## **Writing Samples**

Giovanni Ella

# **First things first**

In order for content to help drive a delightful user experience, the content strategist should be involved in the early product and design discussions. This helps ensure that content can influence the design strategy.

It's imperative that one take a user-centered design approach when building a user experience, which means:

- Understanding the business needs
- Listening and applying what customers have to say
- Synthesizing and analyzing both business and customer needs
- Suggesting improvements
- Testing, executing, measuring and iterating

# A UX Content Strategy could include...

- Voice and tone
- Specific copy dos and don'ts
- Things identified from the experience that need to be changed and why
- The purpose of the feature/service and how that drives the content strategy (e.g., utility vs. selling)
- Best practices from research, testing, the industry, competitors these can be built in as justification for recommendations
- Specific calls to action
- Future considerations (e.g., content maintenance, etc.)

# **Editorial Guidelines**

In addition to following company brand standards and guidelines, **voice considerations** could include:

- Having a human-friendly, natural conversation
- Using "you" instead of "the customer"
- Focusing on the customer benefits
- Soliciting immediate action
- Focusing on clarity and brevity

**Tone considerations** could include being direct, reassuring, informal, etc. Phrases that can be avoided could include:

- "We guarantee"
- "We cannot/never" (don't present roadblocks or delays)
- "Your account is eligible or ineligible" (don't present customers with any misleading information about their accounts)

# Writing Samples

In the following pages, you'll find a mix of content work including **product UX**, an **email notification** and an **onboarding email series**.

# **#1: First Mobile App**

Develop the company's first native mobile app (iOS)

## Background

Consumers have become accustomed to user experiences that have fast access to information and real-time tools geared to help them make smarter financial decisions. Mobile access is about being up to date and anticipating a customer's needs based on their context.

## Solution

To help increase the value of Financial Engines' paid service, Professional Management, we developed the first ever native mobile app experience for customers. We focused on helping our customers build retirement plans using an approach that's personal, proactive and comprehensive.

### **iTunes** Preview

#### View More by This Developer Financial Engines: Personalized, Unbiased Investment Advice By Financial Engines

Open iTunes to buy and download apps.

#### Description

Financial Engines uses innovative technology to deliver high-quality, unbiased investment advice to millions of people-regardless of their wealth or investment expertise. Within seconds and a few taps, you'll have direct, anytime access to your Professional Management account.

With the Financial Engines iPhone app, you can safely and securely:

- \* See how you're doing and tracking towards your retirement goal
- \* View your portfolio and estimated Retirement Paycheck balances
- \* Schedule a call with an advisor

How Financial Engines can help

- \* See when we reviewed your portfolio and rebalanced your account
- \* Access monthly market summaries, tips and insights to help you retire well

### Free

Category: Finance Released: Aug 18, 2016 Version: 0.5.0 Size: 6.7 MB Language: English Seller: Financial Engines Inc © 2016 Financial Engines, Inc. Rated 4+

We get to know you and build a personalized investment portfolio using the funds available in your 401(k). We assess each fund by looking at its performance history, cost and what the fund invests in-and then choose funds that are appropriate to meet your goals. This is based on your age, how long you want to work, risk preference and overall financial picture.

Apple & iPhone are registered trademarks of Apple Inc.

#### Financial Engines Web Site + Financial Engines: Personalized, Unbiased Investment Advice Support )

Compatibility: Requires iOS 8.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

