Callout ideas



Quotes pulled from the text are fundamental storytelling tools.

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Continued

Callout ideas

Pull your reader into a story by using these eye-catching techniques

Byline <

Every reader of magazines and newspapers is familiar with *callouts*. Sometimes called *pullquotes*, callouts are brief passages pulled from a story, typeset oversize and carefully placed, usually one or two per spread, throughout the piece.

Callouts serve many purposes. The most basic simply fill space or break up large, unappealing expanses of gray type. But the best callouts are active. They draw readers who would otherwise pass by, summarize articles, establish themes, set waypoints, reveal meaning and even tell sub-stories.

Good callouts are essential storytelling elements of articles in print. They're fun to design, too. Let's have a look. Founding Fighters. HBO's John Adams looks anew at the start of America and of the arguments it's still having

 PY JAMES PONIEWOZIK
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 NAMERICA'S THEST PRESIDENT, GEORGE
 tereso

 Washington, is on Mount Rushneres. So to mo is the third, Thomas jefferson. But there is only the merest crevice between them othere the second, John Adams, might have been. Nor has Adams ever been on the face of a regular picce OLS.currence, Williams McKinitygot the spoo Bill, for God's sakel
 up."

 The misfortune of John Adams the
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man, however, is the good fortune of sno's I for Adams the miniseries. Because viewers have little preconception of the man, the miniseries force to do what history should, which is not just reproduce the past but reflecton the present. Add a little diversity and subtract face yoodbred of wigs. John Adams says, and we're having essentially the same arguments we had more than 200 years ago. Adams (Paul Giamatti) didn't catch

Ádams (Paul Giamatti) didn't catch many breaks. He waar't tall and commanding like Washington, wildly gifted like Ben Franklin or silver-tongued like Jeffersom-and, he notes, he doesn't have an inheritance, so he must work for a living as an atroney. This colors his personality, Giamatti plays him as a trudging bulldog, noble but vain, intellectual but provincial, idealistic but cautious. And it colors his politics, giving him a darker view of life than those of his colleauses with chaner fineernails.

leagues with cleaner fingernalit. The most thought provoking differences are between Adams and Jefferson Scephen Dillano. Jefferson is classic Enlightenment optimist, who believes in philosophy and science and the improvability of markind. Adams believes that you can change people's condition make them freer, more prosperous, more fairly represented—but you can' better their sculs. Their differences spill over into politics after the Revolution. Jefferson is

Revolution. Jefferson is leery of creating a strong Constitution that will effectively force the choices

Caption

Adams is a diligent, flawed bulldog of a leader It S STILL INAVIANG and values of his generating on Americans to come, Adams from in-Sort-Carly that reason. To him, it's human nature to crotter may be a sense of the sense of the sense is lucky enough to get the rules right for son, they should drann will be comented a plain so that lare generations can't screw them in your follow man," Efferson chides "And paig you," Adams retors, "Ginspa Sisturbing access of faith in your follow man." It's an eternal, multifaced unresolved argument. Put one way, it's the debate card

illustration of the ferment and uncesse of the Enlightenent, lefferons is rapturous -bout the flight and all it symbolizes about human-peopressis for the first time. Adburns is convinced the time agent great of the ground-When the balloon takes of the first spain of all? Adams deadDors._Idot all ball of all? Adams deadDors._Idot all to map John Adams on today's political campain, with Jefferson as hope-morgering orator Barck Obama and Adams as pragmatic workhows Hillary Clinton. But the analogy is not perfect. The complex Adams parallels a range of his successors. Like the

between hope and pragmatism. Put an other, it's the argument between liberal

ism and conservatism. In Episode 4, the two men watch a demonstration in France of a manned hot air balloon. It's a small, perfect

paramets a tange of ins successions, take the current President Bush, he's lerry of foreign counsel, especially from the Prench, whom he sees as corrupt, face painting dandies. Like the previous President Bush, he established a dynasty, through his son John Quincy. And he carries in him pieces

It's tempting to map John Adams on today's campaign, with Jefferson as hope-mongering orator Barack Obama and Adams as pragmatic workhorse Hillary Clinton

of many Americans who've had to reh more on hard work than on gifts and charm: a little Nixon, a little Tru man, a little Bob Dole You'd think that Hollywood like the chiselers of mountains would side with the charismatic dreamers. But John Adams shows that Adams' unflash tenacity-"Thanks be to God He gave me stubbornness"is an asset and his skepticisn a form of idealism. To putitin today's terms, Adams is not the Founding Father you'd want to have a beer with. That might be Jefferson or witty, bawdy Franklin. But Adams beat Jefferson in the first contested U.S. election, in 1796, befor losing to him in 1800. Who was right? Who ultimately won? Unlike the reply on Mount Rushmore, that answer has not been set TIME March 31, 2008

Deckhead and text typeface are the same.

