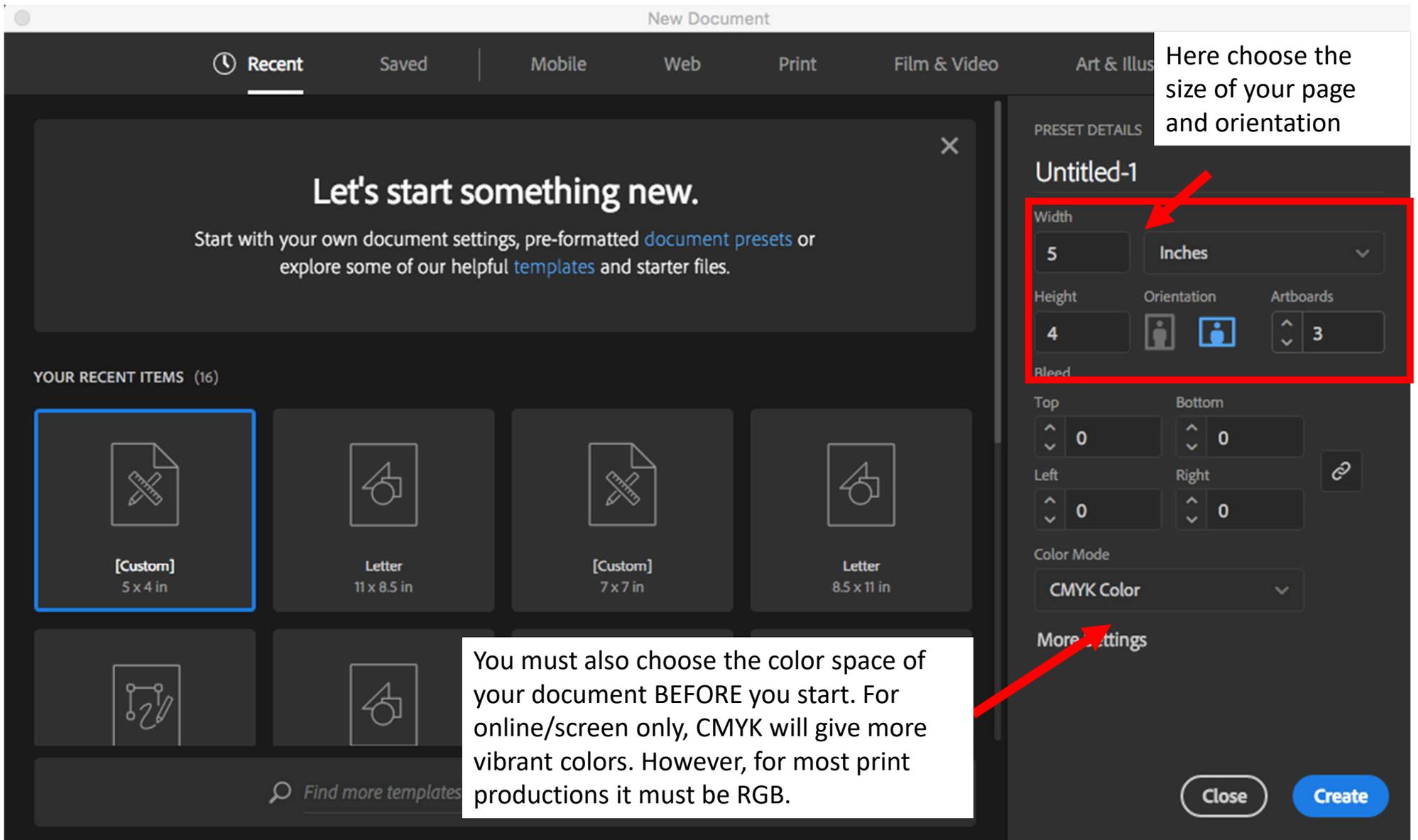
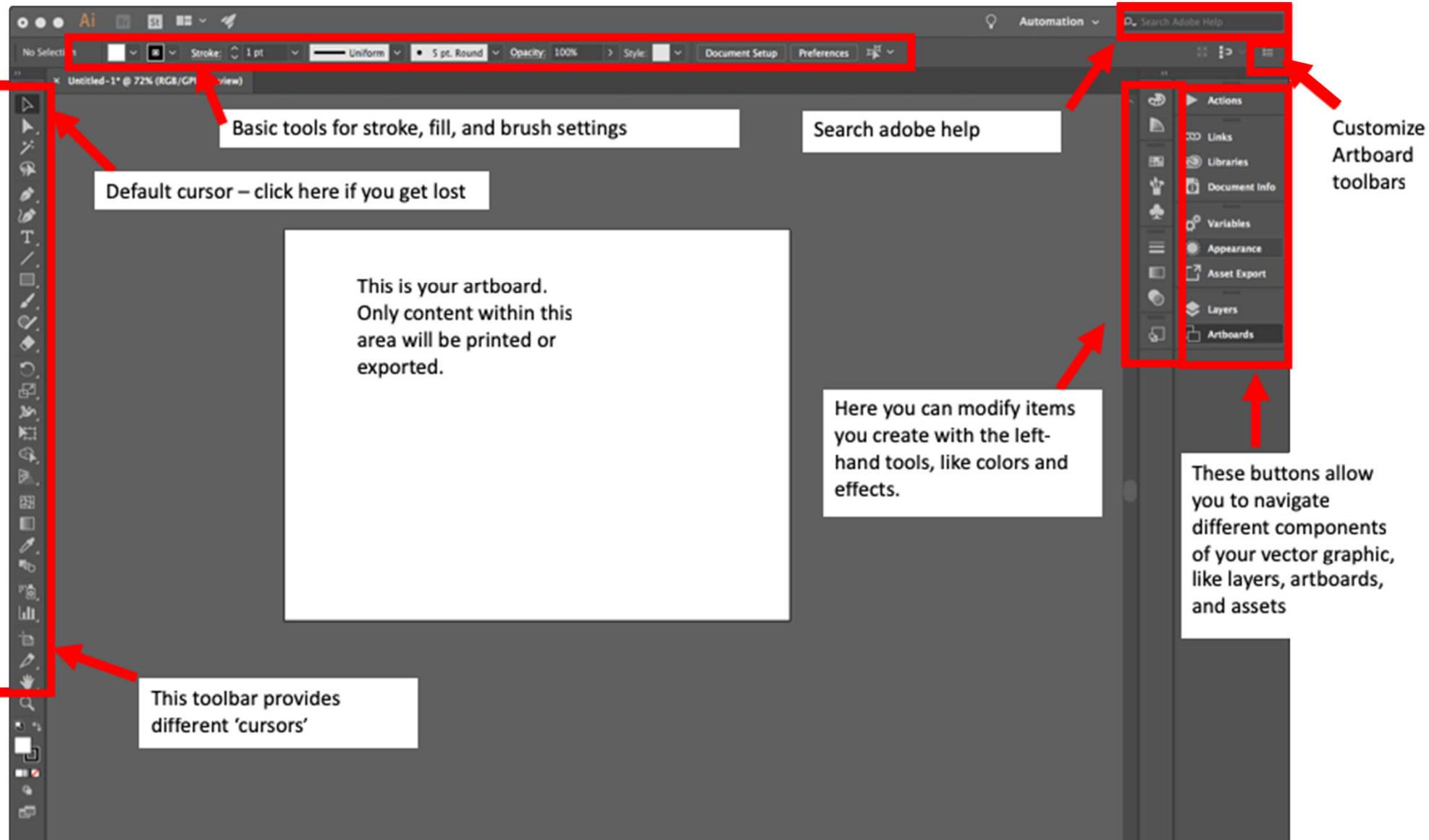


# A quick-start screenshot guide to Illustrator

Created by Madison Mack and Anne Robinson in association with  
InPrint: A Scientific Editing Network at Washington University in St. Louis





Basic tools for stroke, fill, and brush settings

Search adobe help

Default cursor – click here if you get lost

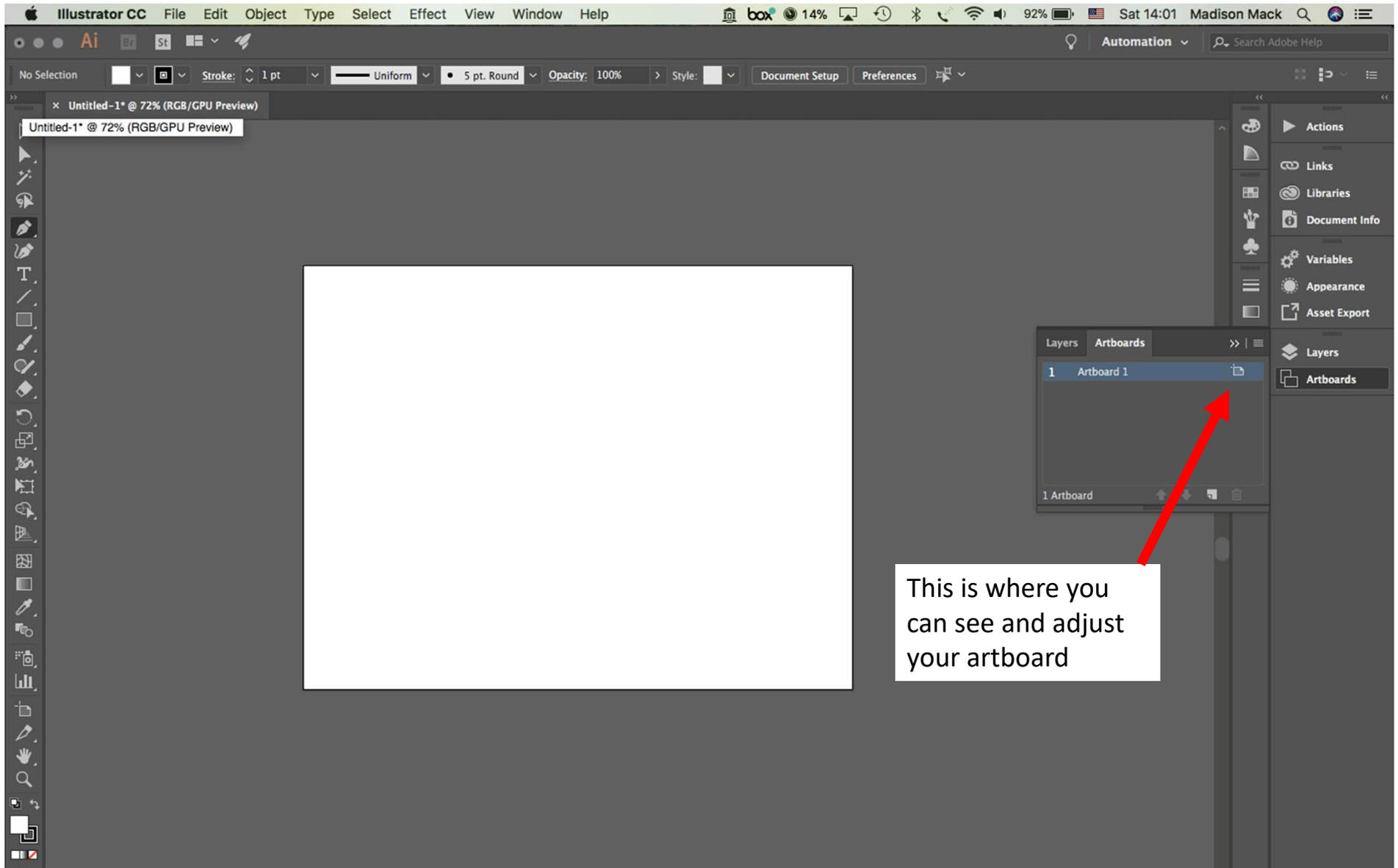
This is your artboard.  
Only content within this  
area will be printed or  
exported.