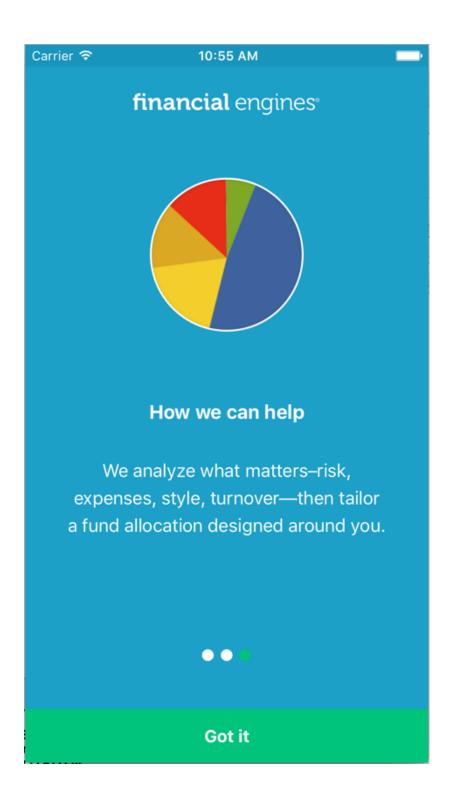
#### **Customer Ratings**

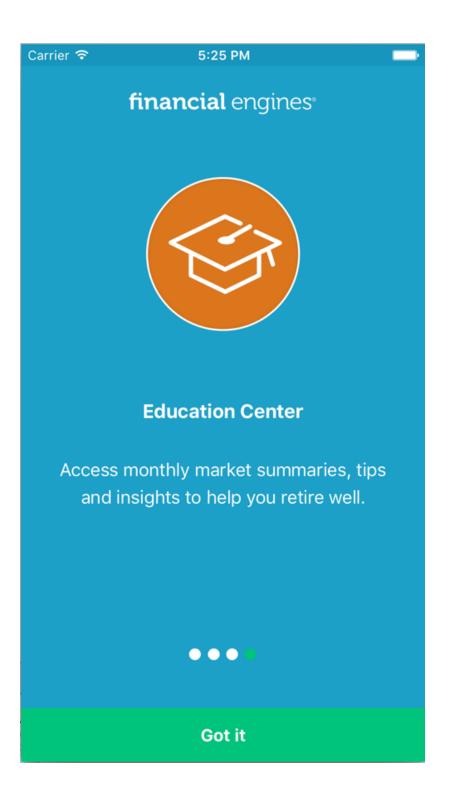
We have not received enough ratings to display an average for the current version of this application.

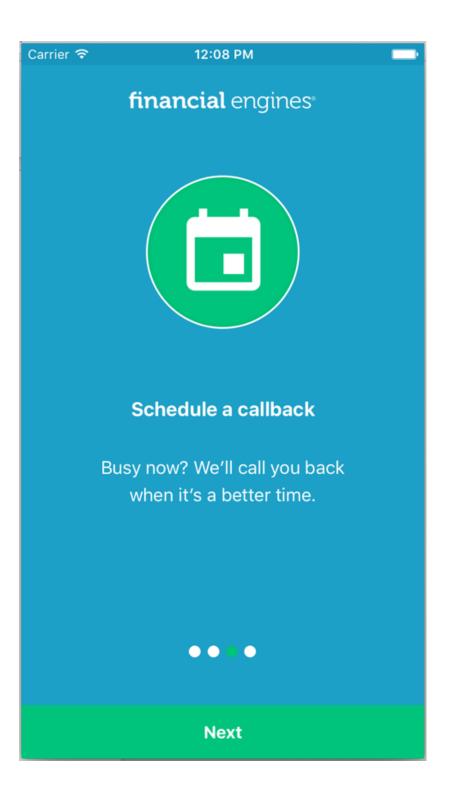
iPhone Screenshots Toggle between portfolio estimates today or in Vi€ ) your ıeck in retirement . \$189,750 At 65 Today 401(k) Savings Plan \$124,450 32,800/yr Individual Retirement Acc... \$46,925 20,200/yr \$0/yr ACME 401(k) Plan \$13,025