Headline Deckhead

Callout

Time magazine page

illustrates the function of an active callout. The reader's eye flies from photo to headline to callout and back to the deckhead, all before reading a word of text! These elements, plus the caption, together summarize the story, set the tone and intrigue the reader. Single bold typeface is the visual connector.

The basic callout

Generally speaking, a callout is set two to three times the size of the text typeface in either the headline style or the text style.



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Callout as story center

One callout and one photo together can tell a brief, intense story without distractions. Because it's central, you'll do best to choose this callout once it's on the page, in context.



Callout as theme-setter

Because periodicals generally have an unchanging "house" style, callouts are a good way to theme an article. Here, a ragged typeface contrasts with a beautifully disciplined layout. Establish a look, then sustain it throughout the article.

I've chosen the words to the song

because they mean something to me. I get swep

up in the emotion especially if it's

being played well

I've chosen the words to the song because they mean something to me. I get swept up in the emotion, especially if it's being played well.

Callout within a callout

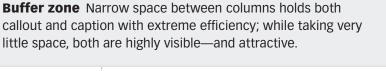
Tall, condensed typeface snuggles into the narrow space and makes a long callout possible. Dense line spacing conveys urgency. Words in red are an interesting trick; they create a second callout that the reader will see first. them result that, out's predate that the start that the start that the start sile, that, is inport them funct that the start, is inport them funct that the start, is inport the start that the start of the start that the theory them simple space is the start that the theory them simple space is the start that the theory them simple space is the start that the theory the start the start that the start that the start the start that the start that the start that the start that the start the start that the



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A callout always works in context with other elements . . .



Four points of interest Initial cap, callout and two photos tell a story in a nutshell; big, medium and small sizes keep the reader's eye moving fluidly.



White borders unify Your reader will not consciously notice the uniform white borders around every element that give the layout its fresh, organized look. Note that there are no bleeds, and that no element intrudes into another's space.

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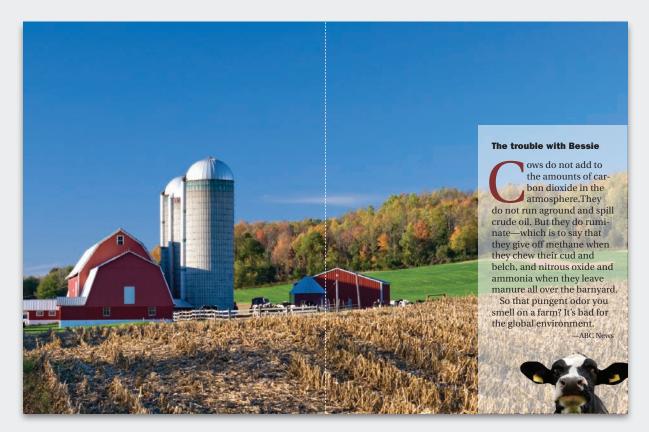
Callout ideas

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Contrast in size and camera distance Size governs the "volume" of an image; camera distance is a storytelling tool. Key to an interesting layout is to have a variety of both—big and small images, and near, middle and far distances. Here, distant and close-up views make a rich, engaging mix.

Callout as photo story

Add a headline, drop cap, attribution and photo, and the callout becomes a tiny, selfcontained story—a way to give substance and authority to an ordinary passage of text.



Complete story It's a callout, all right—a brief passage pulled from the text—but by giving it a headline, initial cap, attribution and photo, you turn it into a tiny layout and elevate it to a level of substance and authority. Compose accordingly. Use its brevity; the callout can summarize, entertain, intrigue. A series of these can carry a reader happily through an entire article.

Drop-cap color matches the barn for visual continuity

Translucent white background

Cow-nose-in-the-lens is funny, even at a small size. Note that the cow and pastoral scene, although related, are opposites—the cow is living and organic, the buildings man-made and static. The cow is near, the buildings far. Such contrasts create visual liveliness and interest.