Here you can modify items  
you create with the left-  
hand tools, like colors and  
effects.

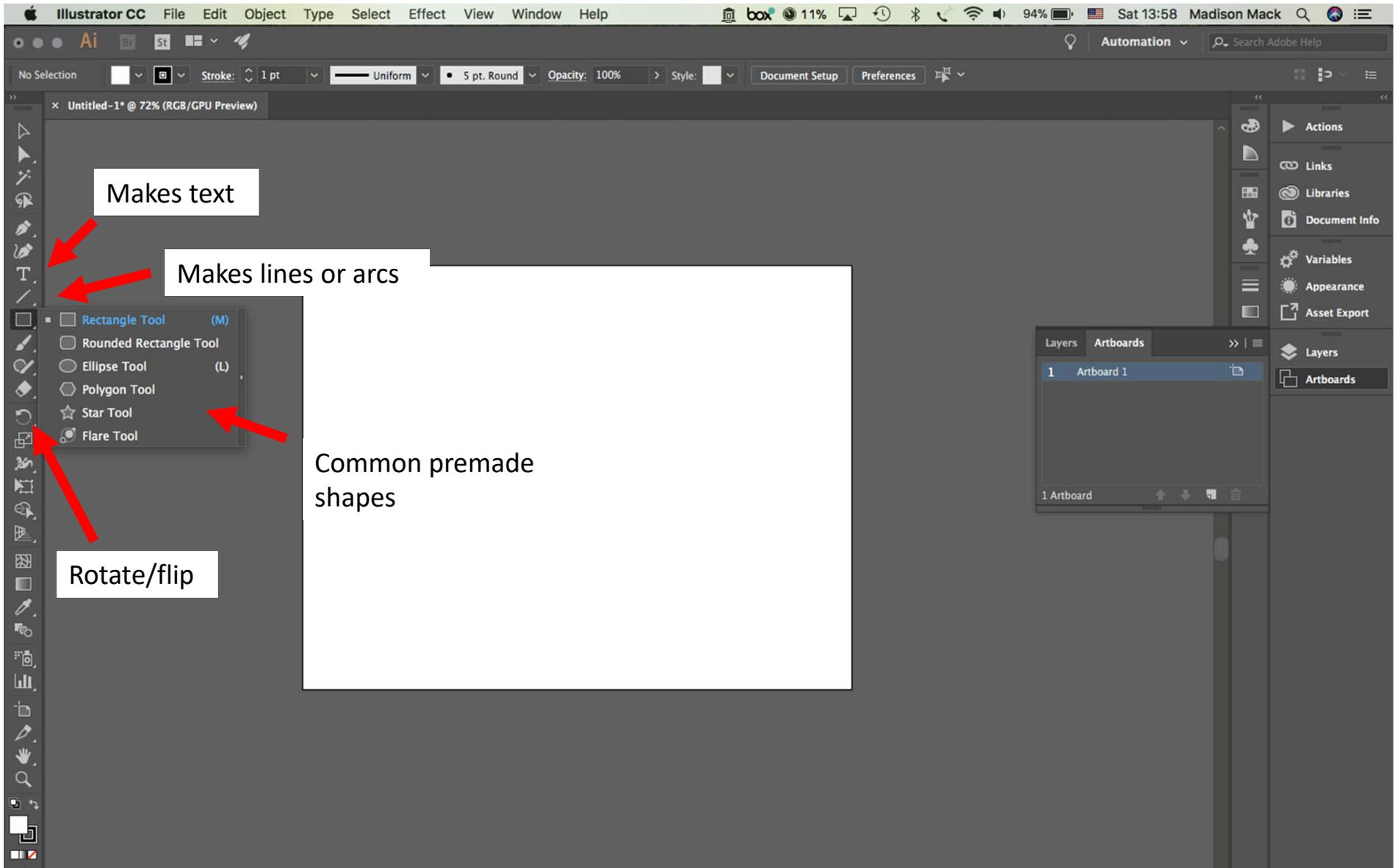
Customize  
Artboard  
toolbars

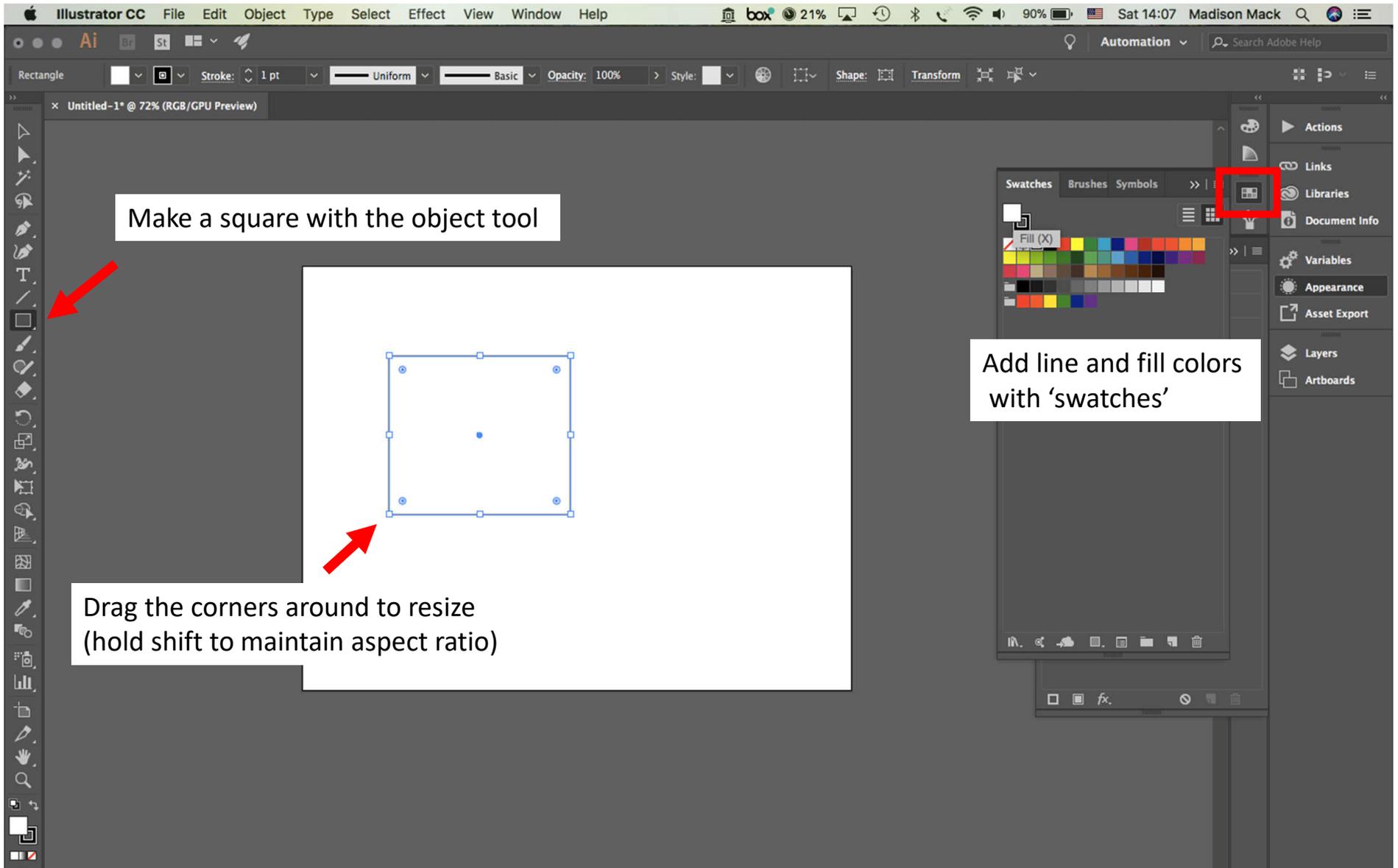
These buttons allow  
you to navigate  
different components  
of your vector graphic,  
like layers, artboards,  
and assets

This toolbar provides  
different 'cursors'



This is where you can see and adjust your artboard





Make a square with the object tool

Add line and fill colors with 'swatches'

