

Checklist: Best Featured Blog Images

This checklist is provided by:

Kayleigh Alexandra is a content writer for Micro Startups — a site dedicated to giving through growth hacking. Visit the blog for your latest dose of startup, entrepreneur, and charity insights from top experts around the globe. Follow us on Twitter @getmicrostarted.

Having high-quality featured images for your blog can make (or break) a post. When you're finding images for your next piece, follow this handy checklist first.

Checklist	Y/N
Are you including your title or a quote in your hero image?	
A text overlay in an image can really grab your reader's attention.	
Is your image the perfect size for social media?	
Think about how your post will look when shared across Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest.	
Have you used any photos with faces in them?	
Choose a face that suits your blog and the emotions you want your audience to feel.	
Is your image high-resolution?	
The key to a professional blog? Professional, quality images.	
Have you split tested your images?	
If you've got the time, test your images to find the one that your audience loves most.	
Does your image visually fit with the others?	
Visual consistency is key to a professional, good-looking blog.	
Is your image visually cluttered?	
A visually "loud" will put off your readers. Remember, less is more!	

Have you used a high-quality mockup?	
Mockups are great for personalizing content, but make sure it looks good too.	
Is your image relevant?	
Your audience will notice if an image doesn't fit with your blog's topic.	
Are you using negative imagery?	
Think about what you want your readers to feel, then find an image that reflects that.	
Is your image a stock photo?	
Tired stock photos are old news. Search for images that look fresh and different.	
Is your image original content?	
Original content is a great way to make your blog unique.	

Your featured images shouldn't take precedence over your content, but they are an important part of it. Put the same love and attention you put into your writing into choosing your featured images, and your blog will look professional, high-quality, and engaging throughout.