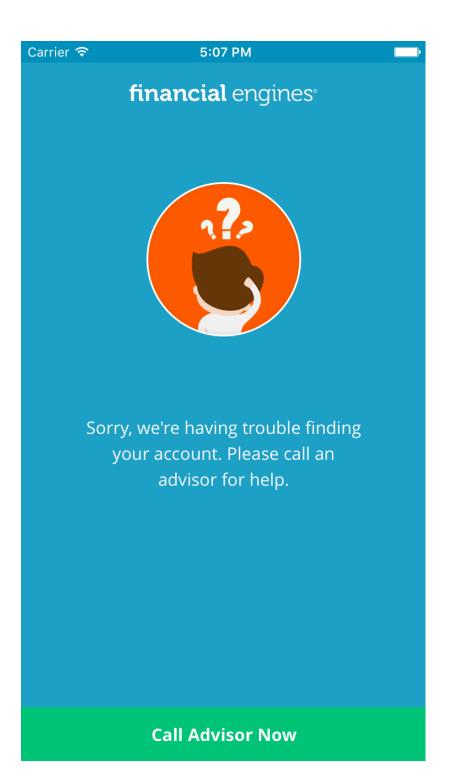




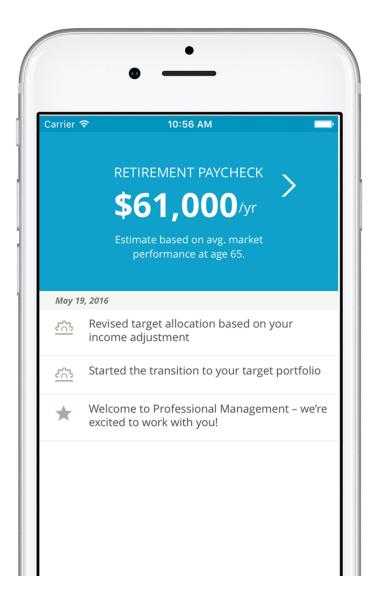




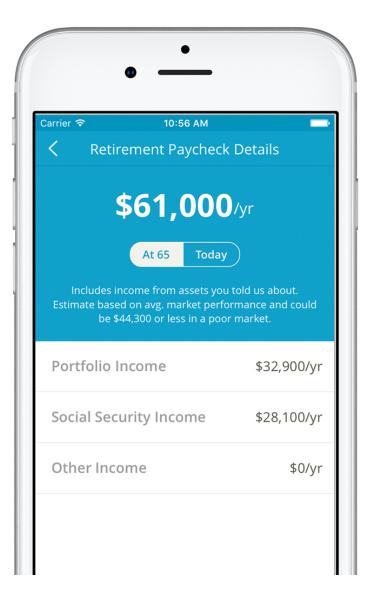




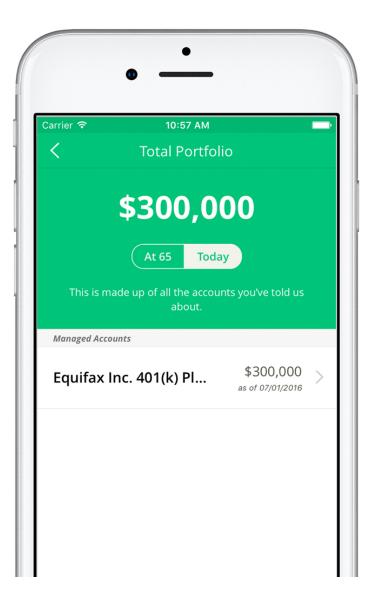
# See all of your account activity at a glance



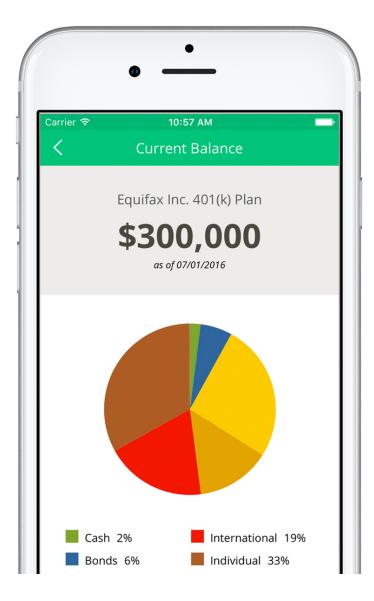
## See what makes up your Retirement Paycheck



Toggle between portfolio estimates today or in retirement



## View your fund allocations across different asset types



Keep helpful information, tips and insights at your fingertips



# **#2: Card-Free ATM Access**

Create a mobile intercept screen quickly to address a gap in the experience

### Background

Card-Free ATM Access enables retail customers to authenticate via their mobile phone device so they can access an ATM without having to use their physical ATM or debit card.

