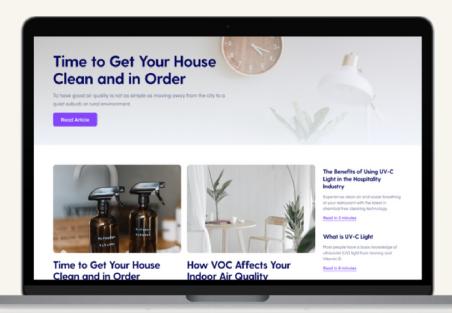
## Anatomy of a High Converting Blog

With Examples



creative



### Introduction

We've created many articles, videos, and worksheets focused on <u>building your organic search</u> <u>traffic</u>. But what happens after users navigate to your blog?

If you have great organic traffic, but you're not sure you're making the most of that asset, this booklet is for you! It's packed full of data and examples of how to convert organic traffic to buyers.

Here's to higher engagement and conversions from all your hard work!

Tima

p.s. if you want more organic traffic, start with our SEO foundations checklist here.



### Table of Contents

#### QUICKLY FIND THE INFORMATION YOU WANT

We packed this guide with research, data, and examples. So, it's long-uh! In order to make it as useful as possible, we've included this table of contents. Browse the document OR find exactly what you want in the table below.

	What Leads to a Conversion	5
	What Is a Conversion	6
	Priorities for Conversion	7
	Anatomy - High Conversion Blog Layout	8
	User Experience - Breadcrumbs	9
	User Experience - Contents	11
	User Experience - Sticky Nav	14
	User Experience - Estimated Reading Time	17
	User Experience - Search	18
	User Experience - Popular/Featured Articles	20
	User Experience - Checklist	25
	Engagement - Related Articles	26
•	Engagement - Social Shares	29
	Engagement - Checklist	32

## Table of Contents QUICKLY FIND THE INFORMATION YOU WANT

Conversion - Authority	33
Conversion - Call to Relationship	38
Conversion - Sidebar CTA	39
Conversion - Inline CTA	42
Conversion - Popups	49
Conversion - Top Banners & Sticky Footers	51
Conversion - Call to Buy	54
Conversion - Checklist	59
Summary	60
Sources	61
Get Blog Conversion Help	62



# What Leads to a Conversion?

Blog visitors typically visit your site for information vs transactions. That means they're less ready to sign up for something or make a purchase.

If most blog visitors are in information seeking mode, is it possible for information seekers to convert? Yes!

AND yet...purchase rates or sign up rates on blog posts are typically lower than on the rest of your site.

Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to give the visitor the best experience possible, so they want to engage with your content long enough to decide to convert.

Top Tip:
Balance, priority,
and focus are
key to high
conversions
without driving your
audience away.

REMEMBER: It's about the content! Blog visitors come for information or content. It's best not to make them work to get what they want...which is the content. Don't overwhelm them with distractions.



# What Is a Conversion?

Many people believe a conversion equals a purchase.

However, conversions from a blog include many user actions. Conversion actions include those taken by visitors listed below:



Email list signup



Reading other articles



Clicking to view products



Purchase a product



Follow on social



Review/Testimonial

Top Tip:
Prioritize your
most important
conversion and
focus there first!



### Priorities

With online search traffic, Google (and other search engine algorithms) prioritizes user experience.

Typical blog conversions range from 0.5% to 2%. Don't trade a smaller quantity of organic traffic for a fraction increase in conversions if the math doesn't make sense.

(e.g. If you lose 1,000 visitors per month because of a crowded user experience to capture 0.5% increase in conversions, does that math work long-term?)

#### **USER EXPERIENCE**

Can the user easily get the information or content that brought them to the site?

#### **ENGAGEMENT**

Can the user easily access other information on the site that's related to the information or content that brought them to the site?

#### CONVERSION

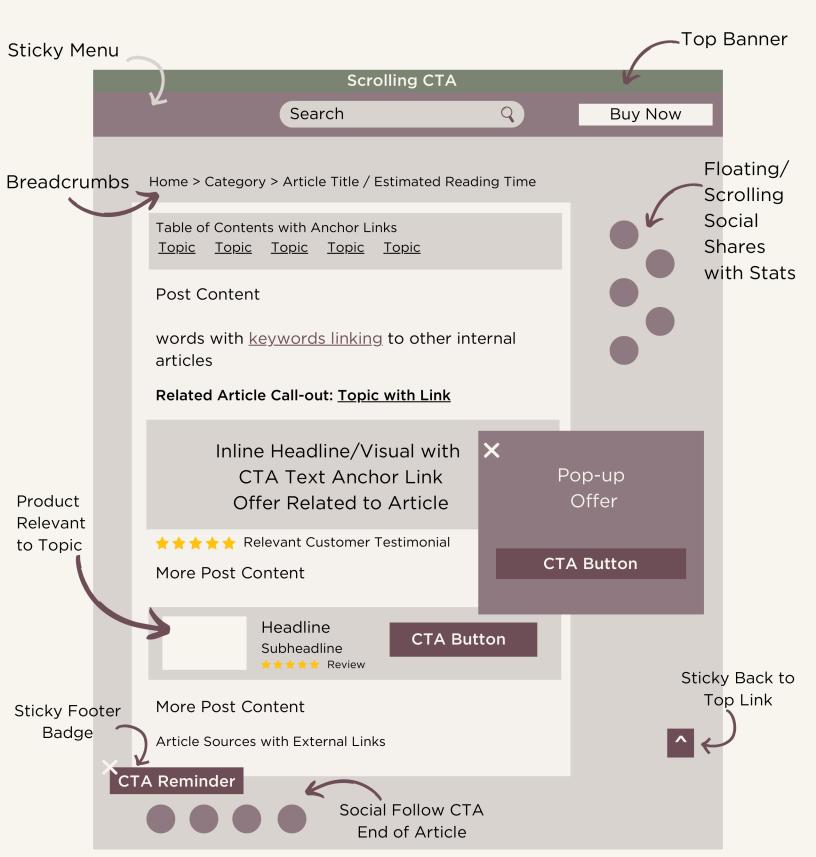
Is there an opportunity for the user to take the next step in relationship or in doing business with you?

**Do the math** first before you make the trade off!



### THE Anatomy

This guide provides nuances, test results and multiple examples of ways you can display data. But here's the TL/DR layout if you just want to cut to the chase.

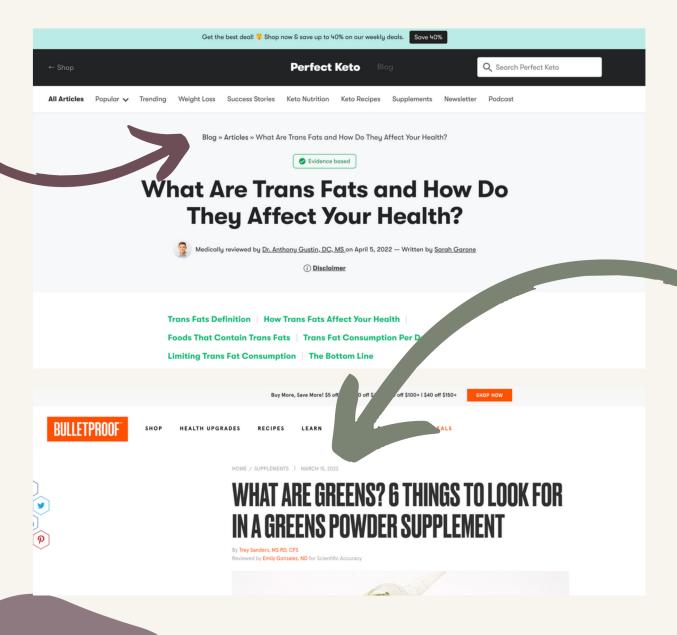




## User Experience with examples from high performing blogs

#### 1. BREADCRUMBS

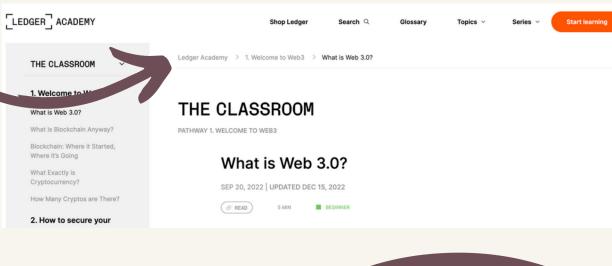
Breadcrumbs offer users a way to see the relation between their location on a page (like a blog page) and higher level pages (e.g. a category page). In other words, users shouldn't have to work hard to find their way around your site hierarchy.