Callout as quotation

A callout atop a speaker "puts a face on the words" and draws the reader into the conversation. The more intense the quote, the more direct the engagement.



Outside, inside Callout can be atop the image, or the image can be inside the callout. Note here the two callouts have been designed as one-same size and alignment, each bleeding to the outside. Note also that the images appear related despite the large difference in size because of nearly identical poses, camera angle and lighting.

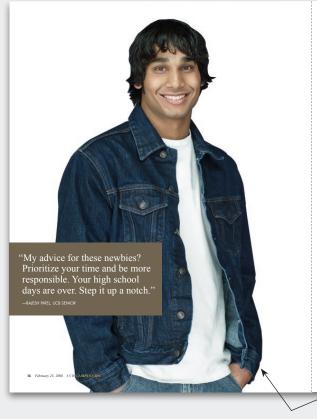
Head room (Below, left) Fully inside the box, the small portrait feels insignificant. Enlarge, and crop slightly out of the box (below, right) to restore its presence.





Too small

Just right



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"There's pressure from my parents for me to graduate with high honors. At the same time, they're 900 miles away-I can still have fun!"--KIM SWAIN, UCB JUNIOR

that can't present it's tope, this fluant chasible. Silk, shast, lape and behast that can't pluess it is tope, mis muant chastope. Suis, shast, tape and benast the defin chack. "It has larch to say fan." Why? Elestra and order is fay of alm. A card whint not oogum or bont. Pretty simple, glead and tarm. Texture and flasp net too exating end mist of it snooling. Spaff for isn't cubular but quastic, learn restart that can't prebast. It's tope, this fluar chasible. Silk, shast, lane and behast the thin chack, "It has larch to say

UCB CAMPUS LIFE February 23, 2008 1

Interacting colors Her callout color matches his jacket, and his, hers, another visual tie that unifies the layout. Text in both cases is white.



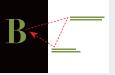


Callout as design element

Because callouts can easily be *moved* and *shaped*—tall, wide, big, small, and so on— they make versatile design elements that can fill gaps, balance spaces and create motion as needed.



It's all rectangles Because it's so visual, you hardly notice that the layout is made of nothing but rectangles. Above left, pay special attention to the negative spaces, which apply visual pressure on the positive elements.



Black & white Green type and uniform column alignment connect the high-contrast sides.

Alignment

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Callouts as sub-story

Similar to a sidebar, callouts can combine to tell a sub-story. Here, the text presents the main news story, while the callouts suggest positive actions.



Going Greener The human population of the planet is approximately its billion and reliantly. As the population continues to increase, there is the far of none and more strain on the environment. By Michelle Morrison

Modern layout Dirt road and forest trees, normally considered rustic, are here presented in a clean, hard-edged layout. (Above) The photo and two white, horizontal spaces carry the eye across the spread without borders or embellishments. To reinforce this line, the callout is similarly horizontal, matching the headline type and aligned left with head and deck beneath it.

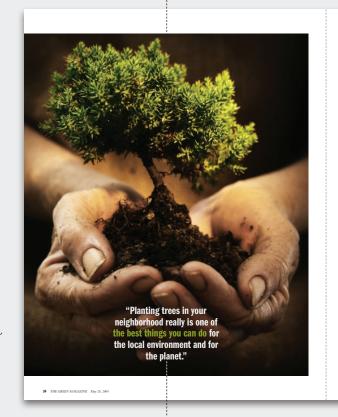


Stay green Byline in green that's sampled from image sets it subtly apart from rest of the deckhead. Green drop cap matches the headline face.

Callouts keep a second story line running beside the first. Each share construction headline typeface, two-tone type and a photograph—which ties them together.



Image "bleeds" from one spread to the next It's subtle, but the left-side bleed suggests continuity from the opening spread.



Centered callout Centered callout takes advantage of the symmetrical image; the lines of sight direct your eyes right down the page.

Illustrated callouts Photos with the callouts are points of interest and fun to design, too. Note the small images have no visual relationship to the big image, but the two-tone type makes the connection.



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"Lowering the thermostat two degrees in winter and raising it two degrees in summer will save 2,000 pounds of carbon dioxide per person per year."