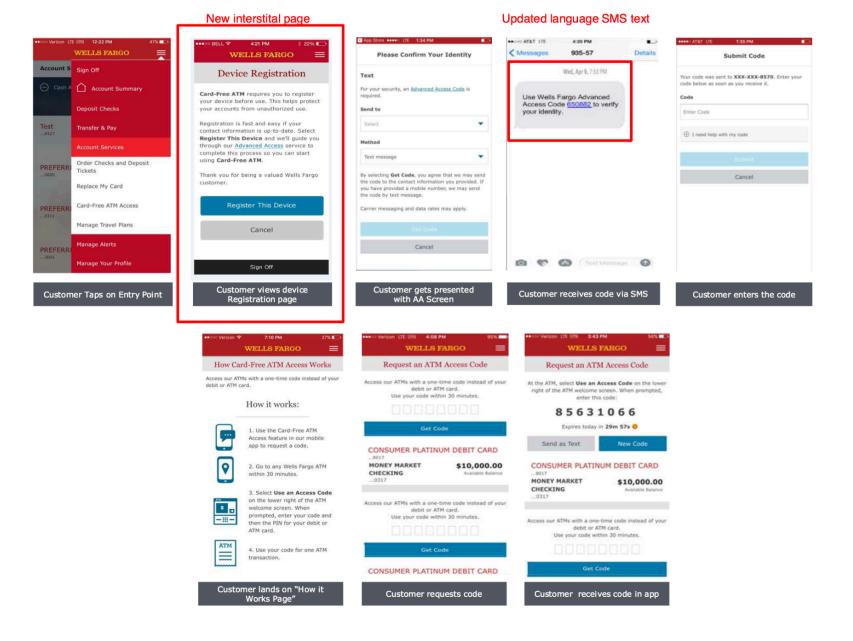
### Solution

Add an intercept screen to address customers who haven't registered their device for Advanced Access, which is required in order to use the Card-Free ATM Access service.

## What's worth mentioning

The copy for this screen was written and approved by all stakeholders in 1 week, which is virtually unheard of at Wells Fargo. The velocity was largely due to the importance of patching the gap in the experience that was discovered after code freeze.

## Card-Free ATM – Advanced Access Alternate Flow



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WELLS FARGO

## **Register Your Device**

You're almost ready to start using Card-Free ATM access!

First, you'll need to register your device. It'll take just a minute through our Advanced Access service, where we'll ask you to confirm or verify your identity.

**Register Device** 

Not Now

Sign Off

# **#3: Control Tower**

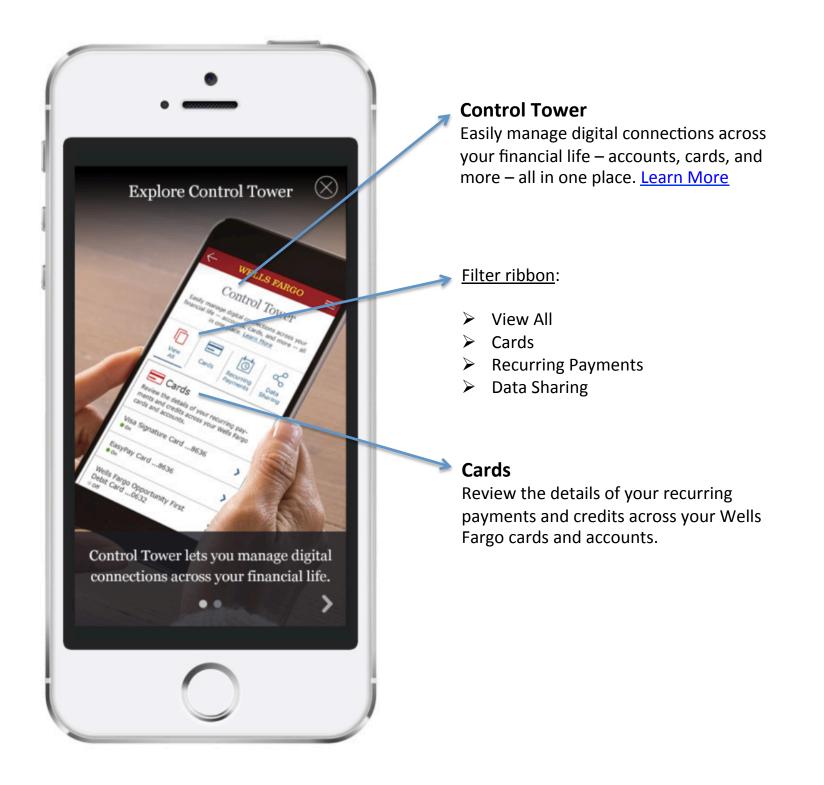
Build a new product that lets customers easily track and control their digital financial lives

## Background

Control Tower helps customers manage their digital financial footprint quickly and easily by giving them access to the connections between accounts, merchants, apps, devices and digital wallets. Considered a "game-changer" at Wells Fargo, Control Tower has seen plenty of visibility, including from Wells Fargo's Chief Executive Officer and President, Tim Sloan.