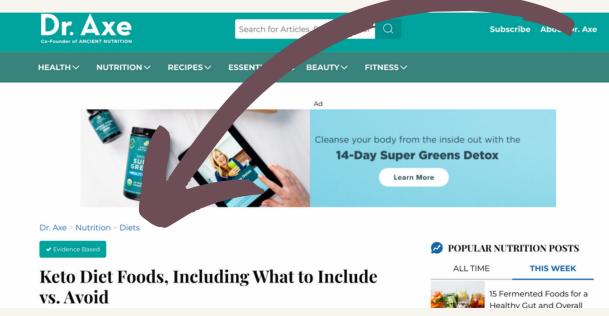




### User Experience with examples from high performing blogs

#### 1. BREADCRUMBS CONT'D





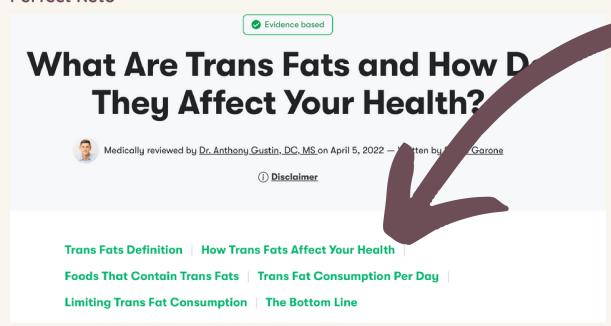
Breadcrumbs can be small and unobtrusive. Useful but not distracting.



#### 2. CONTENT OUTLINE

A table of contents allows users to see exactly what's in the post. Are you going to answer their question or pique their curiosity? A useful table of contents helps readers "jump" to a section that most applies to why they visited your site.

#### **Perfect Keto**



#### **Bulletproof Coffee**

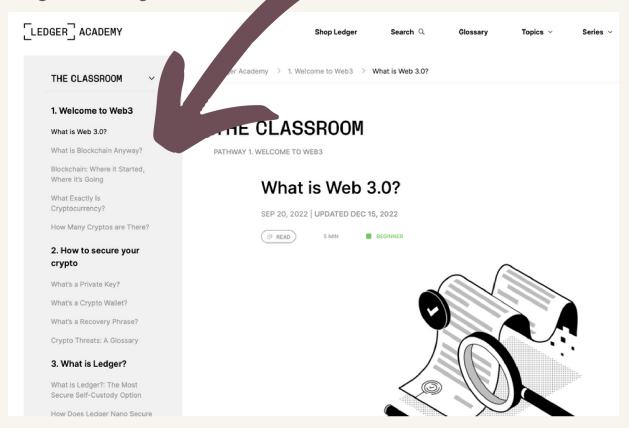
ingredients separate Bulletproof Greens from the pack.	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	
>> What are Greens powders, exactly?	
6 things to look for in a Greens powder supplement	
>> Things to avoid in a Greens dietary supplement	



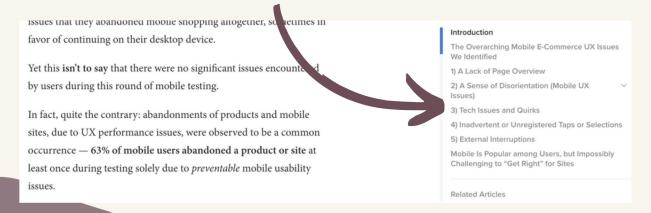
### User Experience with examples from high performing blogs

#### 2. CONTENT OUTLINE CONT'D

#### Ledger Academy



Ledger Academy (above) and Baymard (below) offer floating outlines that follow the user as they scroll. This allows the user to navigate to the exact content they want anytime.





#### 2. CONTENT OUTLINE CONT'D

Content outlines are incredibly helpful with user navigation. If there's no floating outline, it's a best practice to allow the user to scroll back to the top where the content outline exists.

#### Ledger Academy

For instance, the Arab Spring movement is the ultimate example of this scenario. ial media played a significant role in facilitating communication among the participants of this moveme and allowed them to form a large community. Small individuals created something big enough to challenge large ower structures. All because of social media. Isn't that amazing?

So in a sense, Web 2.0 has given human beings a level of organizational power we've never before. But it has cost us dearly too.

#### Problems with Web 2.0

The structure of Web 2.0 has a defining impact on us, as users. However, the current state of the internet is centralized. We are completely reliant on the applications that we use, from social media to banking and dating. And these platforms rely on a handful of internet servers, which makes the whole system centralized.

Note: Content outlines that link to specific sections of the article can also display as clickable links in search results. This helps the user know you have the information they seek, PLUS search engines LOVE this.

Tempesta Media · https://www.tempestamedia.com › wh...

#### Why It's Important to Add an Estimated Reading Time

Dec 21, 2022 - Zippia published some interesting statistics in April 2022. For instance, 77% of internet users read blogs and, on average, read about 10 blogs ...

How To Estimate Reading Time · Impact On The Sales Funnel · Ready To Boost Your...

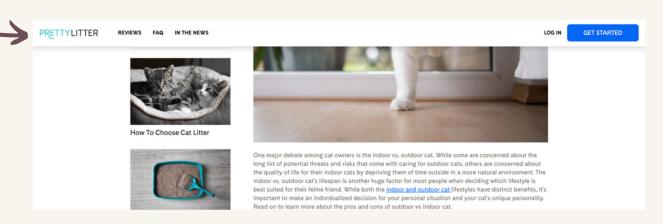
Floating content modules are helpful to the user. AND yet -- take care to choose only one or two. Help the user or prompt them to action rather than distracting them.



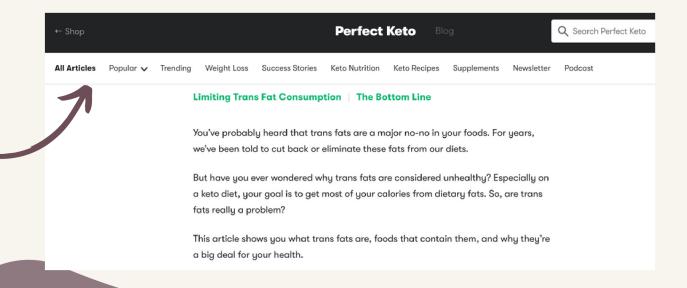
#### 3. STICKY NAVIGATION

A sticky menu remains visible and in the same position as the user scrolls down or moves through a site. Sticky navigation gives the user a familiar way to continue interacting with the entire website as they scroll.

#### **Pretty Litter**



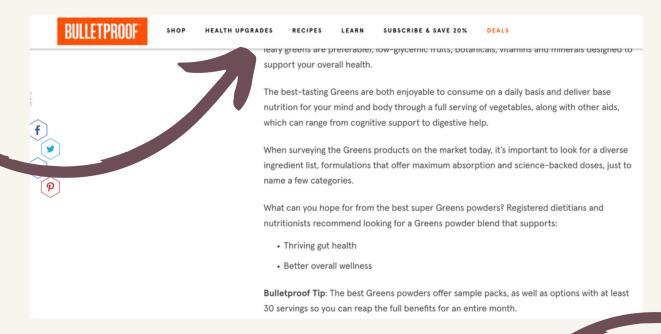
#### Perfect Keto



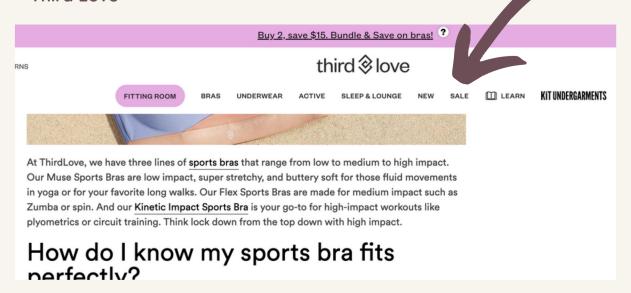


#### 3. STICKY NAVIGATION CONT'D

#### **Bulletproof Coffee**



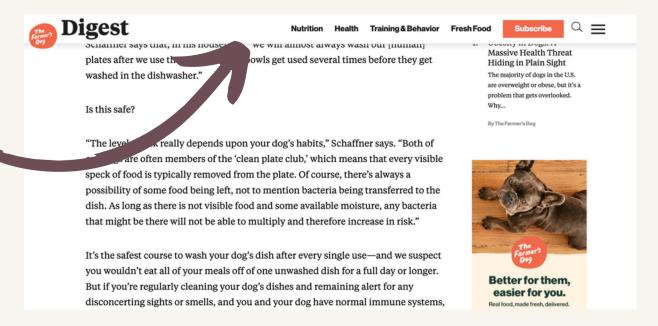
#### **Third Love**





#### 3. STICKY NAVIGATION CONT'D

#### Farmer's Dog



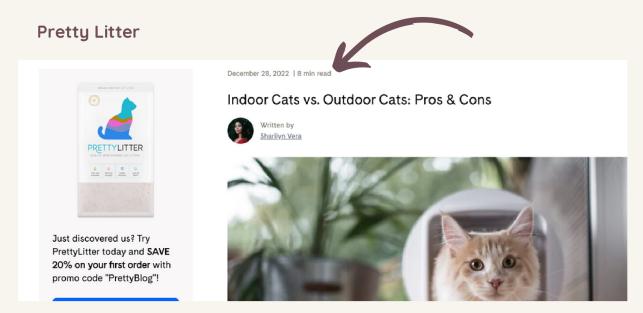
A sticky navigation menu is a great way to help the user control their experience while also offering a purchase or sign-up call to action that might lead to conversion. It's a 2-for-1, keeping your cash register within reach at all times!