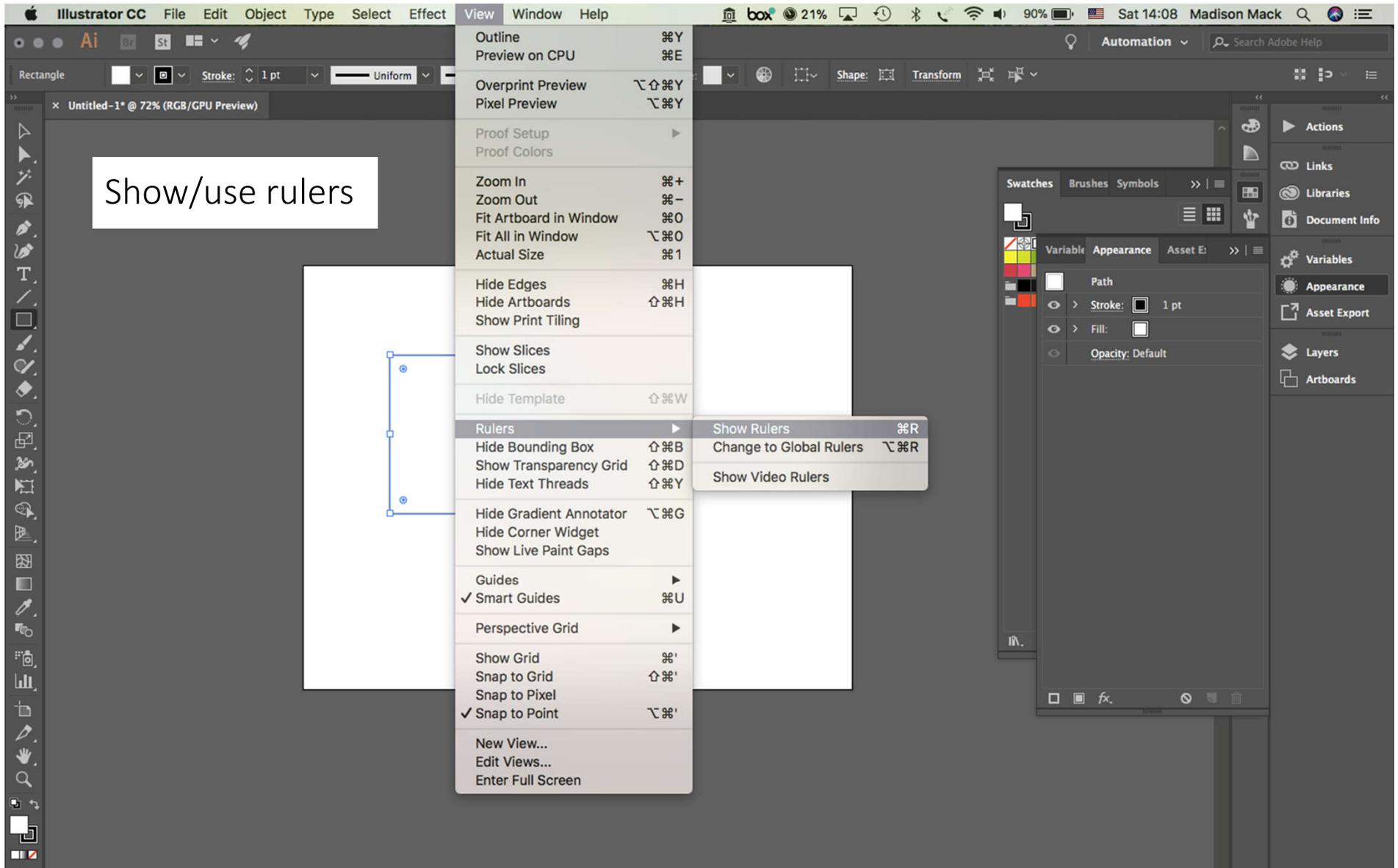
Drag the corners around to resize  
(hold shift to maintain aspect ratio)



The screenshot shows the Adobe Illustrator CC interface. In the center, there is a heatmap with a grid of colored cells (red and blue) and a list of biological pathways to its right. Below the heatmap are a red square and a blue oval. On the right side, the Layers panel is open, showing a list of objects: <Ellip..., <Rect..., and <Imag... The red square and blue oval are highlighted with a red box, and a red arrow points from this box to the Layers panel. The text below explains how to manage the order of objects in the layers tab.

LMNB1	IRS2	GADD45B	DDIT3	FPR1	TNFAIP3	CD69	GABARAPL1	SIGIRR1	CXCR4	TRIP11	SERTAD3	EIF4A1	HNRNP1	
														HALLMARK_APOPTOSIS
														HALLMARK_INTERFERON_GAMMA_RESPONSE
														HALLMARK_MYC_TARGETS_V1
														HALLMARK_P53_PATHWAY
														HALLMARK_LV_RESPONSE_UP
														HALLMARK_IL2_STATS_SIGNALING
														HALLMARK_MTORC1_SIGNALING
														HALLMARK_TNFA_SIGNALING_VIA_NFKB
														HALLMARK_HYPOXIA
														HALLMARK_GLYCOLYSIS
														HALLMARK_G2M_CHECKPOI
														HALLMARK_E2F_TARGETS
														HALLMARK_MITOTIC_SPIND

View the order of objects and layers in the layers tab  
You can switch the order of objects by dragging them up and down in the list OR by Right/Control clicking on them and moving up or back with the drop-down menu



Show/use rulers

- Outline ⌘Y
- Preview on CPU ⌘E
- Overprint Preview ⌘⇧Y
- Pixel Preview ⌘⇧Y
- Proof Setup ▶
- Proof Colors
- Zoom In ⌘+
- Zoom Out ⌘-
- Fit Artboard in Window ⌘0
- Fit All in Window ⌘⇧0
- Actual Size ⌘1
- Hide Edges ⌘H
- Hide Artboards ⌘⇧H
- Show Print Tiling
- Show Slices
- Lock Slices
- Hide Template ⌘⇧W
- Rulers ▶**
- Hide Bounding Box ⌘⇧B
- Show Transparency Grid ⌘⇧D
- Hide Text Threads ⌘⇧Y
- Hide Gradient Annotator ⌘⇧G
- Hide Corner Widget
- Show Live Paint Gaps
- Guides ▶
- ✓ Smart Guides ⌘U
- Perspective Grid ▶
- Show Grid ⌘'
- Snap to Grid ⌘⇧'
- Snap to Pixel
- ✓ Snap to Point ⌘⇧'
- New View...
- Edit Views...
- Enter Full Screen

- Show Rulers ⌘R
- Change to Global Rulers ⌘⇧R
- Show Video Rulers

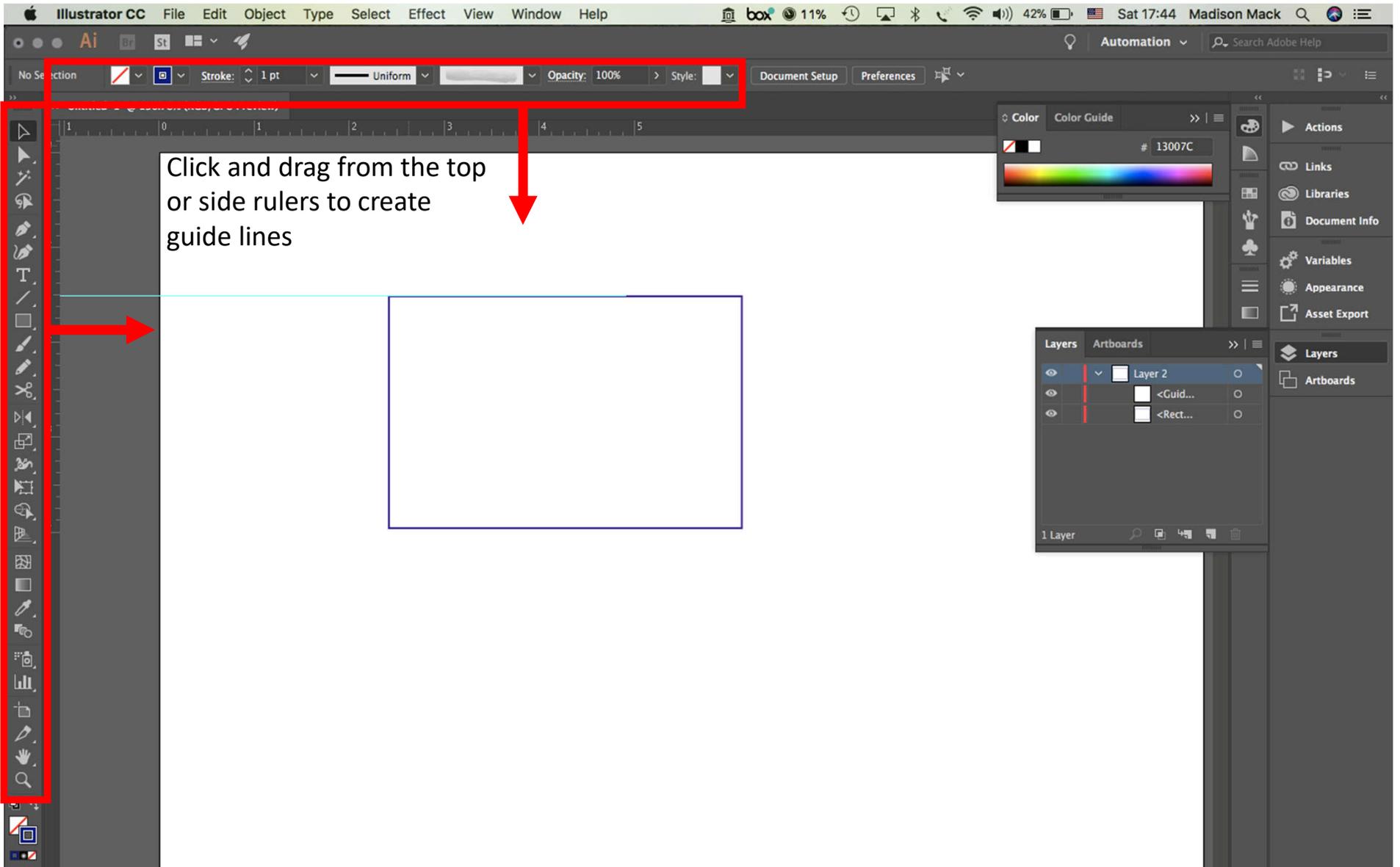
Swatches    Brushes    Symbols    >> | ≡