## Solution

Create a home screen with content that succinctly articulates Control Tower's benefits and features.



# #4: Fraud Email, SMS & Push Content

Contribute to evolving global content standards

## Background

When we detect a possible unauthorized sign-on attempt to a customer's account, we immediately trigger communications to let customers know what happened.

## Solution

Create communications that lets customers know about a possible unauthorized sign-on attempt to their account, and provide a clear and easy solution to get them back on track.

## What's worth mentioning

Prior to this communication, the standard at Wells Fargo was to use links in emails. My work with the product team introduced the need to disable links, which contributed to evolving Wells Fargo's global content standards.



### {HTML EMAIL HEADER}

From: Wells Fargo Online << SUPL: Standardized Notification FROM Email Address >> Subject: Your Wells Fargo Online access has been disabled

### {HTML EMAIL CONTENT}

{Header 1}

Create a new password to restore access to your accounts

#### What is happening

We recently detected a possible unauthorized attempt to sign on to your account. To help protect your accounts, we disabled access to Wells Fargo Online<sup>®</sup>.

#### What this means to you

Until you create your new password, you'll be unable to sign on to Wells Fargo Online to access your accounts.

### What you need to do

Create your new password now. Here's how:

- 1. Go to wellsfargo.com.
- 2. Click Forgot Password/Username? below the sign-on box.
- 3. Click My password has been disabled and follow the instructions to create your password.

For added security, we also recommend that you change your username by signing on to *Wells Fargo Online*, and going to **Update sign-on settings** under **Security Center** in the dropdown menu.

#### We're here to help

If you need help creating your new password, changing your username, or have other questions, please give us a call at [VAR: Customer Service].

Thank you for choosing Wells Fargo.

Wells Fargo Online Customer Service

### {Disclosure Text}

Please do not reply to this automated email. To send a secure email, sign on at wellsfargo.com/questions.

\_\_\_\_\_

### {SMS CONTENT}

Your Wells Fargo online access is disabled. Create a new password to restore access. Questions? [VAR: Customer Service]

### {PUSH CONTENT}

Online access disabled. Change password at wellsfargo.com or [VAR: Customer Service]

# **#5: Welcome Email Series**

Articulate the value of a service through personalization and transparency

## Background

Customers who have complex needs (closer to retirement, have higher 401(k) balances and outside assets) cancel at higher rates because they don't see the value of Professional Management. Providing more transparency into the way we manage their money, and focusing on how to reach their retirement goals will help to increase the value of the service.

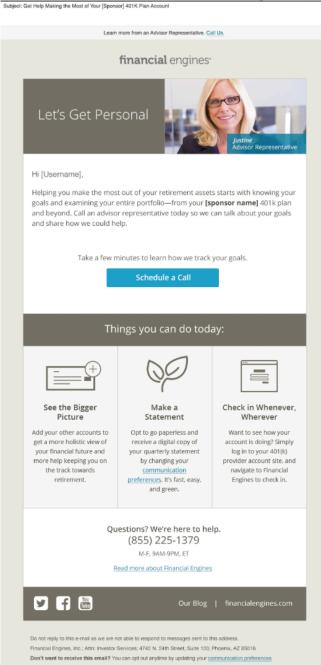
## Solution

Give customers more confidence that they made the right choice in choosing Financial Engines to manage their retirement plan, and show how we'll help customers achieve their retirement goals.

## What's worth mentioning

In the first 3 months after its launch, this email series helped to decrease the Professional Management cancelation rate by over 14%.