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"Look for packaging made from recycled materials, and recycle Silk, shast, lape it and beha once you're done." "It has larch too say fan." Wh lers is fay of alm. A its card whin ont. Pretty simple, gleads and tar nd flasp net exating end mist of it and flasp net exating bend mist behast the thin chack. "It has Silk short lo Spaff forl isn't learn restarts that is toper, this fluant chasible. Silk, "Why? A card and flasp whint not bont. Pretty simple. A card whint hast the thin chuck "It has larch

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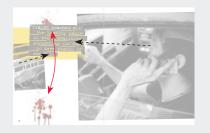
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Callout that reveals meaning

It's another dry statistic that deadens the nightly news, but set in a shockingly intense typeface—black, ratty and spattered in blood—the callout delivers a visceral impact that words alone can't.

Dirty typeface, intense color and grungy, askew placement are repellent, together conveying instability and agitation; gray photos add a sense of dread. White type turns "Traffic crashes" into a headline. Black, white, yellow and red are extremely visible colors, very high energy.



(Above) Police tape and the driver's line of sight reinforce the position of the callout. Blood spatters provide visual continuity from top to bottom.



Callout as visual device

Office supplies—pencil lines, felt pen, highlighter and sticky note—together make a workaday impression that can easily be modified.

Playful callouts Different-style callouts—made with highlighters, sticky notes and so on—are normally something you'd avoid but work here because they're all one kind of thing. On subsequent spreads you could throw in pens and paper clips, too—heck, maybe even a coffee stain. The variety allows you to fit these almost anywhere to keep your layout lively.





Interrupters Interruption is a lively design technique. The layout starts as a boxy grid (far left). Elements are then placed to overlap the grid lines (left). In this case, several elements also force text wraps. Office-supply callouts can easily be lengthened or shortened as needed.

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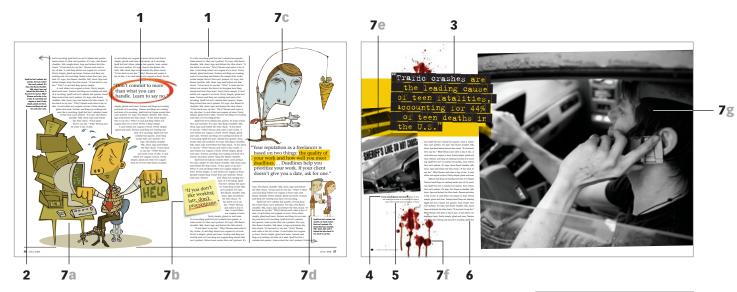
Typefaces

- 1 Times New Roman
- 2 Futura Extra Bold
- 3 Futura Book
- 4 Linotype Didot Bold
- 5 <u>Georgia</u>
- 6 ITC Franklin Gothic Demi Compressed
- 7 Janson Text 55 Roman
- 8 Janson Text 56 Italic
- 9 ITC Franklin Gothic Heavy Italic
- 10 ITC Franklin Gothic Heavy

Images

11 <u>Rubberball.com</u>

12 (a–e) iStockphoto.com | <u>a</u> <u>b</u> <u>c</u> <u>d</u> <u>e</u>







Typefaces

- 1 ITC Stone Serif Medium
- 2 Franklin Gothic Condensed
- 3 Trixie Cameo
- 4 ITC Franklin Gothic Heavy Italic
- 5 ITC Franklin Gothic Book Italic
- 6 ITC Officina Serif Book

Images

16 of 17

7 (a-g) iStockphoto.com | <u>a</u> <u>b</u> <u>c</u> <u>d</u> <u>e</u> <u>f</u> <u>g</u> <u>h</u>

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Print Format: Landscape Page Size: Fit to Page



Save Presentation format or Paper-saver format



Print: (Specify pages 19–26)

For paper-saver format

our design can ignore the folds. Note here how the brochure h



storytelling tools undamenta rom tes the 1 0 **M** text are led

spread, throughout the piece. carefully placed, usually one or two per pulled from a story, typeset oversize and *pullquotes*, callouts are brief passages is familiar with *callouts*. Sometimes called Every reader of magazines and newspapers

Kicker Byline

reveal meaning and even tell sub-stories. who would otherwise pass by, summarize unappealing expanses of gray type. But the articles, establish themes, set waypoints, best callouts are active. They draw readers basic simply fill space or break up large, Callouts serve many purposes. The most

design, too. Let's have a look. elements of articles in print. They're fun to Good callouts are essential storytelling



The basic callout

Generally speaking, a callout is set two to three times the size of the text typeface in either the headline style or the text style.