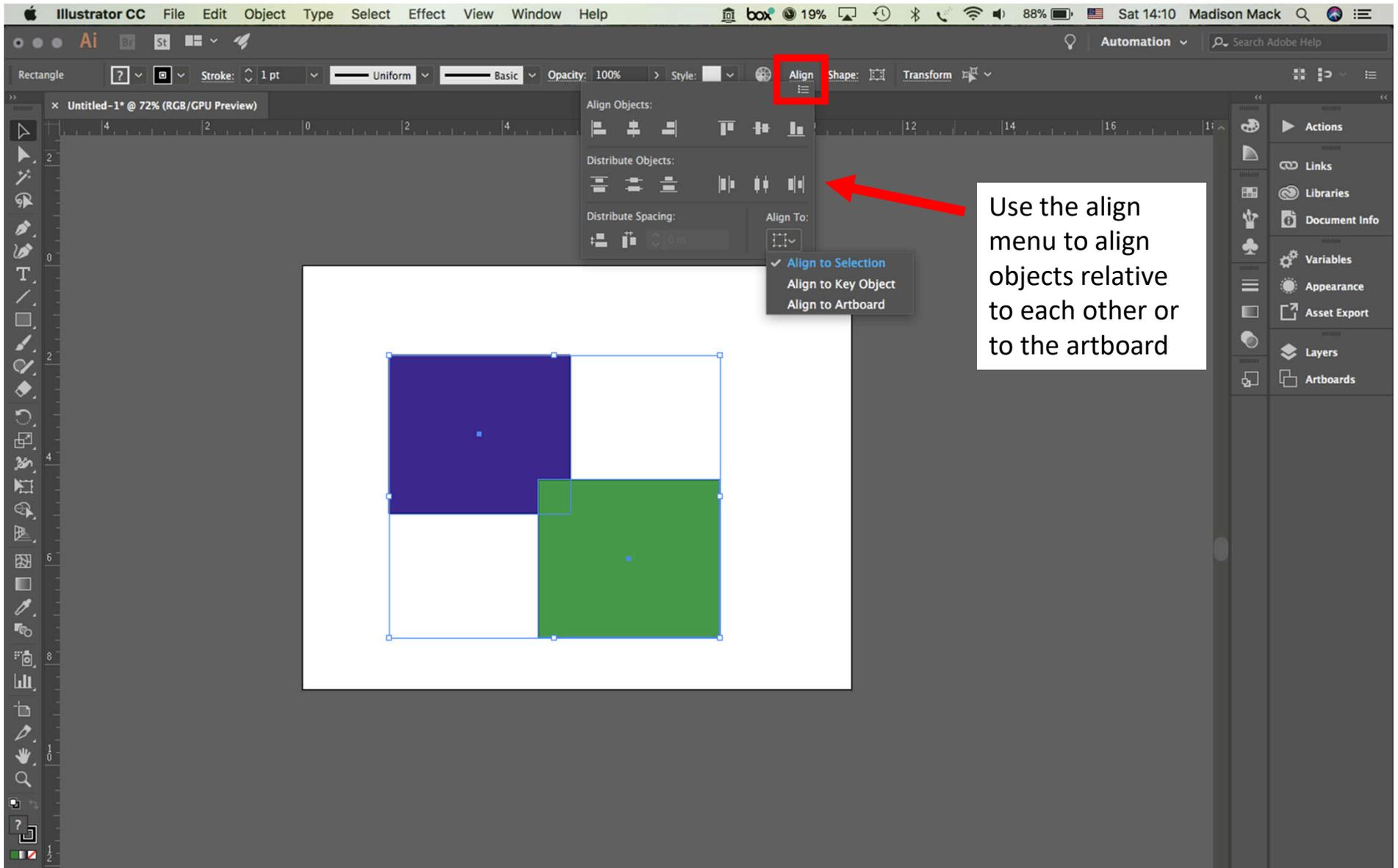
Variable    Appearance    Asset E: >> | ≡

Path

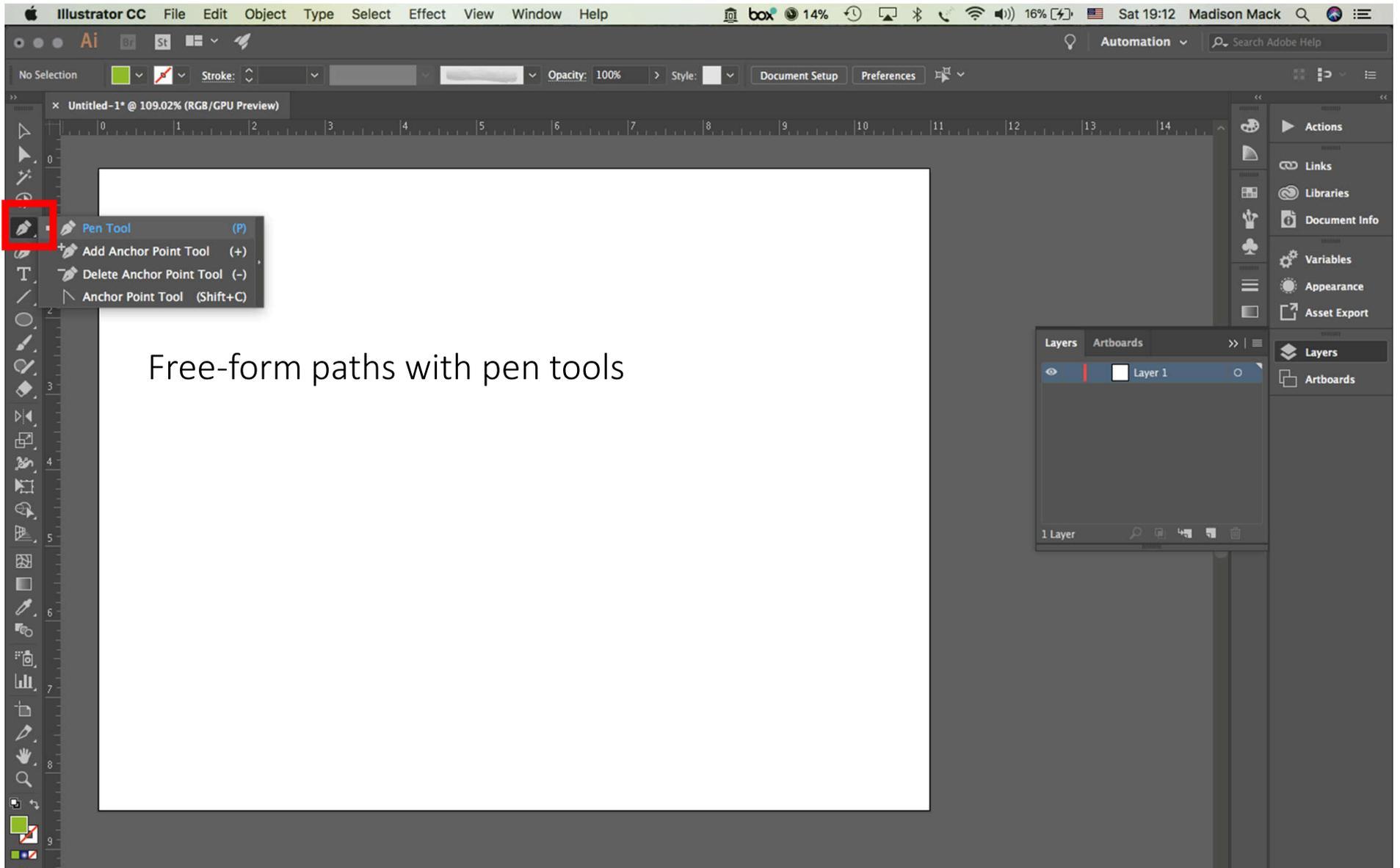
- > Stroke: 1 pt
- > Fill: [white]
- Opacity: Default

fx





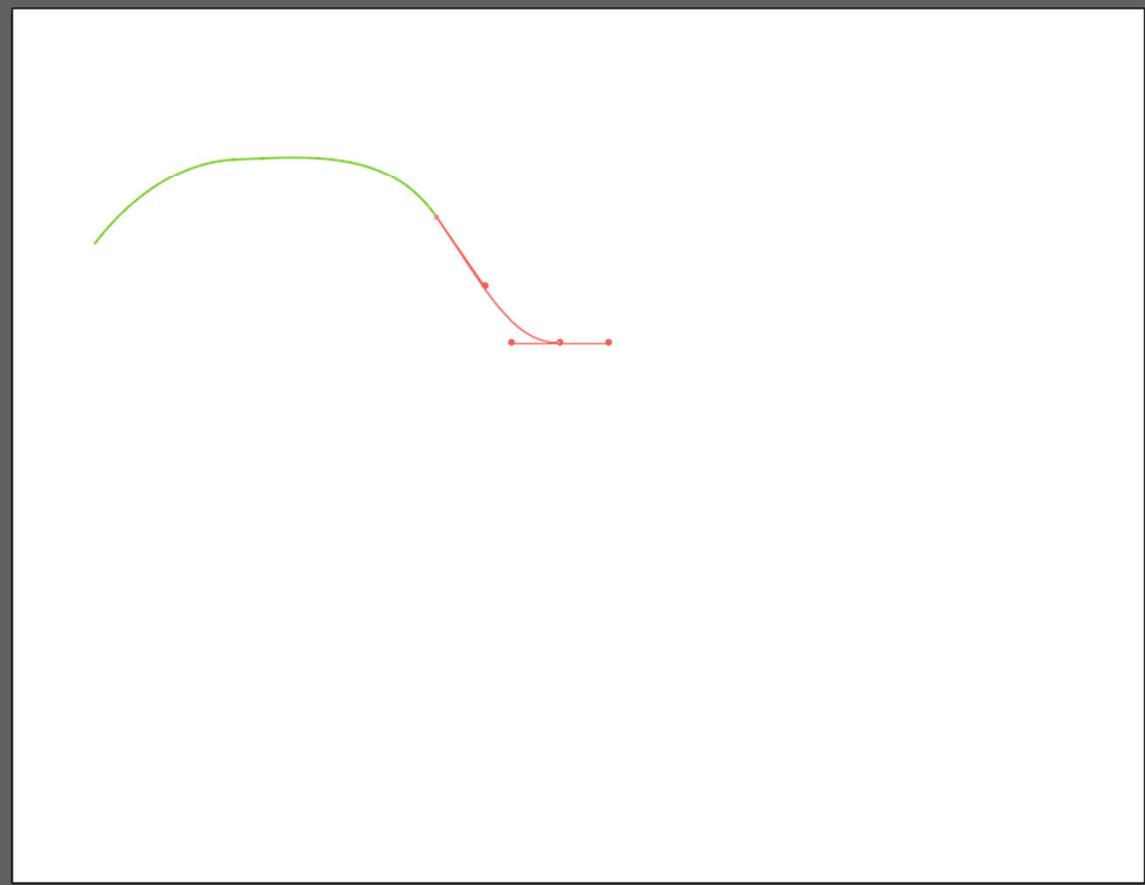
Use the align menu to align objects relative to each other or to the artboard



Free-form paths with pen tools

Anchor Point Convert: Handles: Anchors: X: 4.1291 in Y: 2.055 in W: H:

Untitled-1\* @ 109.02% (RGB/GPU Preview)