Subject: Welcome to Financial Engines				
Have a question about your plan account? Call us.				
financial engines				
Let's Build Y Portfolio	our	David Ankrom VP, Investor Services		
Hi [Username],				
retirement simpler, smarte	reat relationship that will mak r, and completely tailored to y our goals and create a plan th	you. To start, we'd like to		
David Ankrom Vice President, Investor Services				
Let's get	t to know you by reviewing yo	ur goals.		
	Schedule a Call			
What you'll get with Professional Management:				
Hello				
A Familiar Voice	Proven Methodology	Peace of Mind		
We speak in human terms—not finance jargon—which makes it easy to learn, ask questions, or simply have a conversation with an advisor representative.	With over 9 million people in our network and 19- years of experience, you can rest assured our methodology has stood the test of time.	We take the work and worry out of your retirement. And to do so, we help you control for risk and avoid unnecessary fees.		
	Questions? We're here to help. (855) 225-1379 M-F, 9AM-9PM, ET			
B	Read more about Financial Engines			
y f 🛗	Our Blog	financialengines.com		
Financial Engines, Inc.; Attn: Investor Don't want to receive this email? Yo © 1998-2015 Financial Engines, Inc. A registered trademarks or service mark Engines Advisors L.C. a. afederally re	ot able to respond to messages sent to th Services; 4742 N. 24th Street, Suite 120; u can opt out anythme by unduring your go il rights reserved. Financial Engines france s of Financial Engines, Inc. Advisory serv gistered investment advisor and wholly-on to guarantee results. See <u>http://corp.fina</u>	Phoenix, AZ 85016 mmunication preferences. I Retirement Help for Life® are ces are provided by Triancial mod subsidiary of Financial		



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Hi [Username],

#### Good news!

Your initial personalized Retirement Plan has been created and should be arriving in the mail in two weeks. This plan is our recommendation based on your goals and it'll include:

· Side-by-side comparisons of your current investments and our proposed plan

· A breakdown of your current investments and retirement outlook

Considerations for improving your current savings contributions

And of course, you can always update your goals online or with an advisor representative.

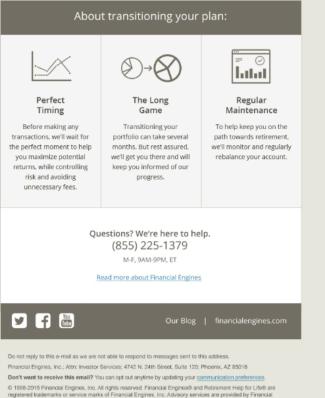
#### More about what your plan will include: **G** = Your Retirement A Balanced Plan Asset Outlook Diversification In helping to manage your This is is our way of portfolio, we make sure to To help create a plan that estimating what you could balance safety in a way can weather the markets that's typical for your age have at retirement every over the long term, we'll year-making it easier to and risk tolerance. create a diversified plan see the lifestyle you can and compare them to your look forward to. current plan for your review. Questions? We're here to help. (855) 225-1379 M-F, 9AM-9PM, ET Read more about Financial Engines 🖌 f 🛗 Do not reply to this e-mail as we are not able to respond to messages sent to this address. Financial Engines, Inc.; Attn: Investor Services; 4742 N. 24th Street, Suite 120; Phoenix, AZ 85016 Don't want to receive this email? You can opt out anytime by updating your communication preferences. © 1999-2015 Financial Engines, Inc. All rights reserved. Financial Engines® and Retirement Help for Life® are registered trademarks or service marks of Financial Engines, Inc. Advisory services are provided by Financial Engines Advisor, ELC, a federally registered investment advisor and whollo-wined subsidiary of Financial Engines, Inc. Financial Engines does not guarantee results. See <a href="https://compliancialengines.com/patents.inc">https://compliancialengines.com/patents.inc</a> Advisory services are provided by Financial Engines Advisor, ELC, a federally registered investment advisor and whollo-wined subsidiary of Financial Engines, Inc. Financial Engines does not guarantee results. See <a href="https://compliancialengines.com/patents.inc">https://compliancialengines.com/patents.inc</a> Advisory services are for patent information.