## User Experience with examples from high performing blogs

#### 4. ESTIMATED READING TIME

Estimating the reading time of your article can set expectations for users. Estimate reading time manually by dividing the number of words in your article by 200. Many website plugins calculate this for you.



#### Ledger Academy



Estimated
Reading Time
can be small
and unobtrusive.
Useful but not
distracting.

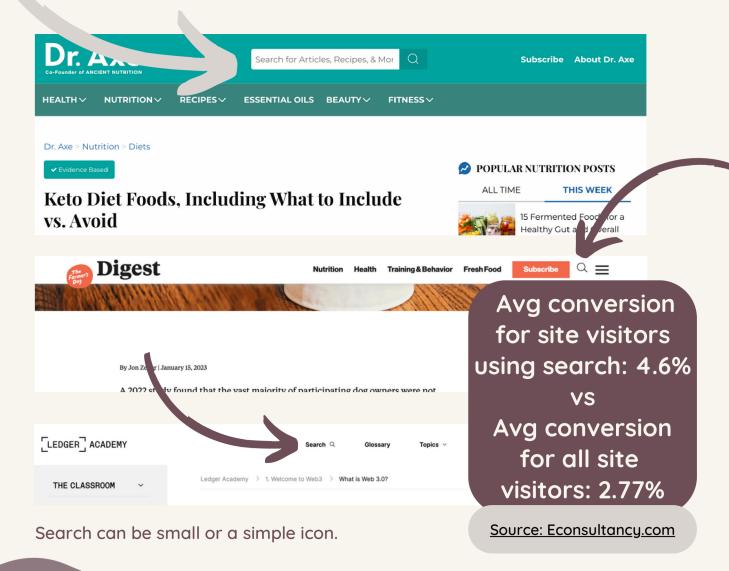




#### 5. SEARCH

While blog readers typically visit your site for information, the information they receive might be exactly what they need to buy.

Search can transform conversions on your site. Search makes it easier for visitors to find what they need. The stats show, visitors who search your site convert to buyers more often.





## User Experience with examples from high performing blogs

#### 5. SEARCH

Search can be small and unobtrusive. However, this one A/B test found an increase in click throughs and revenue by increasing the real estate on the site search bar.

Previously, the site search bar occupied 1/6 of the menu. The 1/3 screen search bar increased revenue for Natchez by 7.5%.



Test performed by **Online Influence Institute**.



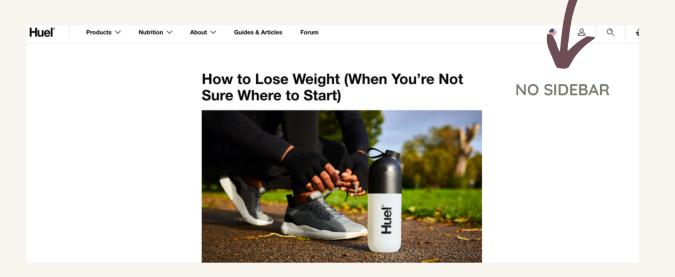
#### 6. FAVORITE OR FEATURED ARTICLES - SIDEBAR

Favorite/featured articles help readers find information MOST people want. However, adding them to individual blog posts may be a two-edged sword...

A/B testing experts argue the effectiveness of sidebars. Do they increase engagement and conversion or distract? Different tests show both results. Adding these articles to the bottom of a blog post may distract from your top call to action. Too many choices = lower conversion.

Knowing different tests have yielded different results, it's important to do the following:

- 1. Define your most important objectives.
- 2. Measure your results.
- 3. Test to see what works with your audience.



Whether a sidebar, the end of the article, or via a section on your blog archive page, providing users with access to your most read articles can help them find your most valuable content.



#### 6. FAVORITE OR FEATURED ARTICLES - SIDEBAR

#### **Blog Sidebars Are Dead: 310% Better Conversion Rate Without A Sidebar**

The blog sidebar is dead. Here's how my calls to action performed 310% better (often more) without a sidebar versus with one. Goodbye sidebar.

COMPELLING SINGLE **BLOG SITE TEST** 

**BLOGMARKETIN** 

#### **Table of Contents**

Reason #1: Poor 1. Conversion Rates In The

Sidebar Reason #2: Mobile

2. Traffic Makes The Sidebar Useless

A Growing Trend Vs Clinging To Tradition

When A Blog Sidebar

By David Risley Last Modified: December 9, 2021 4 Comments

OK, I'm just going to call it... the blog sidebar is dead. And you should strongly consider just getting rid of it altogether.

I have gone back and forth on this over the years. I have run my blogs both with sidebar and without sidebar. But, recently, I had two observations that just drove the nail in the coffin for me for the sidebar.

Both observations have to do with email opt-in rates. The punchline is...

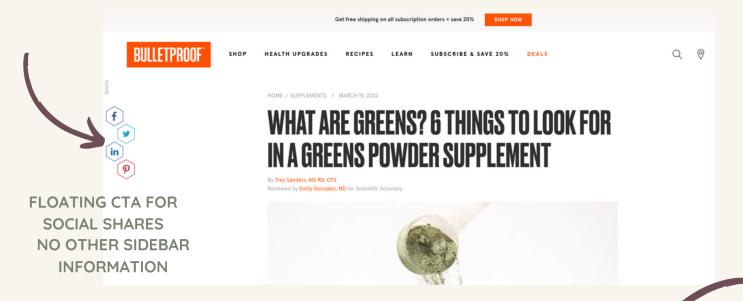
They SUCK. Opt-in rates in the sidebar just... suck.

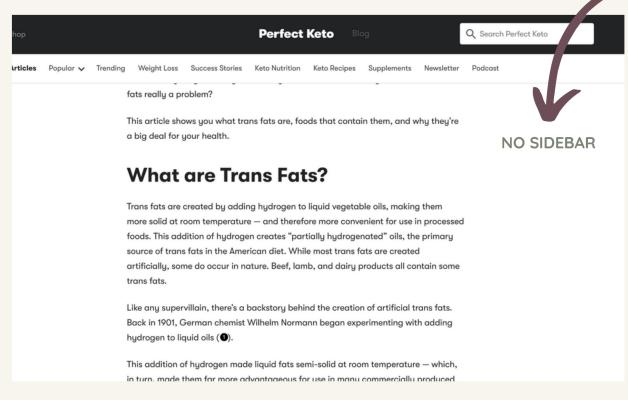
SAME BLOG POST WITH TABLE OF **CONTENTS SIDEBAR RATHER** THAN A CTA TO FOCUS ON USER **EXPERIENCE VS** CONVERSION...WHICH LED TO HIGHER CONVERSIONS



## User Experience with examples from high performing blogs

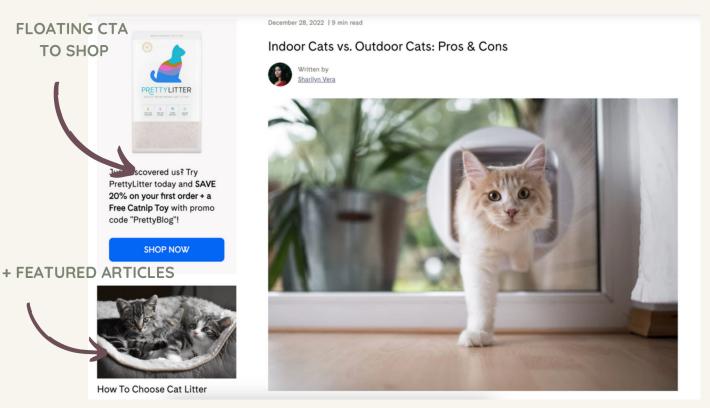
#### 6. FAVORITE OR FEATURED ARTICLES - SIDEBAR CONT'D

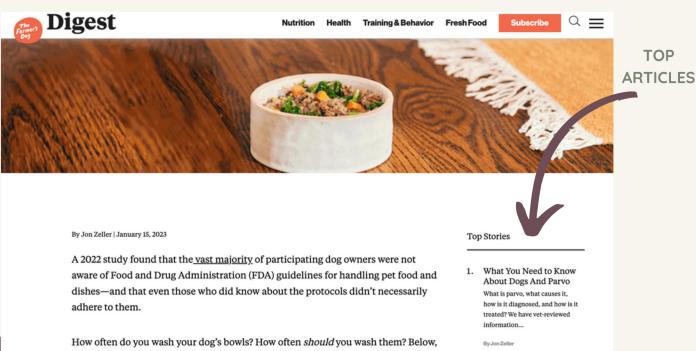






#### 6. FAVORITE OR FEATURED ARTICLES - CONT'D

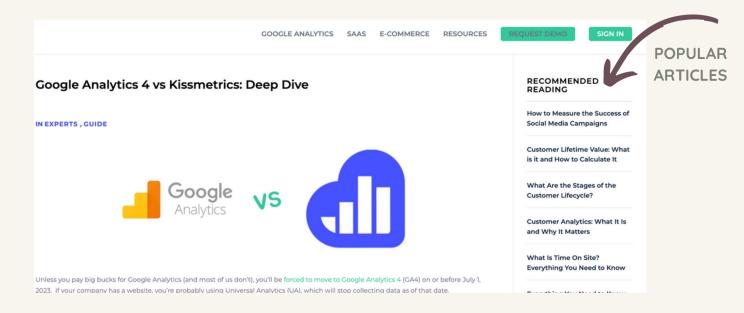


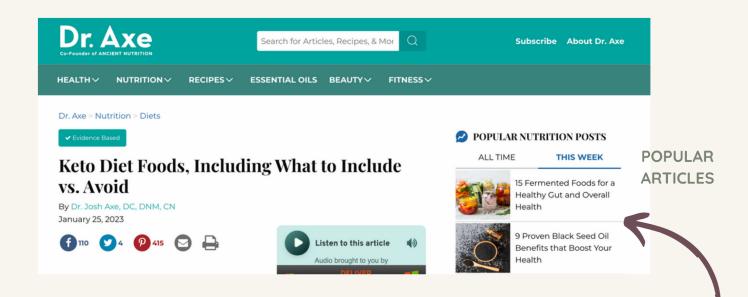




## User Experience with examples from high performing blogs

#### 6. FAVORITE OR FEATURED ARTICLES - CONT'D





### User Experience Checklist

Here's your checklist of possible ways to increase the usability of your blog content pages.