Color Color Guide # 80C41C

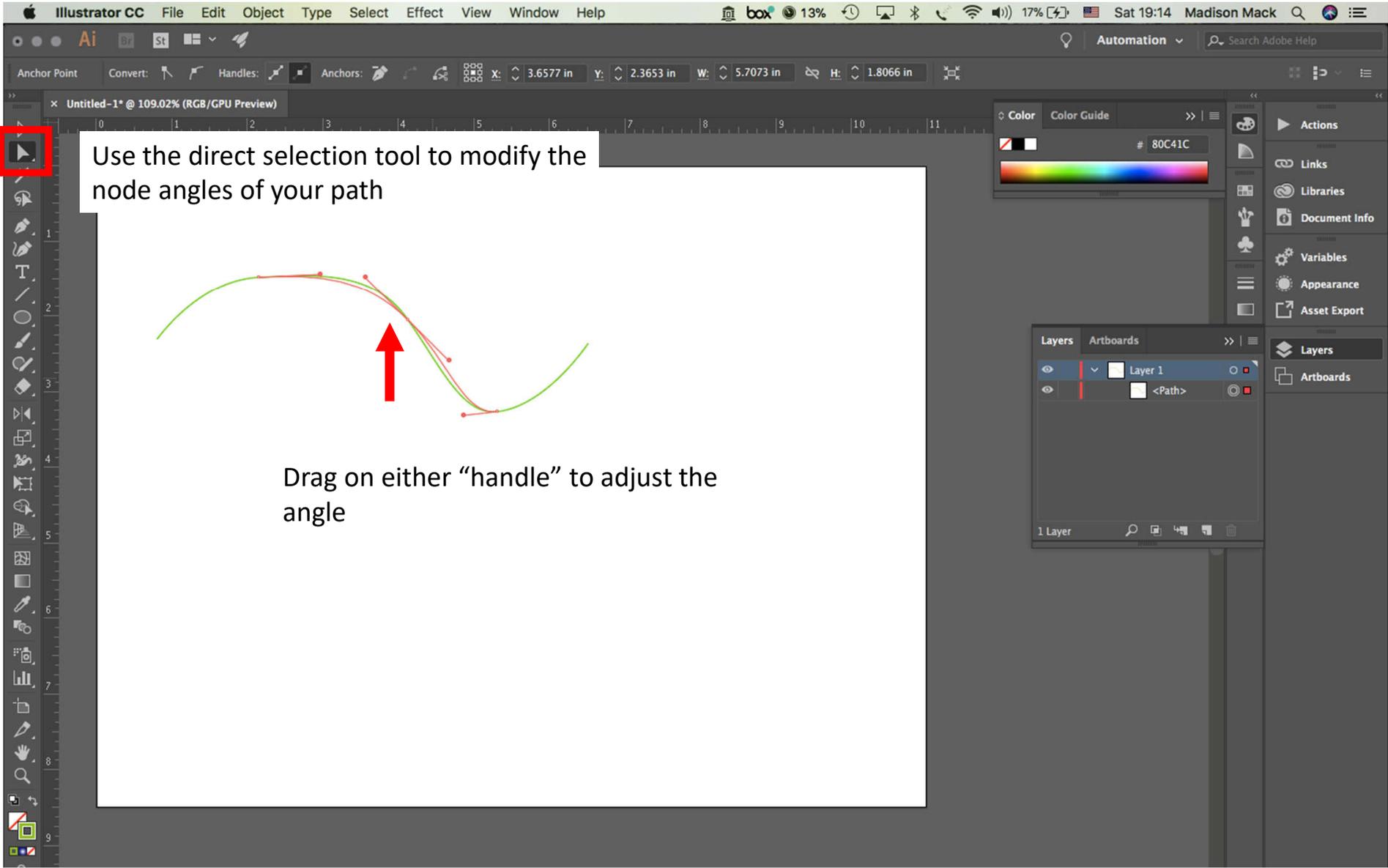
A color picker interface showing a spectrum of colors. A red color is selected, and the hex code #80C41C is displayed.

- Actions
- Links
- Libraries
- Document Info
- Variables
- Appearance
- Asset Export