#### Subject: Your Plan In Action



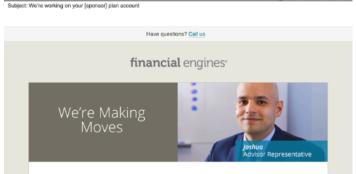
#### Hi [Username],

By now you should have received your Retirement Plan in the mail. In the next week, we'll begin transitioning your investments to reflect your new plan. Have questions about your new Retirement Plan? <u>Call</u> an advisor representative [hyperlink this text to a click to call] today, or <u>schedule a call</u> for a time that works for you.



In service of instruct a trighters, the rights teed response to the rest of the rest enter help to be be determined in registered transfer of instruct a trighter est and a set provided by Financial Engines, Inc. Advisory services are provided by Financial Engines, Inc. Advisory services are provided by Financial Engines, No. 1, a federally registered investment advisor and wholly-owned subsidiary of Financial Engines, No. 1, instruct a trighter estimation and the service are provided by Financial Engines, No. 1, a federally registered investment advisor and wholly-owned subsidiary of Financial Engines, No. 1, including the service are provided by the service are

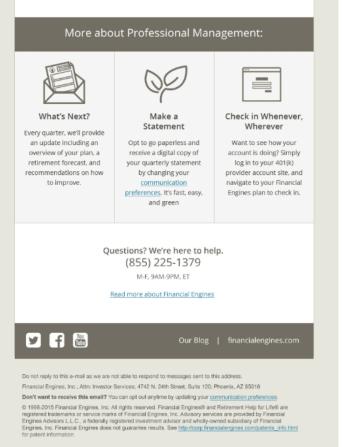
Subject: Have questions about your retirement	nt?				
c.	Speak to one of our advisor representatives. Call Us.				
o	Speak to one of our advisor representatives. Call Us.				
	financial engines				
You've ( Guestic We've Got A		Im Advisor Representative			
Hi [Username],					
Investing comes with lots of questions—we get that. Our job is to answer yours, and we encourage you to reach out to our advisor represenatives whenever you have a question. They're here to help, and they can put difficult to understand concepts into plain English—no more jargon.					
There are also a few other ways you can stay informed and we've outlined them below.					
	Schedule a Call				
Things you can do today:					
	09				
See the Bigger Picture	Make a Statement	Check in Whenever, Wherever			
Add your other accounts to get a more holistic view of your financial future and more help keeping you or the track towards retirement.	Opt to go paperless and receive a digital copy of your quarterly statement	Want to see how your account is doing? Simply log in to your 401(k) provider account site, and navigate to Financial Engines to check in,			
Questions? We're here to help. (855) 225-1379					
	M-F, 9AM-9PM, ET				
	Read more about Financial Engines				
<b>F</b>	Our Blog	financialengines.com			
	Do not reply to this e-mail as we are not able to respond to messages sent to this address.				
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Hi [Username],

#### Great news!

We're working on your portfolio. In the first few weeks after you partnered with us, we began transitioning your portfolio. And currently, we're watching the markets and preparing for the right time to help you maximize potential returns, while controlling risk and avoiding unnecessary fees.



# Last, but not least...

At Financial Engines, as part of building and maintaining a content strategy practice, I created – through close partnerships with product, legal and brand – content standards that enabled Agile teams to write quickly and consistently. Because I supported multiple Agile teams, it was important to provide the teams frameworks and guidelines to help them jump-start their content efforts.

## In the following pages you'll find:

- A screenshot of the "Content Patterns" page taken from the Content Framework & Guidelines Wiki page I created
- Sample screenshots from the "CX Framework Patterns" document, which shows how we defined and executed content throughout various parts of the customer experience

### **Content Framework & Guidelines**

Start Here Writing for Scannability Content Principles Content Patterns Style Guide Empathy vs. Sympathy Resources Content Tests
content rate in a state of the