Add them one-at-a-time or do them all. Then watch your bounce rate decrease while your engagement grows!

		Yes	No	Test
1.	Add breadcrumbs.			
2.	Add an anchor linked content outline.			
3.	Add estimated reading time.			
4.	Make navigation/menu sticky.			
5.	Add "back to top" arrow/link.			
6.	Add favorite or related articles in side-bar			
7.	Add favorite or related articles at bottom.			
8.	Add search.			
9.	Add favorite or featured articles as sidebar.			

**Notes** 



Blog visitors seek information. Got it. But you can help them get ready to purchase. So, how do we use the blog to build that buyer relationship?

Offering ways for readers to engage with you further may be your best path to higher conversions.

#### 1. RELATED ARTICLES

At a restaurant, it's fun to ask the server for recommendations. (I know, I'm one of those!)

Think of featured articles as your server telling you, "everyone loves the southwest steak."

However, related articles are more personal. They're like the server knowing you're eyeing the fresh catch of the day. They make a wine recommendation that pairs well with fish. The steak's popularity? Fun to know. The wine pairing? Personalized based on your interest, anticipating what you want next.



### Engagement WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 1. RELATED ARTICLES - EXAMPLES

Think of related articles as saying, "here's content that might help you further -- related to this article you're reading now."

RELATED **ARTICLES SIDEBAR** 

At MANSCAPED™, we're known for helping guys groom their bodies. We should probably point out that your face is part of your body, and we make tools for that, too. If you have ever wondered about using MANSCAPED products on your face, we have some good news for you. Many of our products can be safe for the face, and a couple are even designed

The Lawn Mower® 4.0 trimmer is something we praise as the best of all worlds. It can groom all parts of your body and can be safe and effective for grooming your face. But there's a big but. While you can use the trimmer on your face AND body, you need to change the blade when you use it on your face, keeping one specifically for the body and one just for the face. The ability to change the blade is to keep from getting staph and bacterial infections from cross-

While we're on that topic, let's talk a bit more about beard grooming. Most guys think they're good at it because they have to do it all the time. But, if you stop to think about it, how much of an expert are you on beard grooming? Have you ever used something besides a razor or a trimmer to fix your face? Maybe you need to keep reading.



Can you use MAŃSCAPED® on your

Oh hey, since you're here, we want to talk to.





Search for Articles, Recipes, & Mor



**HEALTH**  $\checkmark$ 

**NUTRITION** ~

**RECIPES** ~

**ESSENTIAL OILS** 

describes the amount of carbs remaining once dietary fiber is taken into account. Because fiber is indigestible once consumed, simply don't count grams of fiber toward their dail carb allotment. So that means subtracting grams of fiber from total carb games, to gi the total net carbs.

On a standard keto diet, fats provide about 70 percent to 80 percent of total da protein about 15 percent to 20 percent, and carbohydrates just around 5 percen

Related: Ketogenic Diet for Beginners Made Easy: The Ultimate Guide to "Keto"

What Are Keto Diet Foods?

**RELATED ARTICLES CALLOUT WITHIN** CONTENT

ANTE BO

Di The



#### 1. RELATED ARTICLES - EXAMPLES CONT'D

The bottom line: Before you shop for a Greens supplement, do your homework. From the right balance of nutrient-dense vegetables and superfoods to added mind-body benefits from nootropics and adaptogens, finding the best super Greens powders can complement your wellness goals. Make sure to flag excessive ingredients, look for science-backed data or certifications and confirm there are digestive aids to help you get the most out of a super greens supplement. And while Greens are not intended to replace multivitamins, if you're really to upgrade from traditional green juice or your morning matcha, a simple-to-scoop green superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for the superfood powder—with a superfood powder—with a superfood powder—with a superfood powder—with a superfoo

Want to help reduce stress and stay level-headed? Adaptogens like ashwagandha and reishi mushrooms may be the key. Learn about 11 adaptogens that can help with mind-body balance.

#### JOIN THE BULLETPROOF REVOLUTION

Keto Recipes

Supplements

Q Search P

Podcast

RELATED ARTICLE

**END OF ARTICLE** 

**HYPERLINK** 

RELATED
ARTICLE
HYPERLINK
KEYWORD

Trending

Weight Loss

Success Stories

Nature sometimes has consequences. It wasn't until the 1950s that the first concerns about artificially created trans fats arose. During the second half of the 20th century and into the 21st, scientific evidence mounted to show that trans fats in partially hydrogenated oils were probably doing more harm than good.

Keto Nutrition

Perfect Keto

#### How Trans Fats Affect Your Health

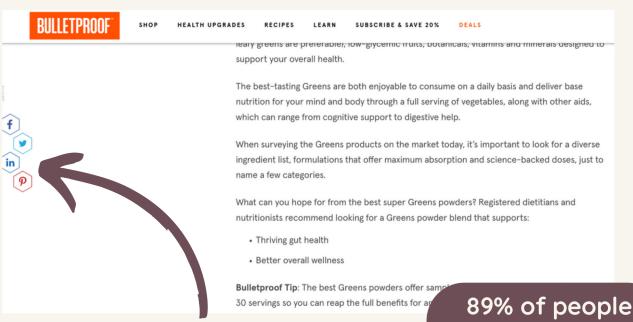
Sometimes, the hype around a certain ingredient or nutrient is more fanfare than science. But in the case of artificially created trans fats, the research is clear: this see of at harms your health. Even though trans fats are unsaturated fats (as oppose as saturated fats, which also may come with health risks) they're not considered a healthy fat.



#### 2. SOCIAL SHARES

Referrals are the MOST likely traffic to convert.

Adding social share buttons lets your readers share valuable content. This leads to higher traffic, plus, people who share are more likely to buy...and so are their friends. Share rates give you valuable data about your content and your audience.

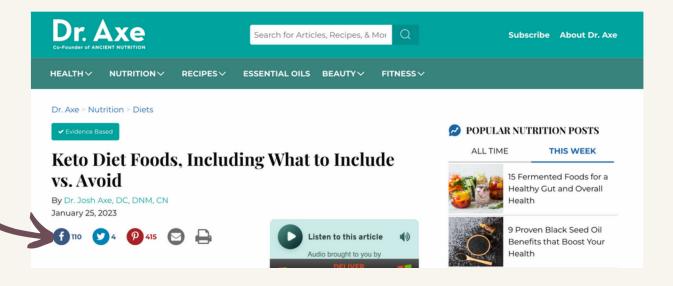


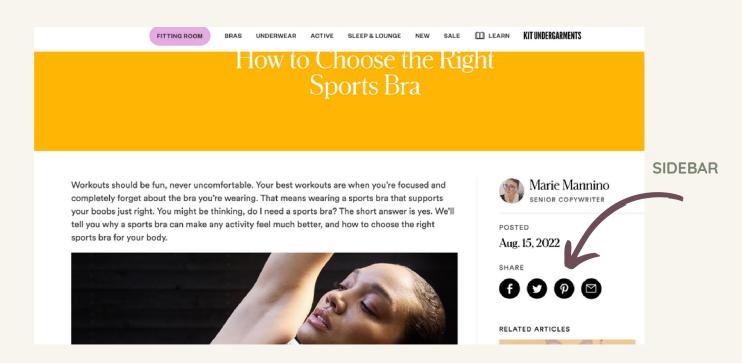
FLOATING SOCIAL SHARE SIDEBAR HELPS READERS SHARE AT THE MOMENT THEY FEEL THE INFO IS SHAREABLE MOST trust recommendations from people they know

Source: Nielsen 2021 Trust in Advertising Study.



