

CS-639 — Interaction Design Studio

Collaboration & GenAI Studio | In-
Class Exercise

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Today's Exercise

Part 1: Audit Figma AI using P1-P12. Part 2: Design a collaborative flow showing human-led, shared, and AI-led moments.

- Experience generative variability (P11) and productive imperfection (P12) firsthand
- Evaluate Figma AI as a collaborative partner using OPD — not just a tool
- Design a flow that maps who leads at each moment and where handoffs happen

The question isn't "is the output good?" — it's "does the collaboration work?"

Part 1: Figma AI Audit (25 min)

Explore at least 3 of these Figma AI features:

- **First Draft** — describe a screen, get a layout
- **Text tools** — rewrite, shorten, adjust tone, translate
- **Image tools** — generate image, remove background, expand
- **Figma Make** — generate a functional prototype from a prompt

Try the same prompt at least twice on each feature — variability is the point.

Audit Checklist

For each feature you try, note:

1. Did the output vary when you tried the same prompt twice? **(P11)**
2. What was imperfect? How did you refine it? **(P12)**
3. Who was leading — you or the AI? Did it shift?
4. OPD: Could you **see** what it did (O)? **Predict** what's next (P)? **Redirect** it mid-task (D)?

Figma AI Audit Table

Fill in for each feature — use the handout or Canvas template.

Feature

- First Draft
- Text: Rewrite/Tone
- Image: Generate/Edit
- (Your choice)

Evaluate each with:

- **P11** — Did outputs vary? How?
- **P12** — What was imperfect? How did you refine it?
- **Leadership** — Human, Shared, or AI?

Pick the feature with the most interesting collaboration dynamic
— you'll build Part 2 around it.

Part 2: Collaborative Flow (15 min)

Do a design task with Figma AI, then document what happened.

1. **Pick a task** — e.g., "design a landing page," "create a social media post," "design a budget tracker"
2. **Do it in Figma AI** — use at least 2 different AI features (First Draft, text tools, image tools, etc.)
3. **Document each step** — what you did, what the AI did, and who was leading:
 - **Human-led** — you created; AI assisted on request
 - **Shared** — both contributed; you refined AI output
 - **AI-led** — AI generated; you evaluated
4. **Annotate the handoffs** — at each transition, note which OPD property was missing (O, P, or D) and why leadership shifted

This is not hypothetical. Do the task, then map what actually happened.

Example: Budget Tracker Flow

What happened:

1. **AI-led:** Prompted First Draft → "budget tracker app"
2. **Shared:** Card labels generic, needs credit card section
3. **Human-led:** Fixed spacing, brand colors, hierarchy
4. **AI-led:** Text tool → "Rewrite card labels"
5. **Shared:** Kept 2 of 4 suggestions, edited the rest
6. **Human-led:** Final polish, micro-interactions

OPD at each handoff:

- **1→2:** Low **O** — can't see why AI chose that layout
- **3→4:** Low **P** — will AI modify or start over?
- **4→5:** Low **D** — can't scope the rewrite to specific cards

Principles in play:

- P11 at steps 1, 4 — different output each time
- P12 at steps 2, 5 — output needs refinement

What Good Looks Like

Strong submissions:

- Figma AI audit with specific, observed P11/P12 evidence — not hypothetical
- OPD evaluation at handoffs — where does observability, predictability, or directability fail?
- Collaborative flow with clear transitions between human-led, shared, and AI-led
- Principle annotations that reveal genuine tradeoffs

Common pitfalls:

- Audit that only describes features without evaluating them through P11/P12
- Flow that is entirely AI-led or entirely human-led — no transitions
- No OPD analysis at handoffs — just labeling modes without diagnosing why they shift
- Treating Figma AI as a magic box instead of a collaboration partner

Get Started

1. **5 min:** Open Figma, verify AI credits, pick features to try
2. **20 min:** Explore 3+ Figma AI features; fill in the audit table
3. **15 min:** Design your collaborative flow — sketch or digital
4. **5 min:** Annotate with P1-P12 principles

Due Monday morning on Canvas — audit table, collaborative flow with annotations, and 2-3 photos of your process.

Friday critique: pairs will **role-play your collaborative flows — one person as the designer, one as the AI. What works? What breaks?**