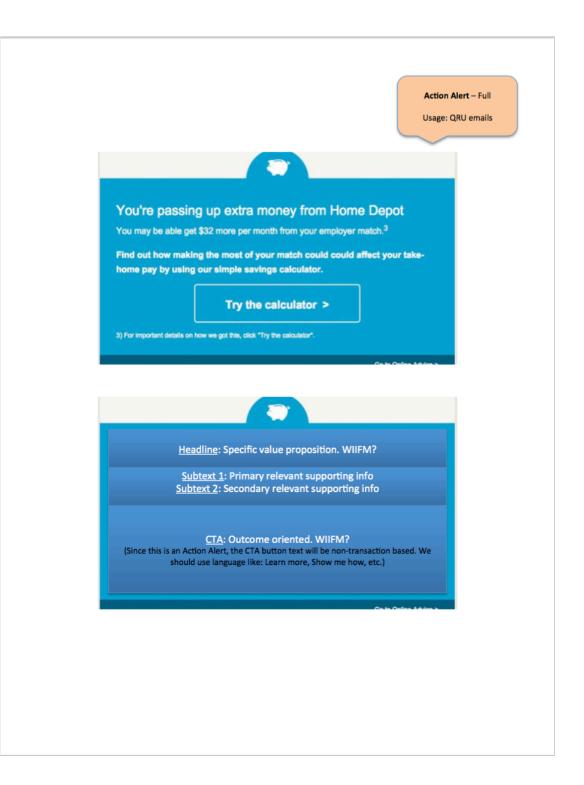
#### **Content Patterns**

A content pattern is a reusable framework used to solve common content needs.

#### How can a content pattern help you?

By referencing a content pattern, you'll be able to create content for a predefined need.

Content patterns:	EX Framework Patterns - see how we define and execute content throughout various parts of the CX Framework experience, including the homepage, Action Alerts and HEXI Action Flow.
CX Framework	
	This tooltip currently exists in the Validator experience. The example below shows the "before" and "after" versions. Text in orange are annotations.
Content	Before: We recommend funds that may improve your expected returns. Among the factors that may affect your returns are the risk level you have selected and the fund choices available to you. We recommend funds in such proportions that the effect of each fund on your portfolio risk is justified by the fund's expected return. Per one of our content principles, "Jargon or technical terms should be expressed in the simplest terms possible." Will our customers construe this as a tooltip or a disclosure? Lots of jargon and technical terms that makes us feel smart and the user feel ignorant.
funds? Tooltip	After: We're always looking out for your best interest. How? We look at various factors that can affect your returns – like risk, performance and fees – and make fund recommendations designed to balance risk and reward to help you reach your goals. Tooltips are information based, so our approach should express jargon and technical language into more simple terms.
	In Q1 2014, a number of participants were impacted by an IRA onboarding incident. This means that a number of participants' personal information may have been viewed by other customers that were signing up for the service. If you're a Financial Engines customer, what questions and emotions could be running through your mind as you're reading the communication we sent? What will you want to hear from us? How well are your concerns
	being acknowledged? It's our job to ease our customers' concerns. Per one of our content principles, "Our customers always come first."
pattern:	As a Financial Engines customer, I'm probably asking myself:
IRA incident Letter	<ul> <li>What does this mean to me exactly? Our job: How do we make sense of the incident for customers?</li> <li>What is Financial Engines doing about it? Our job: Convey that we're on it and looking out for customers.</li> <li>Is there anything I need to do? Our job: Offer something that the customer can do today to help their situation.</li> </ul>
	Below are the "before" and "after" IRA incident letter versions:
	Before version
	After version



#### ΟΚΑΥ

### You're passing up extra money from ACME

You may be able to get \$32 more per month from your employer match\*. (Although headline is a good ice breaker, the WIIFM is really the second line)

Find out how making the most of your match could affect your take-home pay by using our simple savings calculator. (If we've told customers that they may be able to get more from their employer match, mentioning take-home pay is irrelevant. They just want to know how they can get more)

<Try the calculator> button

\*Disclosure goes here.

BETTER

Get \$32 more per month from ACME\* Make the most from your employer match. (Off the gates, the headline states a very clear WIIFM)

See how different contribution rates can affect your savings in retirement. (Information supports WIIFM and conveys a value that the customer will get by looking at different contribution rates)

<Learn more> button

BETTER

\*Disclosure goes here.

### You're passing up \$32 per month from ACME\*

You could be getting more from your employer match. (Written differently, but headline still states a very clear WIIFM)

See how different contribution rates can help put more savings into your retirement. (Written differently, but information still supports WIIFM and conveys a value)

<Show me how> button

\*Disclosure goes here.