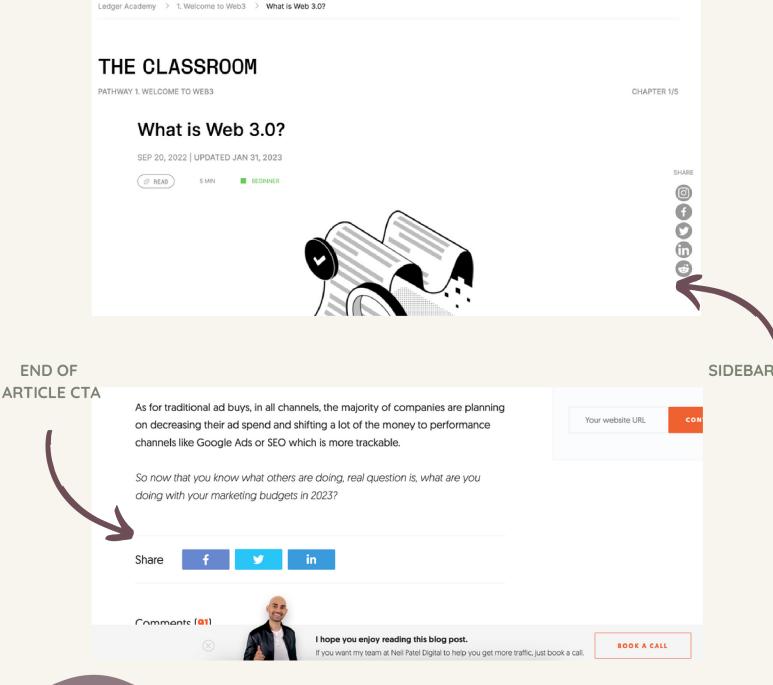
#### 2. SOCIAL SHARES - CONT'D







#### 2. SOCIAL SHARES - CONT'D



### Engagement Checklist

Here's your to-do list of items to increase the user engagement on your blog.

Make these changes and watch your audience engage and grow!

		res	NO	rest
1.	Add related articles to sidebar.			
2.	Add related articles in article call outs.			
3.	Add social share buttons.			

**Notes** 



### Conversion

#### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

And now, the moment we've all been waiting for...

How do we convert blog traffic when visitors want to buy without turning off the people in research mode?

#### 1. AUTHORITY

A few years ago, I attended a live webinar with Dr. Robert Cialdini, author of Influence and Pre-suasion. He was asked, what's the top way to increase conversions online. His response? Social proof.

Donald Miller, author of Building a StoryBrand calls this demonstrating authority. He advises you to show people you've had success solving their problem.

Why does this work? Demonstrating authority builds trust. You have succeeded yourself. You have helped others like the user succeed. I can trust that you'll get the same results for me.

How to build trust/demonstrate authority on blog posts:

Testimonials

- Share Stats
- Client Results

- Verified by Third Party
- Links to Outside Data

 $(S \times E)T = R$ 

(Strategy x Execution) multiplied by TRUST equals Results.
Stephen Covey, The Speed of Trust

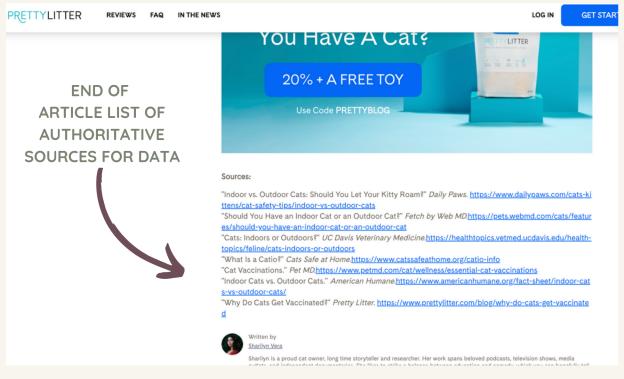


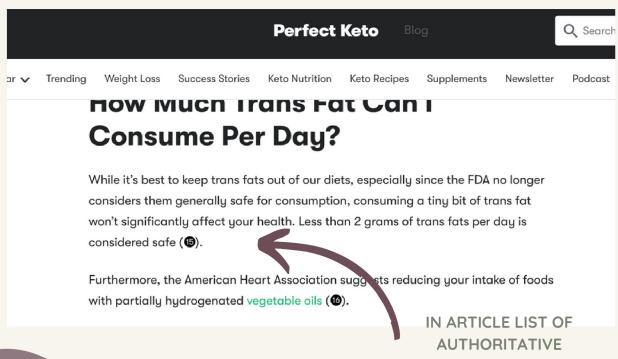
SOURCES FOR DATA

### Conversion

#### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 1. AUTHORITY - CONT'D



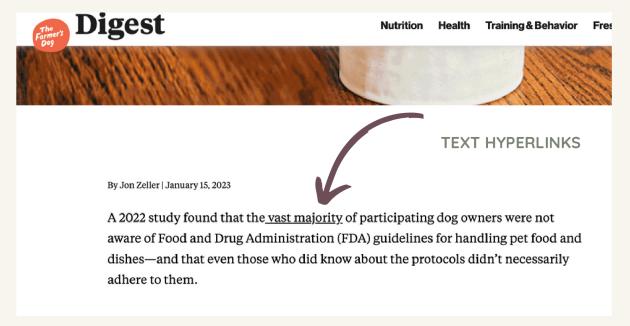


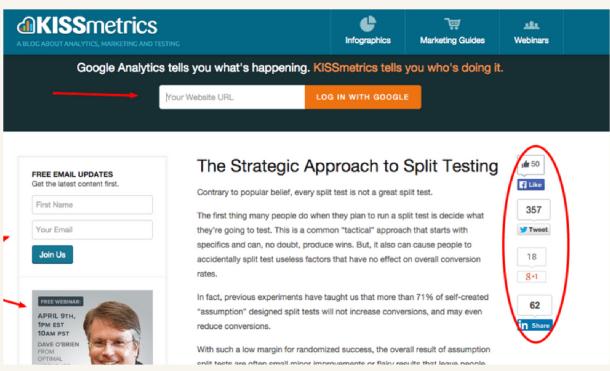


### Conversion

#### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 1. AUTHORITY - CONT'D



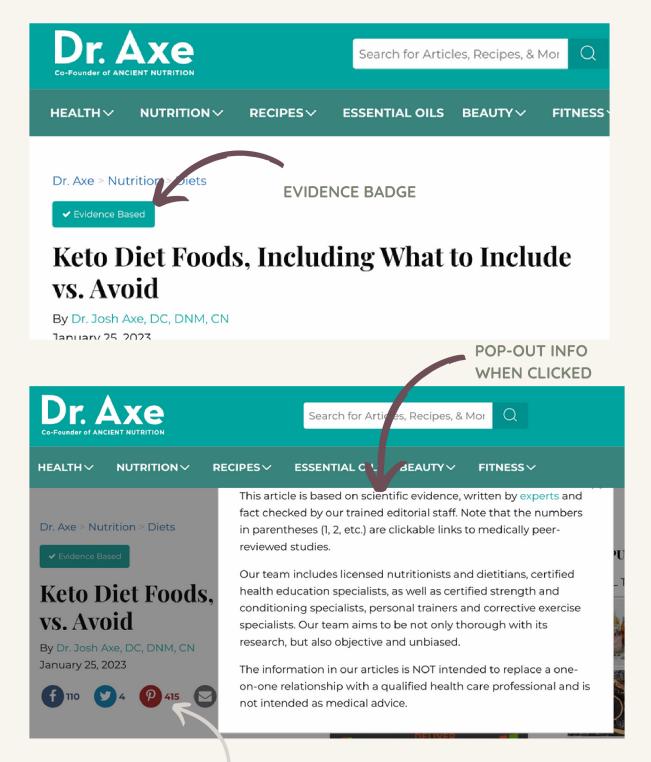




### Conversion

#### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

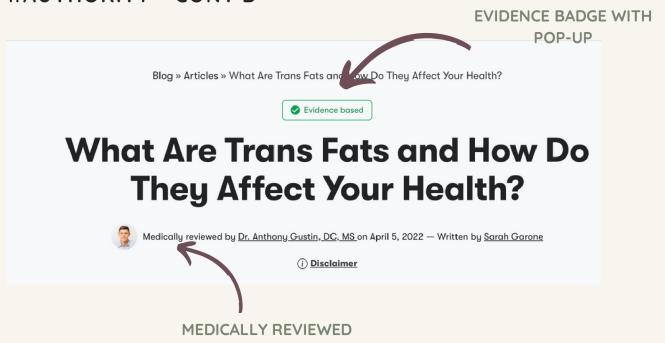
#### 1. AUTHORITY - CONT'D





### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

1. AUTHORITY - CONT'D



#### **CUSTOMER RESULTS**



### Ripe for Testing:

Almost no examples of customer testimonials relevant to blog topics. Great opportunity for A/B testing!



### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP

I like most people right away. But that doesn't mean I'm ready to tell you my secrets, give you money, or trust you to care for my dog I ung I need to know you first

my dog Luna. I need to know you first.

I'm more likely to trust you when my friends say you're great (social proof). But experiences with you open the door for vulnerability from me.

Business works the same.

By Jon Zeller

To gain experiences with your business, customers need regular communication. That builds trust. Ongoing communication can include social posts and emails.

We're calling these CTA examples "calls to relationship" because almost all require a follow, an email or cell phone number - even the calls to SHOP with a discount.

that, like you, dogs are living beings with bodies that are susceptible to bacteria and other agents that might grow in their bowls and eating areas. What settle on, make an effort to keep their dishes clean.

