman and Plaisant¹ are listed below.

1. Strive for consistency
2. Cater to universal usability
3. Offer informative feedback
4. Design dialogs to yield closure
5. Prevent errors
6. Permit easy reversal of actions
7. Support internal locus of control
8. Reduce short-term memory load

The Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act published by the Access Board (<https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-section-508-standards>) describes guidelines for promoting accessibility for those with disabilities. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C - <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>) has organized the Section 508 guidelines into four different categories, the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) to further describe how to make web pages more accessible.

Please answer the following questions about the “Eight Golden Rules” and web accessibility.

1. Why is it important that websites are accessible?
2. Do the “Eight Golden Rules” apply to accessibility?
3. For each of the “Eight Golden Rules” find a guideline either from WCAG 2.0 or Section 508 that aligns with that rule. Explain how the alignment is beneficial for all users despite ability.
4. Choose a website you visit frequently. List the website along with a description of how that website does or does not meet each of the “Eight Golden Rules” and that rule’s associated accessibility guideline.

¹ Ben Shneiderman and Catherine Plaisant. 2010. *Designing the User Interface: Strategies for Effective Human-Computer Interaction* (5th ed.). Pearson, New York, NY.