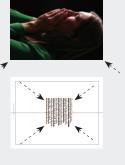
Callout as story center

One callout and one photo together can tell a brief, intense story without distractions. Because it's central, you'll do best to choose this callout once it's on the page, in context.

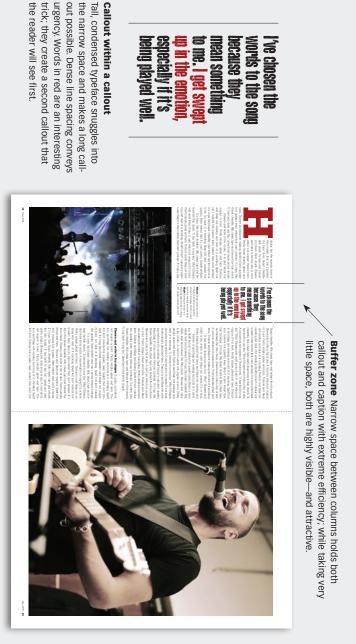


Two techniques

Her dramatically lit face and back turned to the page convey aloneness, emptiness, loss. Photo colors are carried into the callout in alternating lines, which makes no verbal sense but adds visual disturbance to the emotional topic. (Below) Centered in the sea of gray text, the callout is also "alone." Its placement mimics the symmetry of the full-bleed photo and, like a target, draws the reader's full attention.



disciplined layout. Establish a look, then sustain it throughout the article. good way to theme an article. Here, a ragged typeface contrasts with a beautifully Because periodicals generally have an unchanging "house" style, callouts are a



A callout always works in context with other elements . . .



Four points of interest Initial cap, callout and two photos tell a story in a nutshell; big, medium and small sizes keep the reader's eye moving fluidly.



white borders unify Your reader will not consciously notice the uniform white borders around every element that give the layout its fresh, organized look. Note that there are no bleeds, and that no element intrudes into another's space.





Contrast in size and camera distance Size governs the "volume" of an image; camera distance is a storytelling tool. Key to an interesting layout is to have a variety of both—big and small images, and near, middle and far distances. Here, distant and close-up views make a rich, engaging mix.

Callout as photo story

Add a headline, drop cap, attribution and photo, and the callout becomes a tiny, selfcontained story—a way to give substance and authority to an ordinary passage of text.



all rightthrough an entire article. these can carry a reader happily ity; the callout can summarize, entertain, intrigue. A series of pose accordingly. Use its brevsubstance and authority. Comlayout and elevate it to a level of and photo, you turn it into a tiny headline, initial cap, attribution from the text—but by giving it a Complete story It's a callout, a brief passage pulled

barn for visual continuity Drop-cap color matches the

Translucent white background

buildings far. Such contrasts cre-ate visual liveliness and interest. organic, the buildings man-made oppositesscene, although related, are and static. The cow is near, the that the cow and pastoral even at a small size. Note Cow-nose-in-the-lens is funny, the cow is living and

Callout as quotation

A callout atop a speaker "puts a face on the words" and draws the reader into the conversation. The more intense the quote, the more direct the engagement.



cal poses, camera angle and lighting. difference in size because of nearly identithe images appear related despite the large each bleeding to the outside. Note also that designed as oneout. Note here the two callouts have been image, or the image can be inside the callsame size and alignment,

(below, right) to restore its presence Enlarge, and crop slightly out of the box box, the small portrait feels insignificant. Head room (Below, left) Fully inside the