SOCIAL FOLLOW

2021 email yields highest avg conversion 3%+ vs < 1% in ads or on social media.

Source: <u>2021 Gartner</u> <u>Marketing Benchmark reports</u>



### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP

Let's explore conversion rates in blog layouts. Which placement works best?

➤ SIDEBAR CTAS - Grow and Convert estimates conversion rates for sidebar CTAs of 0.5% - 1.5%

Note: Mobile devices move sidebars to the bottom of the post.





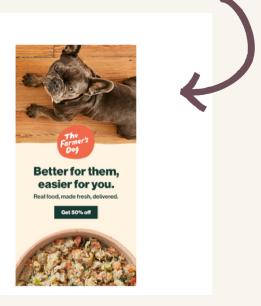
Above the Neil Patel blog does a quick analysis and leads to an opt in form.

Below the Farmer's Dog blog offers a discount leading to a quiz and opt-in form.

"The level of risk really depends upon your dog's habits," Schaffner says. "Both of our dogs are often members of the 'clean plate club,' which means that every visible speck of food is typically removed from the plate. Of course, there's always a possibility of some food being left, not to mention bacteria being transferred to the dish. As long as there is not visible food and some available moisture, any bacteria that might be there will not be able to multiply and therefore increase in risk."

It's the safest course to wash your dog's dish after every single use—and we suspect you wouldn't eat all of your meals off of one unwashed dish for a full day or longer. But if you're regularly cleaning your dog's dishes and remaining alert for any disconcerting sights or smells, and you and your dog have normal immune systems, you probably have more wiggle room than that.

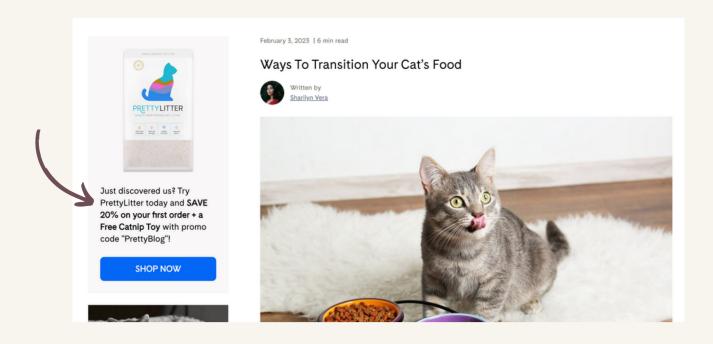
One way to reduce your dog's risk of illness is to avoid leaving your dog's fresh food out too long at room temperature (more on this later).





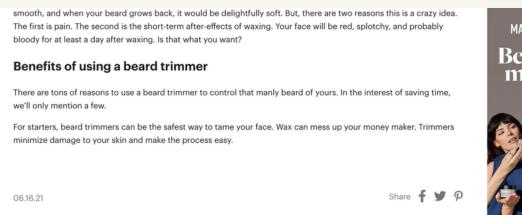
### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP



Above Pretty Litter offers a discount on your first purchase + free toy.

Below Manscaped advertises a specific product in the sidebar and below the blog.









### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

Sidebar CTA Conclusion: Sidebar CTAs are among the lowest conversion rates for blogs.

Sidebar CTAs asking for an email address always offered something of high value (e.g. ebook, analysis, quiz vs join the newsletter).

The sidebar disappears on mobile devices (likely one reason it doesn't perform as well as other options).

IF a sidebar is used, we suggest **limiting it to 1** call to action like floating social shares or a first-time-buyer discount to join the email list.

The highest performing sidebar CTA banners are relevant to the topic of the blog post. Keep the offer relevant to the information.

Generic "join newsletter" CTAs do NOT convert.

This guy may be right...BUT differentiating conversion rates on desktop vs mobile would be a better way to find out for certain. Blog sidebars definitely die on mobile.

# Blog Sidebars Are Dead: 310% Better Conversion Rate Without A Sidebar

The blog sidebar is dead. Here's how my calls to action performed 310% better (often more) without a sidebar versus with one. Goodbye sidebar.





Hubspot found inline anchor text offers converted 121% higher than sidebars in 2021. They used their 10,000+ blog posts to compile the data. However, they've updated the info for 2022 without the fun data.



### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

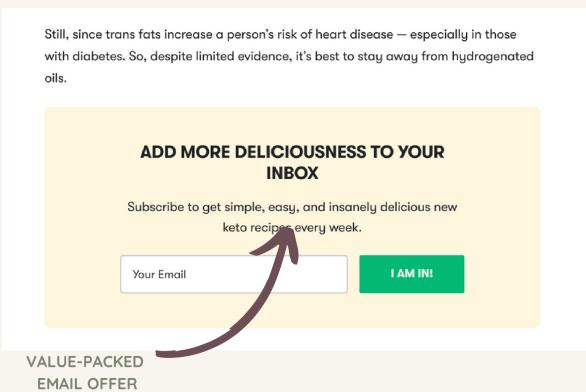
### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

Inline CTA - Estimates say higher than 1.5% conversion rates. The numbers increase to double digits if they're highly relevant to the article:

Same call to action, different location = higher conversion rates.

Stats are debated, anecdotal or outdated but most sources agree inline calls to action perform "higher" than sidebars.

Gathering examples, the shift from sidebars to inline offers on high conversion blogs is clear.



EMAIL OFFER
INLINE CALL OUT BOX
WITH FORM



WITH FORM

### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

	superfood powder—with daily staying power—could be exactly what you've been searching for.
	Want to help reduce stress and stay level-headed? Adaptogens like ashwagandha and reishi mushrooms may be the key. Learn about 11 adaptogens that can help with mind-body balance.
	JOIN THE BULLETPROOF REVOLUTION
	Sign up for early access to sales, product launches, the latest Bulletproof news and
	more!
	MAIL SUBSCRIBE
	This article has been updated of the new content.
EARLY ACCES	

Watch on Vouliube

Want an eBook and notes on how to build content upgrades like us (along with 13 content upgrades)? Click here to get it.

WHY YOU'RE GIVING UP LOADS OF EMAILS BY IKNORING

INLINE TEXT HIGHLY RELEVANT CTA IN

CALL OUT BOX
CONVERSION RATE: 11.1%
SOURCE: SUMO.COM



### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

Along with dedicated CTAs for each blog post we create, we also create featured resources for certain topics we believe have high conversion potential. For instance, in this **Ebook Format** blog post, we created a special featured resource, 18 Free Ebook Formatting & Creation Templates:

Here, we'll cover best practices for both of these topics – and explain how **HubSpot's Ebook Templates** can help you achieve your marketing team's lead generation goals.

### <u>Featured Resource: 18 Free Ebook Formatting & Creation</u> <u>Templates</u>



**Download Free Ebook Templates** 

Whenever we create a piece of gated content, we always follow the seven steps above, and we're consistently rewarded with an increase in leads from our blog.



Topics: Calls to Action

VISUAL WITH

**PLAIN TEXT** 

**ANCHOR LINK** 

VISUAL WITH STANDOUT CTA BOX & BUTTON



### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

If you want to see my emails that worked best (including the one that sold the \$49 product) so you can steal my subject line style, grab this...

Non-Sucky Subject Lines My 33 Most-Opened Emails, Plus 4 That Tanked... \*\*With TEMPLATES To Make Your Own!\*\*

WITH
BUTTON CTA

**\** 

Download The Non-Sucky Subject Lines

### So why is email so great for lazy, inconsistent creative

#### WHO SHOULD USE PASTE?

Anyone can use paste. Men with thinner hair that doesn't hold styles well will benefit from the high hold and flexibility that paste provides. It can be used on its own or with other texturizing products like Sea Salt Spray to add even more volume. Men with thicker hair can benefit from adding a small dab of paste to help keep hair from getting overly poofy.



SHOP BEARDBRAND STYLING PASTE

### Inline CTAs perform better than sidebar CTAs.

- keep them relevant to the content
- offer high value
- test visuals, buttons, font size, colors, and language



### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

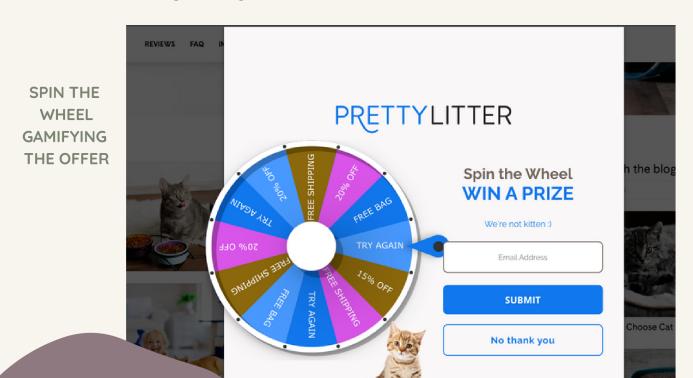
Pop-ups - Grow and Convert estimates conversion rates for pop-up CTAs on blog posts to range between 1% - 8%:

Pop-ups might feel annoying, but they have the highest opt-in rates.