Layers Artboards

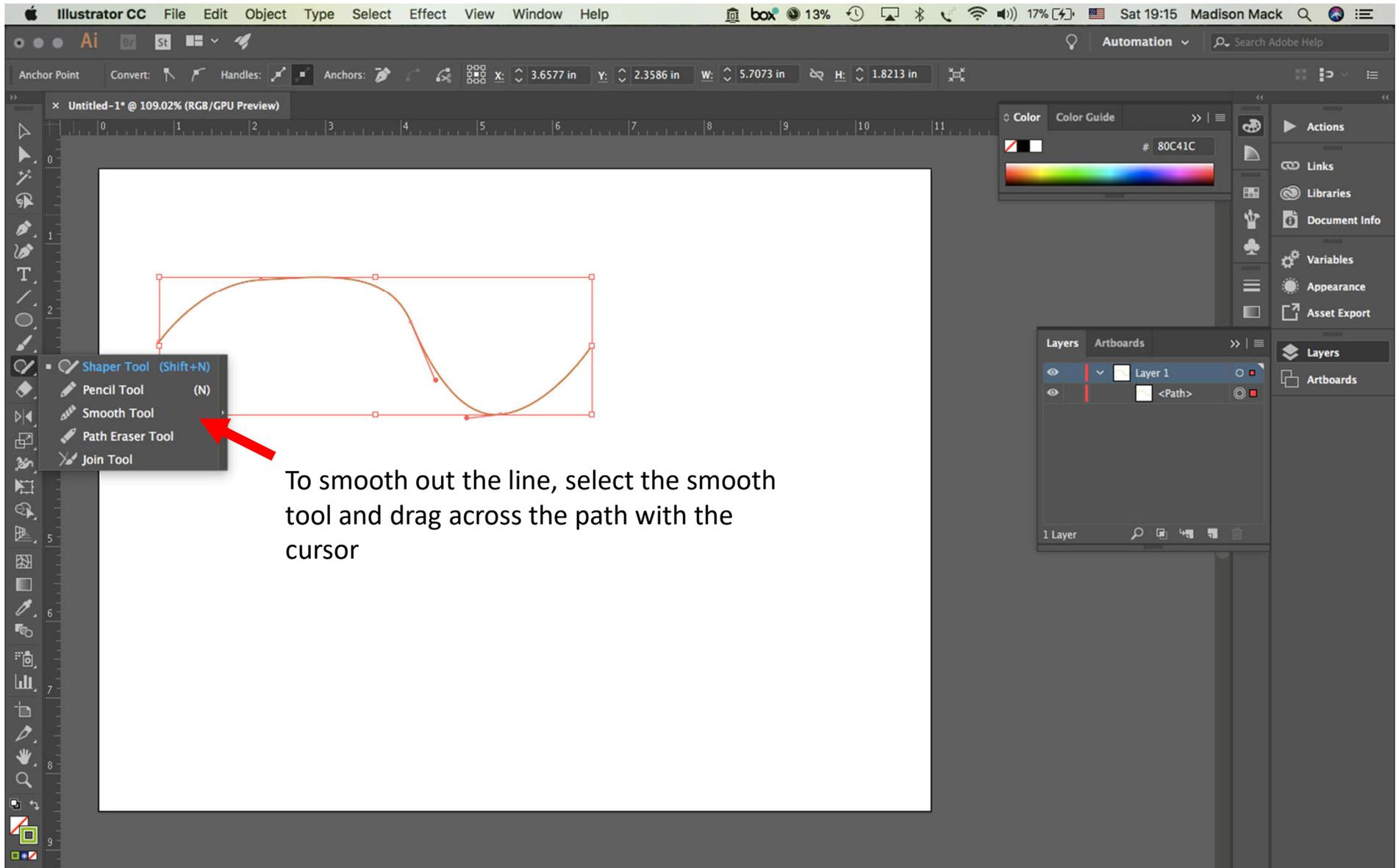
Layer 1	○	□
<Path>	○	□

1 Layer

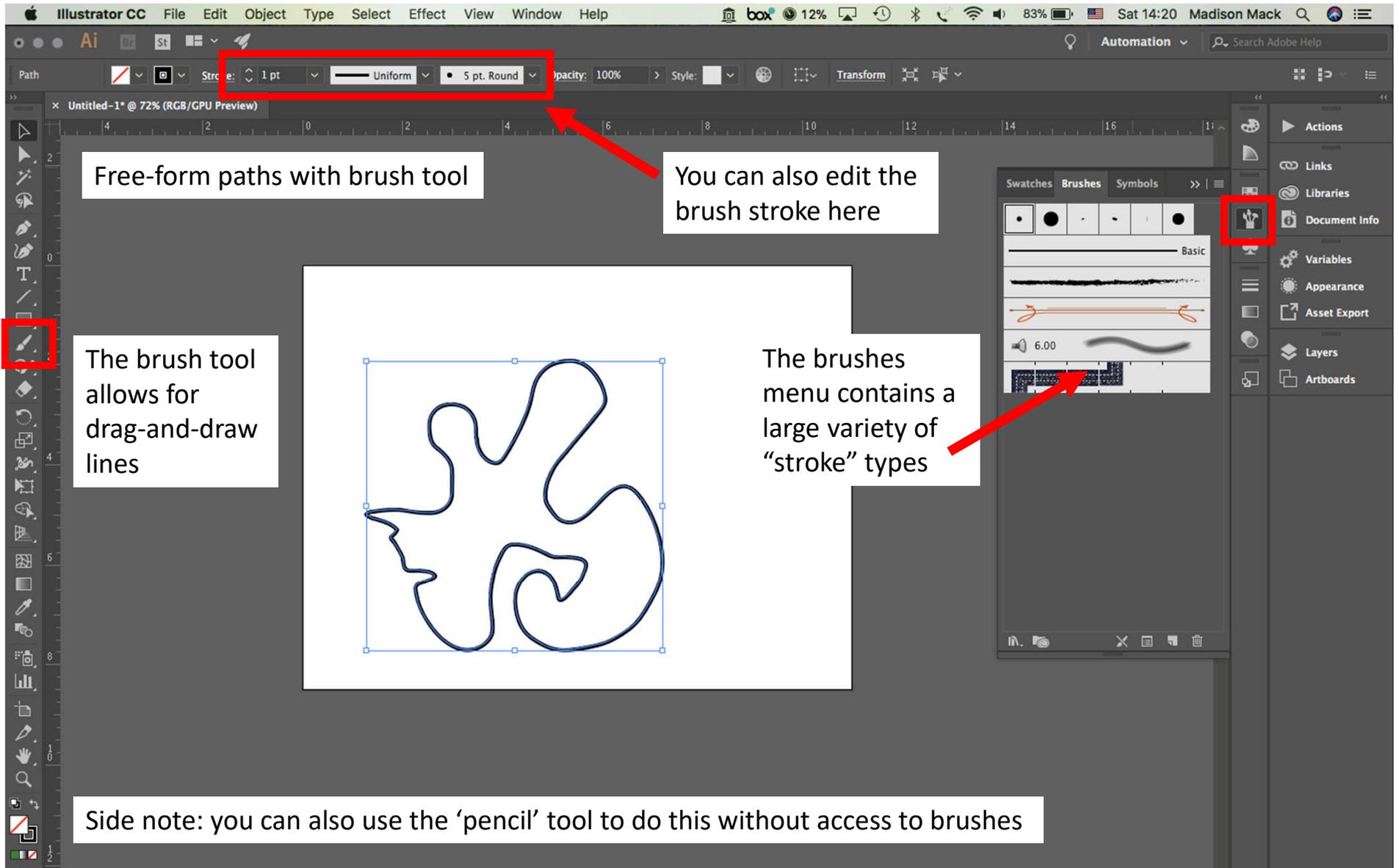


Use the direct selection tool to modify the node angles of your path

Drag on either "handle" to adjust the angle



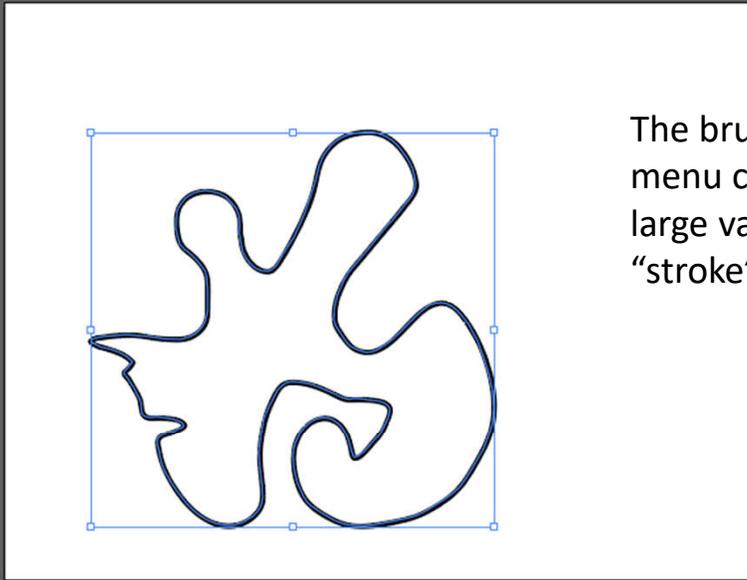
To smooth out the line, select the smooth tool and drag across the path with the cursor



Free-form paths with brush tool

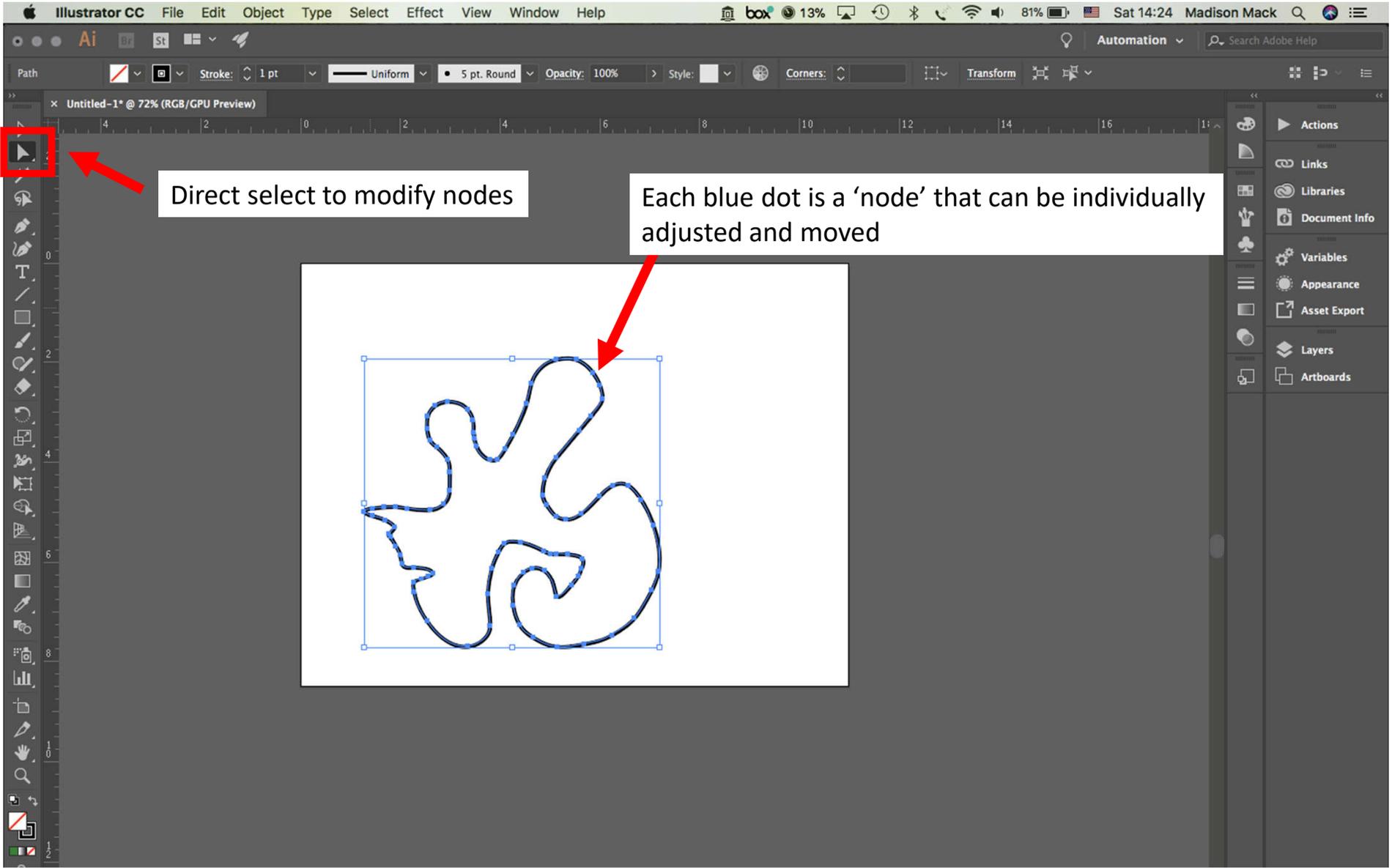
You can also edit the brush stroke here

The brush tool allows for drag-and-draw lines



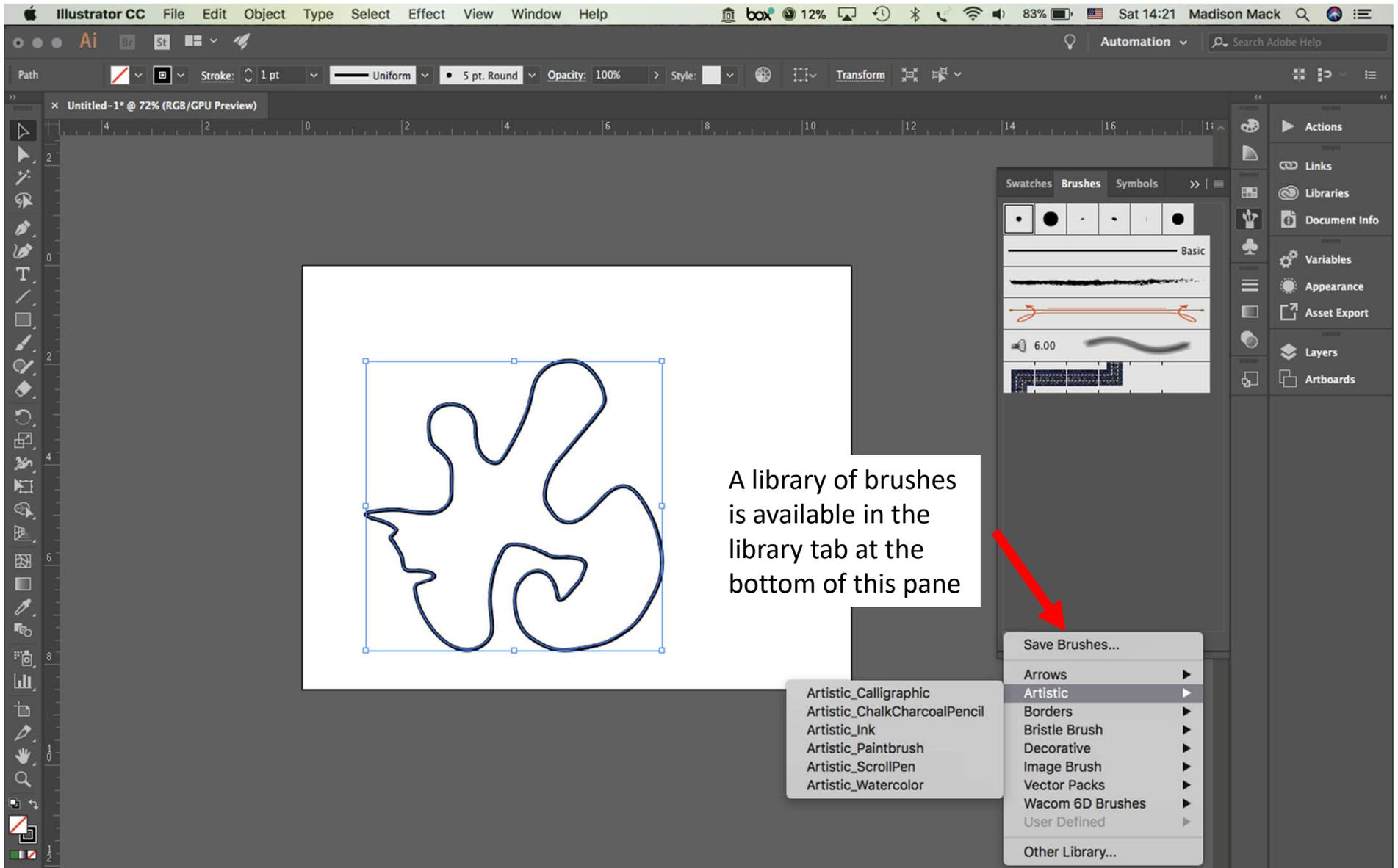
The brushes menu contains a large variety of "stroke" types