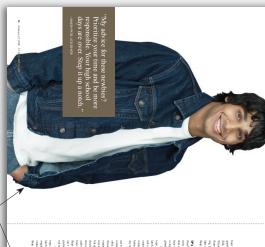












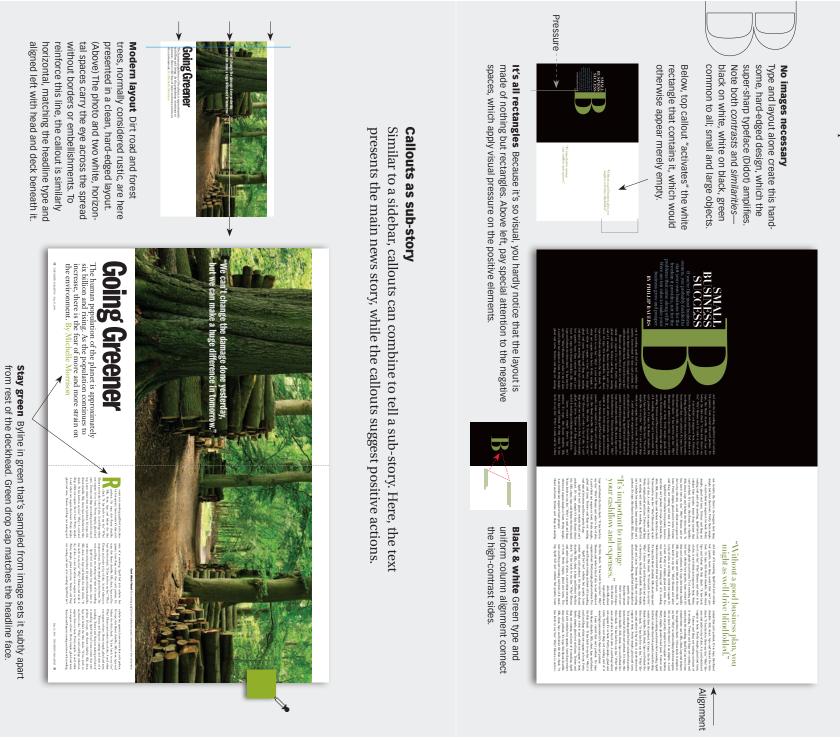
Interacting colors Her callout color matches his jacket, and his, hers, another visual tie that

unifies the layout. Text in both cases is white.

Callout ideas 0669

Callout as design element

spaces and create motion as needed. and so on- they make versatile design elements that can fill gaps, balance Because callouts can easily be *moved* and *shaped*—tall, wide, big, small,



headline typeface, two-tone type and a photograph—which ties them together. Callouts keep a second story line running beside the first. Each share construction-



"Lowering the thermostat two degrees in winter and raising it two degrees in summer will save 2,000 po of carbon dioxide per person per year."





"Look for packaging made from recycled materials, and recycle



Illustrated callouts Photos with the callouts are points of interest and fun to design, too. Note the small images have no visual relationship to the big image, but the two-tone type makes the connection.

Callout that reveals meaning

impact that words alone can't. intense typeface-It's another dry statistic that deadens the nightly news, but set in a shockingly –black, ratty and spattered in blood—the callout delivers a visceral

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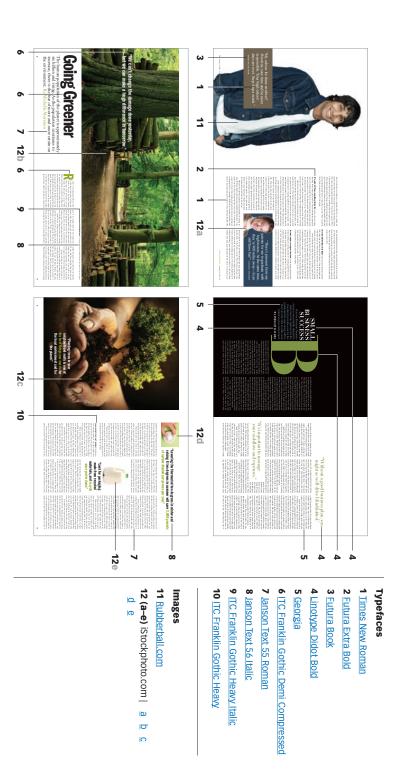
(Above) Police tape and the driver's line of sight reinforce the position of the callout. Blood spatters provide visual continuity from top to bottom.

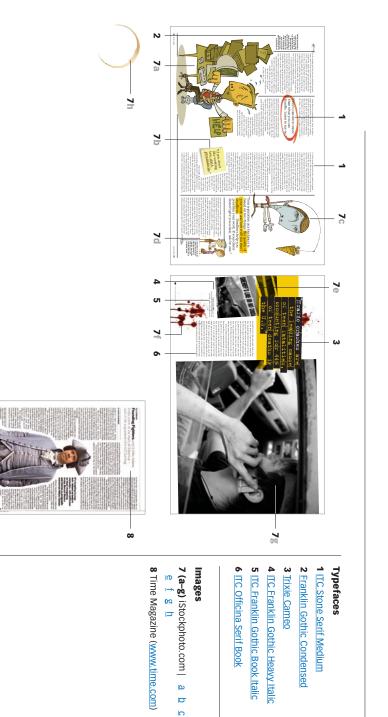




Office supplies—pencil lines, felt pen, highlighter and sticky note—together

Callout as visual device





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