How do you make opt-in rates even higher? <u>OptiMonk</u> took their top 10% performing pop-ups and gave us some answers.\*

- Make them relevant to post content
- Offer seasonal discounts 11% conversion (vs a discount that's always available - 7% conversion), including a countdown timer can lead to 14% conversion rates
- Make them a game spinning a wheel to get your discount can lead to 13% conversion rates
- Ask for feedback 13% conversion rates
- Make them fullscreen 14% conversion rates

\*these pop-up conversion rates from OptiMonk were site-wide vs just on the blog, so blog conversions will be lower.

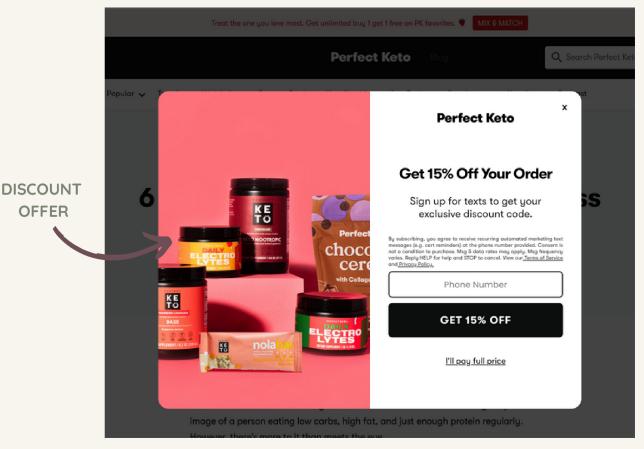


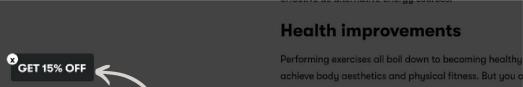


### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

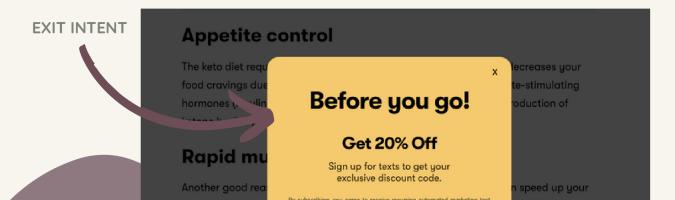
#### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

Pop-ups





REMINDER BAR BOTTOM LEFT AFTER POPUP CLOSE

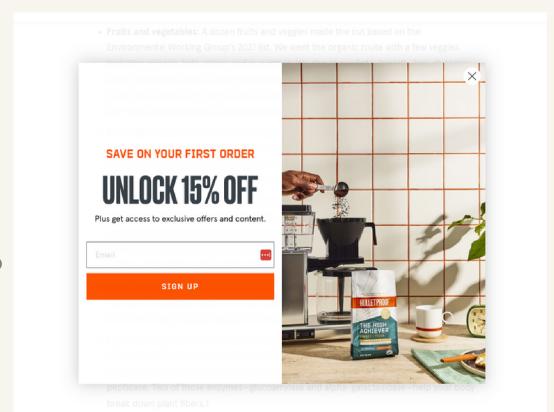




### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

Pop-ups



DISCOUNT
OFFER +
"EXCLUSIVE
OFFERS AND
CONTENT"

REMINDER BAR
IN BOTTOM LEFT
AFTER POP-UP
CLOSE

CLOSE

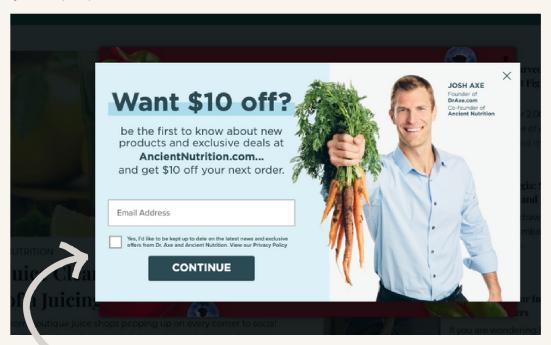
Formulated to h
alpha-galactosic
peptidase. Two c
break down plar

Vitamins and m
key vitamins and
health and stror

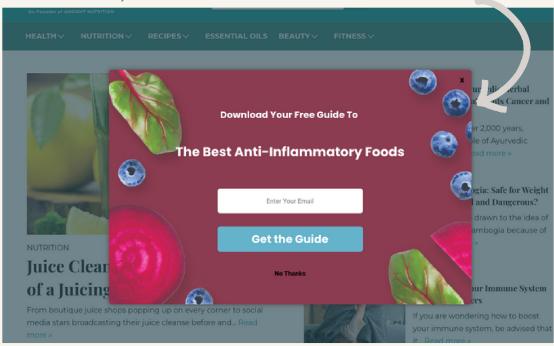


### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

- 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP CONT'D
  - Pop-ups



DR. AXE USES A DOUBLE POP-UP
DISCOUNT OFFER FIRST, THEN THE FREE GUIDE AFTER DISCOUNT POPUP CLOSED

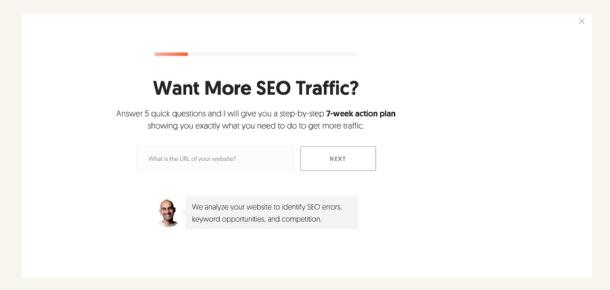




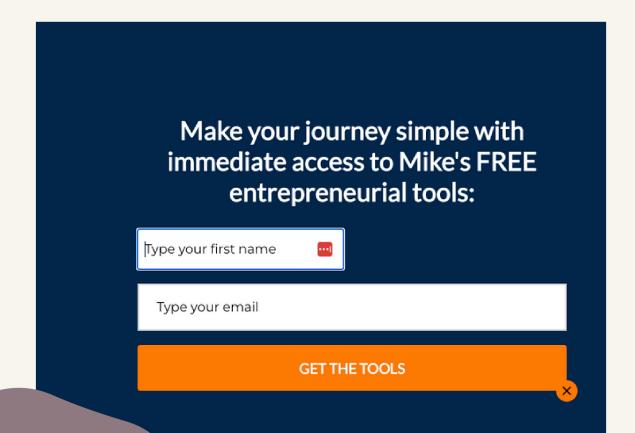
### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D





FULL PAGE POP-UPS ON NEIL PATEL'S AND MIKE MICHALOWICZ' ARTICLES



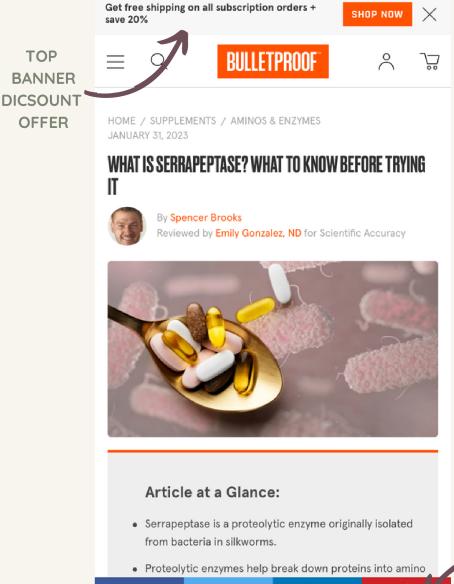


### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

► Top Banners & Sticky Footers - Grow and Convert estimates conversion rates for banner & footer CTAs between 1% - 5%:

Top banners and footers convert more on mobile than pop-ups. Plus, they're a great reminder if someone closed a pop-up.



SOCIAL SHARE
FOOTER











### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

► Top Banners & Sticky Footers

□ Perfect Keto

QΨ



(What the heck is a SmartPoint?)

It's no wonder we feel like we can't lose weight sustainably (or keep it off).

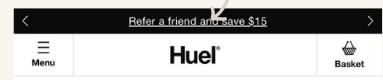
But the beautiful truth is: you totally can.

And it doesn't have to be a constant struggle.

**Keto Kickstart is a doctor-developed, step-by-step program** that teaches you how to:

- Start losing weight (and keep it off for good)
- Cook satisfying, delicious, and simple low-carb meals like a pro
- Dine out and travel without undoing your hard work
- 6 Workout to lose fat
- Manage stress, a devious weight loss saboteur
- Enjoy better sleep (critical for optimal weight loss)

ROTATING TOP BANNER CTA



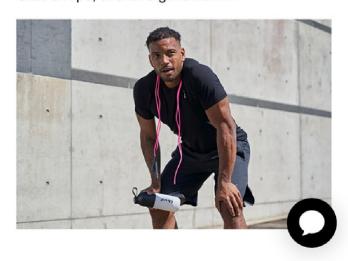
### **Skipping 101**

Get to grips with the classic fitness move with our expert-led primer complete with a few modern twists

Words: Tom Ward

Think skipping is just for those creepy twins from *The Simpsons*? Think again. As expert PT Farren Morgan explains, it offers an all-round workout anyone can enjoy.

Grab a rope, and let's get stuck in.