Side note: you can also use the 'pencil' tool to do this without access to brushes



Direct select to modify nodes

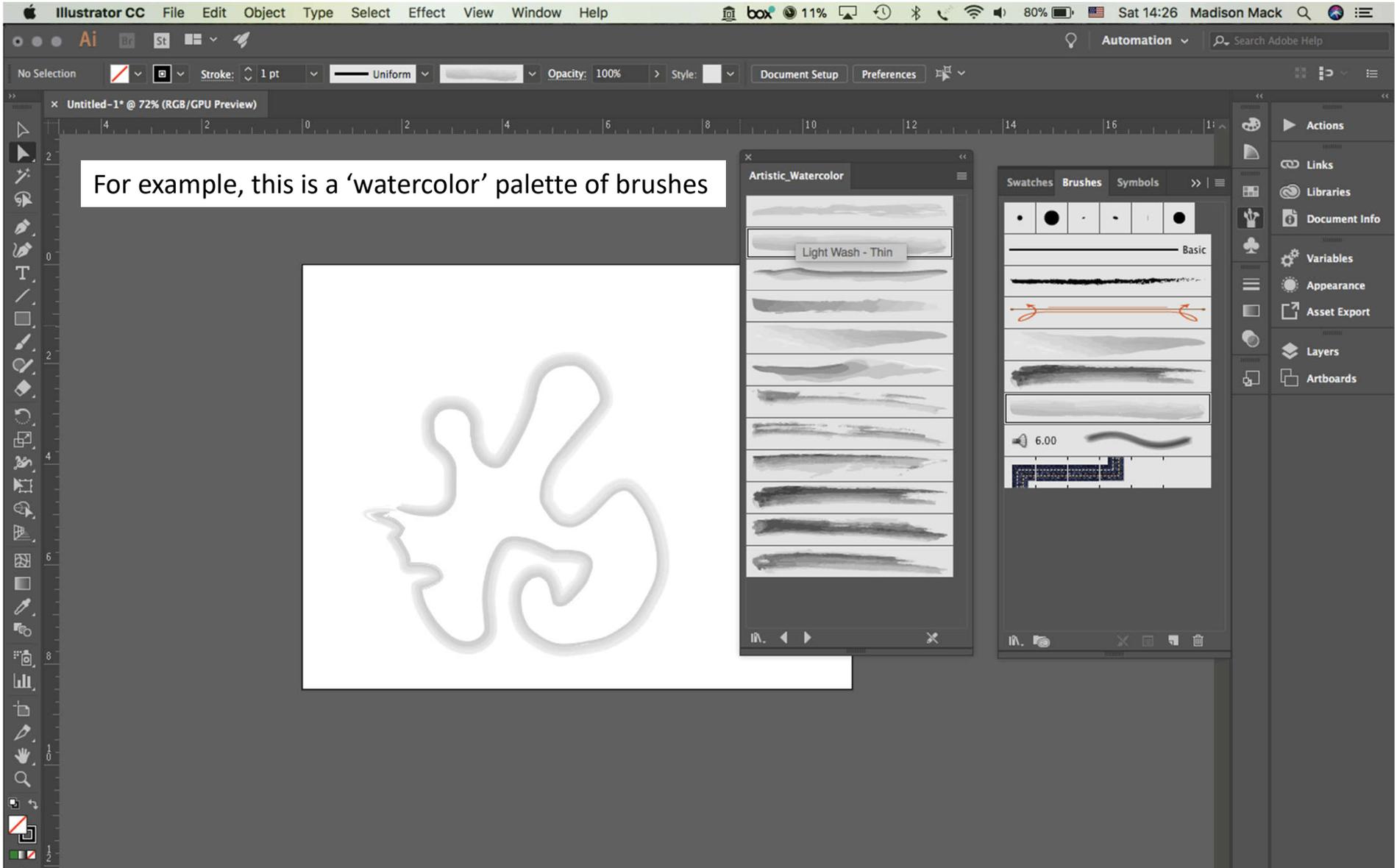
Each blue dot is a 'node' that can be individually adjusted and moved



A library of brushes is available in the library tab at the bottom of this pane

- Artistic\_Calligraphic
- Artistic\_ChalkCharcoalPencil
- Artistic\_Ink
- Artistic\_Paintbrush
- Artistic\_ScrollPen
- Artistic\_Watercolor

- Save Brushes...
- Arrows
- Artistic
- Borders
- Bristle Brush
- Decorative
- Image Brush
- Vector Packs
- Wacom 6D Brushes
- User Defined
- Other Library...



Illustrator CC File Edit Object Type Select Effect View Window Help

Automation Search Adobe Help

Stroke: 1 pt Uniform Basic Opacity: 100%

Align Shape: 2.7982 in 2.7982 in Transform

Untitled-1\* @ 136.78% (RGB/GPU Preview)

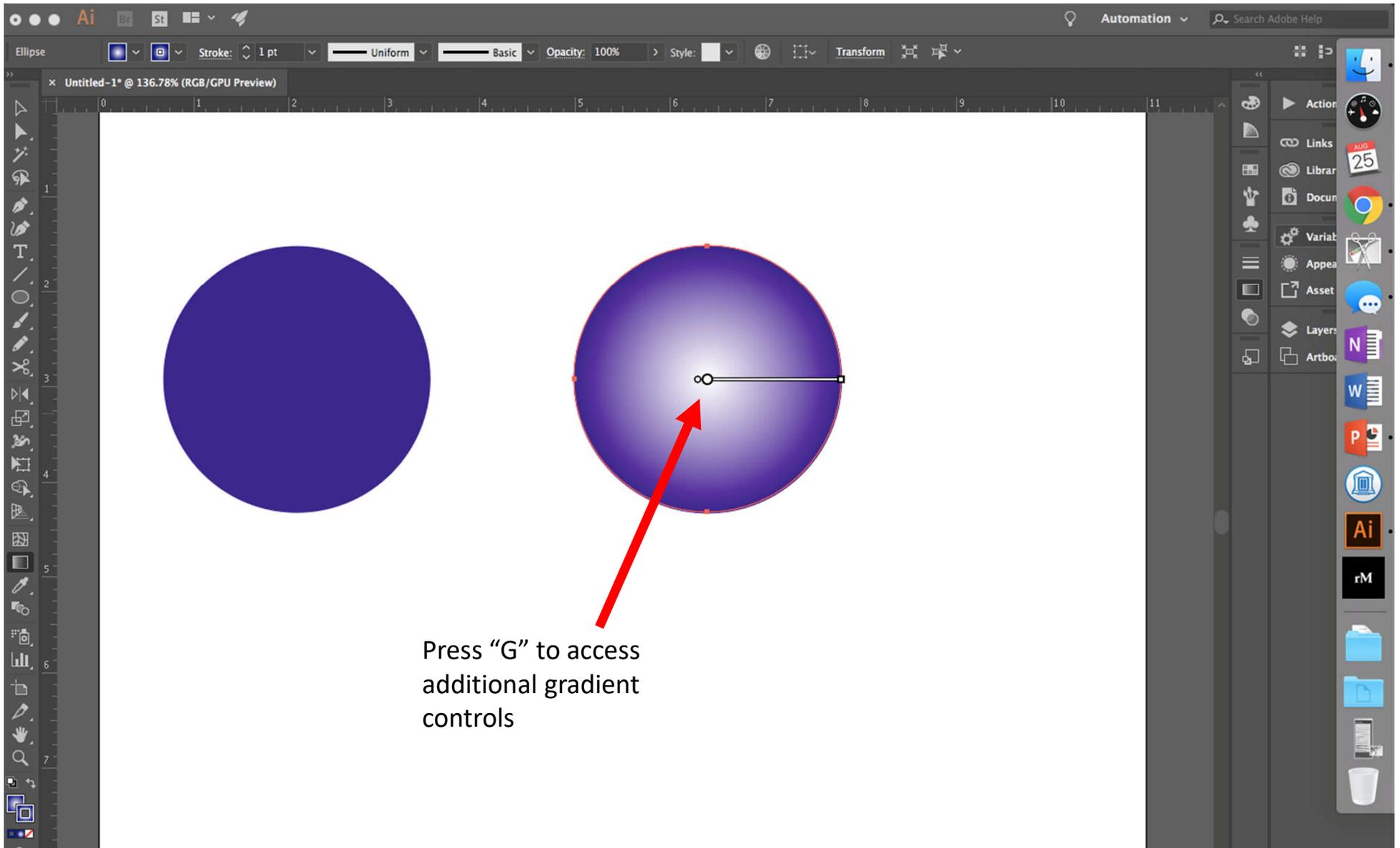
Gradient fills provide a sense of depth to your objects