Maybe your goal is to los that COVID 15.

GET 15% OFF

weight.

DISCOUNT REMINDER BADGE



ABOUT

0 2 0 0

### Conversion

### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 2. CALL TO RELATIONSHIP - CONT'D

► Top Banners & Sticky Footers

BRIDAL

SHOP

SCROLLING TOP
BANNER CTA

BECOME A VIP!
SIGN UP FOR \$50 OFF AND EXCLUSIVE TEXT UPDATES.

Consider the Wldflwrs JOURNAL

Trending: Our Favorite Baguette Diamond Styles

Jan 25, 2023



Since the start of the 20th century, baguette diamonds have been a popular choice for side or accent stones. However, today the baguette diamond is taking center stage as a modern choice for everyday fine jewelry.

We've heard our customers rave about baguette diamonds whether in a <a href="https://document.nig">https://document.nig</a> or as an accent in a <a href="https://www.wedding.organization.

UNLOCK \$50 OFF X

STICKY FOOTER
DISCOUNT REMINDER BADGE



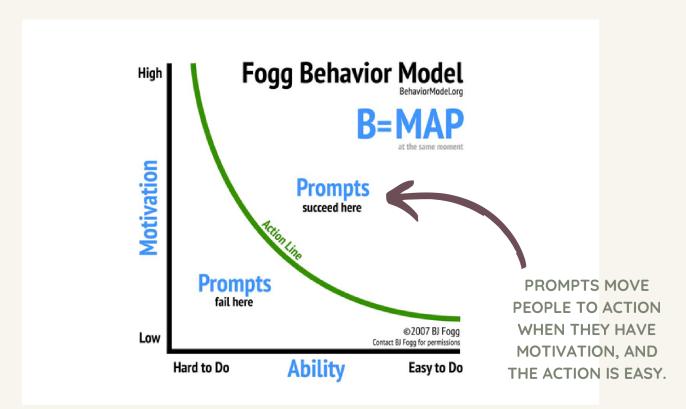
### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 3. CALL TO BUY

While the majority of blog audiences seek information, a small percentage is ready to buy or will be ready to buy once they have the information they need.

In order to convert readers to buyers, it's important to keep the option to purchase available, familiar and within reach. That's why we suggest a sticky menu with a Buy Now button CTA.

However, behavior research shows, we can make it easier for someone to move to action if we give them a prompt. (See behavior scientist <u>Dr. BJ Fogg's behavior model</u> below.)





### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 3. CALL TO BUY - CONT'D

Inline Content Relevant Product Offer

The most successful conversions happen when we prompt a reader to buy a product that is relevant to the content topic, at "the right time."

In blogs, that means, they learn information that makes them motivated to take action. And then we prompt them to take action.

Most pastes are water-based, which makes washing them easy to rinse out, and they won't clump (which makes it easier to restyle your hair during the day). Add a splash of water, and you're ready to restyle your flow. If you choose a paste that's thicker than others, rubbing it between your palms will soften it and make it easier to distribute it evenly through your hair.

Beardbrand makes a softer <u>Styling Paste</u> that is easy to work to work into your hair. It gives a free-flowing, natural look while providing a medium hold and satin-like finish. And the best part? You can also use it on your beard to help control flyaways and keep your beard style on point.

#### WHO SHOULD USE PASTE?

Anyone can use paste. Men with thinner hair that doesn't hold styles well will benefit from the high hold and flexibility that paste provides. It can be used on its own or with other texturizing products like Sea Salt Spray to add even more volume. Men with thicker hair can benefit from adding a small dab of paste to help keep hair from getting overly poofy.



A <u>Brafton case study</u> revealed using buttons as CTAs in blog content increased revenue by 83%.

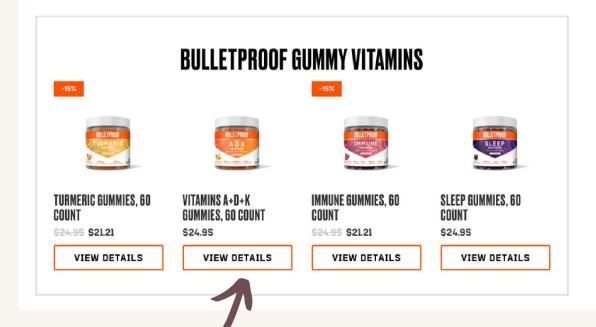


### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 3. CALL TO BUY - CONT'D

Vitamins and minerals are essential micronutrients. Vitamins serve a variety of roles in the body, whether it is cellular energy production or cardiovascular and bone strengthening. Vitamin K2 is a type of vitamin K that complements the natural vitamin K1 coming from plants to support heart and cardiovascular health. Minerals also aid the body's biological processes and make up much of the skeletal structure in the body. Calcium can also bind with oxalates in the digestive tract to reduce their absorption.

Vitamins and minerals to look for: Vitamin A, vitamin K2 and calcium citrate and B vitamins



INLINE, CONTENT
SPECIFIC
PRODUCT CAROUSEL



### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 3. CALL TO BUY - CONT'D



At ThirdLove, we have three lines of <u>sports bras</u> that range from low to medium to high impact. Our Muse Sports Bras are low impact, super stretchy, and buttery soft for those fluid movements in yoga or for your favorite long walks. Our Flex Sports Bras are made for medium impact such as Zumba or spin. And our <u>Kinetic Impact Sports Bra</u> is your go-to for high-impact workouts like plyometrics or circuit training. Think lock do from the top down with high impact.

# How do I know my sports bra fits perfectly?

SIMPLE TEXT HYPERLINK TO PRODUCTS WHEN REFERENCED



### WITH EXAMPLES FROM HIGH PERFORMING BLOGS

#### 3. CALL TO BUY - CONT'D

Crop Preserver™ is the perfect ball deodorant. While it does live up to its name and helps avoid the nose-curdling smells of swamp crotch, it does a lot for your general nether health too. Crop Preserver is meant to reduce friction and chaffing, and it helps you maintain healthy levels of moisture between the legs. If you're too sweaty, you'll get byproducts on your skin that make a smooth, safe shave impossible. If you're to try, the razor will disagree with the roughened skin. Crop Preserver helps you find the Goldilocks zone.



SINGLE, CONTENT RELEVANT, PRODUCT OFFER



Here's your checklist of possible items to increase the conversion of your blog content pages.

Add them one-at-a-time or do them all. Then watch your conversion rate grow!

		Yes	No	Test
1.	Add external sources with links.			
2.	Add social shares with stats.			
3.	Add evidence badges.			
4.	Add customer results and/or testimonials.			
5.	Add social follow CTA at end of blog.			
6.	Use sidebar CTA.			
7.	Add inline value offer CTA.			
8.	Add popup.			
9.	Add top banner.			
10.	Add sticky footer badge.			
11.	Add one CTA to buy to sticky menu.			
12.	Add topic relevant inline product(s) offer.			

# High Converting Blog Conclusion

Whew! You made it to the end. Here's what we've learned about converting blog traffic.

Blog traffic is less likely to convert than overall website traffic. To increase conversions, we can incorporate the following:

- ► Make the user experience the priority. What do they want and when do they want it?
- Prioritize what actions you want your user to take.
- Don't confuse your audience by adding too many prompts. Limit your "marketing efforts" to your action priorities.
- ► Keep calls to action relevant to the content you're providing.
- Place calls-to-action where users are most likely to find them useful. Timing is everything.
- Use familiarity to make the action a "no-brainer" (e.g. buttons).
- Increase trust with social proof and other authority.
- ▶ Offer information gatherers a way to stay connected with you, and then build consistent relationship with them.
- Don't overspend time and money on testing if the math doesn't give you an ROI. (Conversion rates are small in terms of percentages. You need high volume for testing to payoff.)
- Pop-ups work! If you want higher conversions, take advantage of this simple tool.
- Pick one high-converting action in this guide and implement it. The best results come from taking action.

#### **EXAMPLE HIGH CONVERSION BLOG SITES:**

→ BEARDBRAND

→ BAYMARD

→ PRETTY LITTER

→ HUEL

→ FARMER'S DOG

→ NEIL PATEL

→ TOM'S

→ TALKING SHRIMP

→ MIKE MICHALOWICZ

→ PERFECT KETO

→ BULLETPROOF

→ THIRDLOVE

→ LEDGER ACADEMY

→ DR AXE

→ MANSCAPED

→ BLOG MARKETING ACADEMY

→ NATCHEZ

# Data Sources

<u>Pagefly</u> <u>Blog Marketing Academy</u>

<u>Quicksprout</u> <u>Xoombi</u>

<u>Sumo</u> <u>Hubspot</u>

Grow and Convert Protocol80

Growth Rock OptiMonk

<u>Backlinko</u> <u>Gartner</u>

<u>Kissmetrics</u> <u>Brafton</u>

Online Influence Fogg Behavioral Model

**Affiliatz** 

# Need Help Updating Your Blog Layout?

Now that you know how to increase conversions on your blog, it's time to take action.

Schedule a FREE consult to get help updating your blog layout to increase your conversions today.

SCHEDULE NOW

Or find more FREE resources at connecttocreative.com