Choose radial or linear gradient here

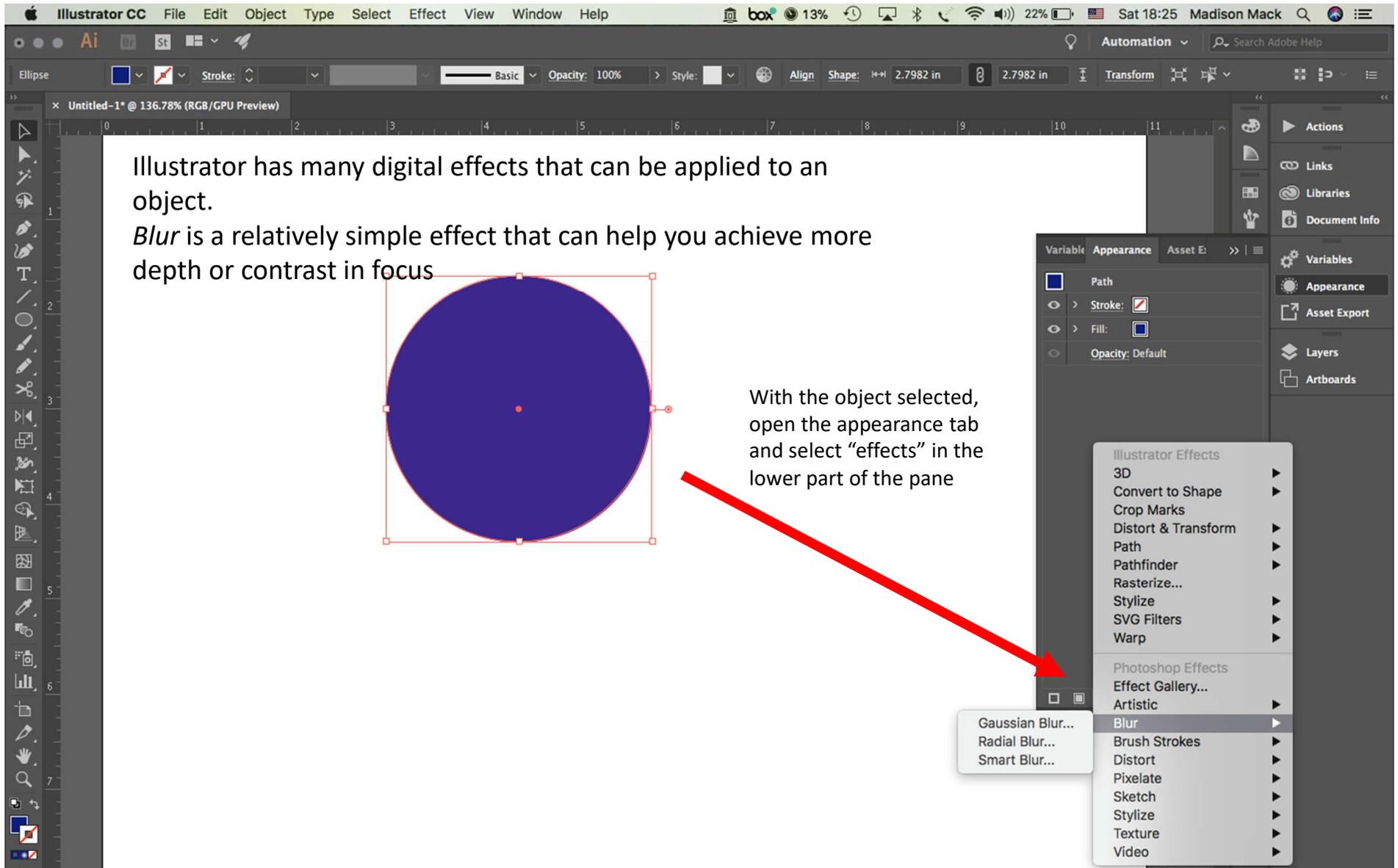
These carrots let you edit the internal and external colors

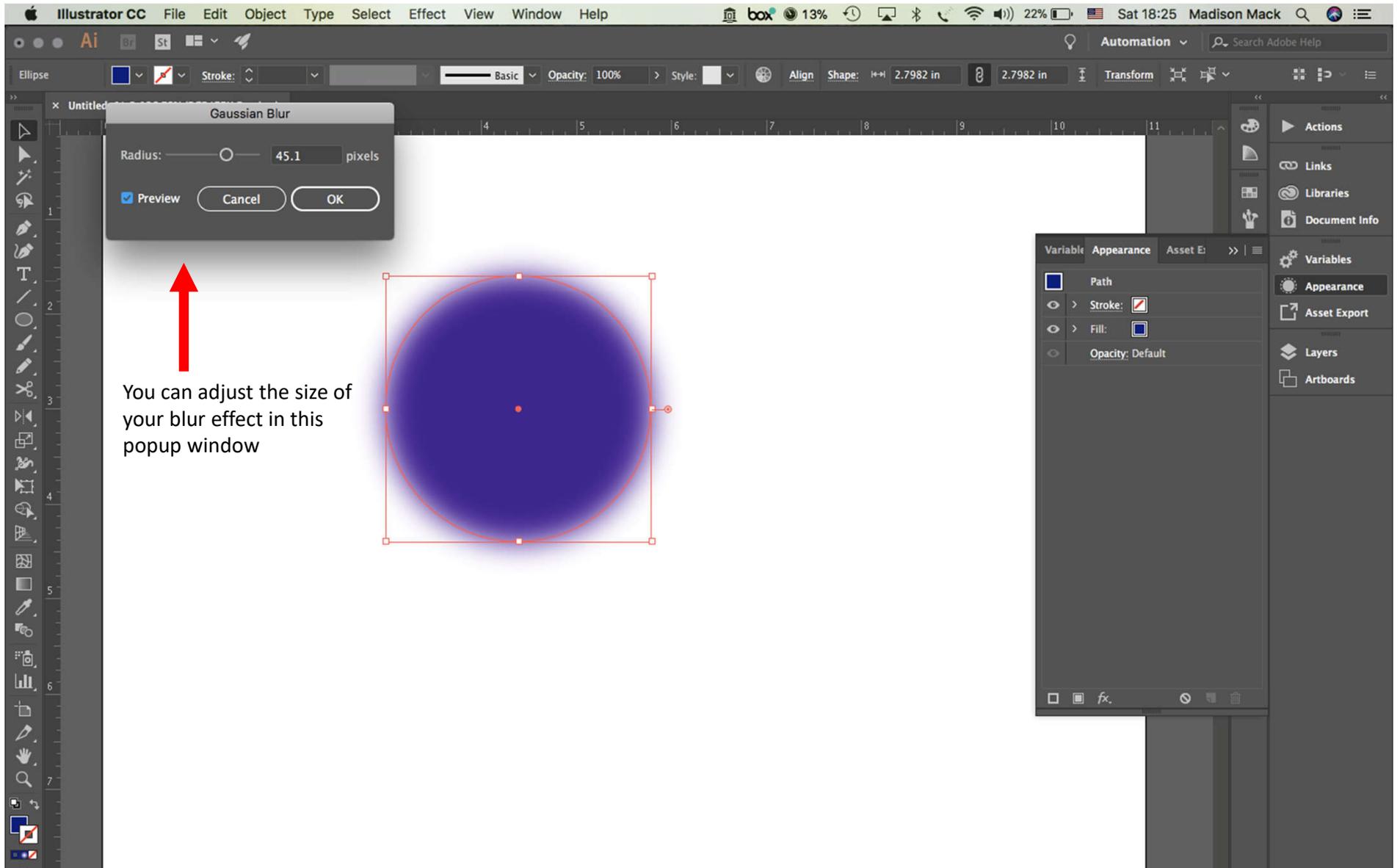
This diamond adjusts the rate of transition between colors

The image shows a screenshot of the Adobe Illustrator CC interface. The main workspace contains two circles. The left circle is a solid dark blue. A red arrow points from it to the right circle, which is filled with a radial gradient transitioning from light blue at the center to dark blue at the edges. Small red squares (carrots) are visible on the perimeter of the gradient circle, used for editing colors. To the right, the Gradient panel is open, showing 'Type: Radial' selected. A red arrow points to this dropdown. Below it, a diamond-shaped gradient slider is shown, with a red arrow pointing to it. The panel also shows 'Stroke', 'Opacity: 100%', and 'Location' options. The top of the screen shows the menu bar and system status. The bottom left shows the toolbar.



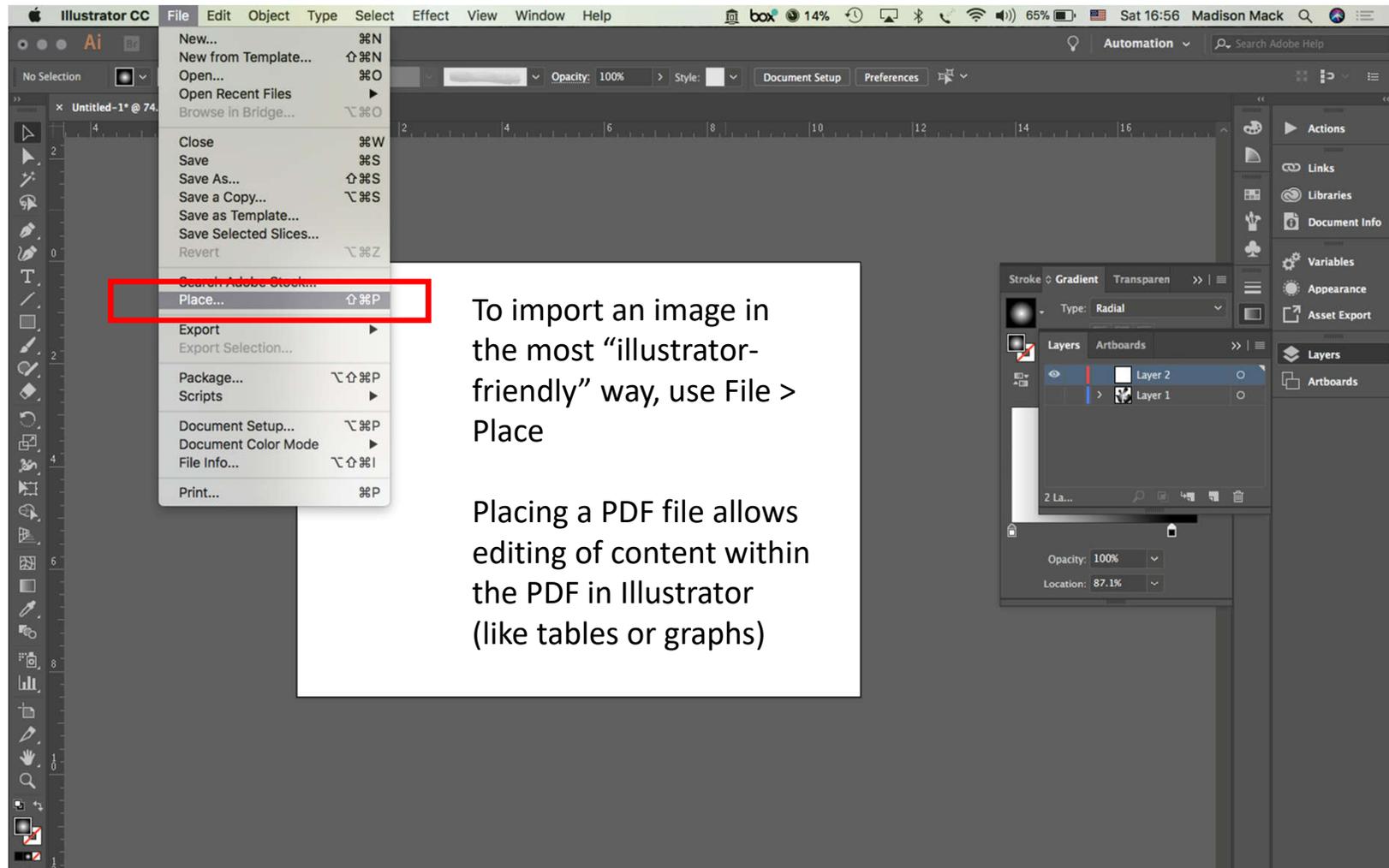
Press "G" to access additional gradient controls





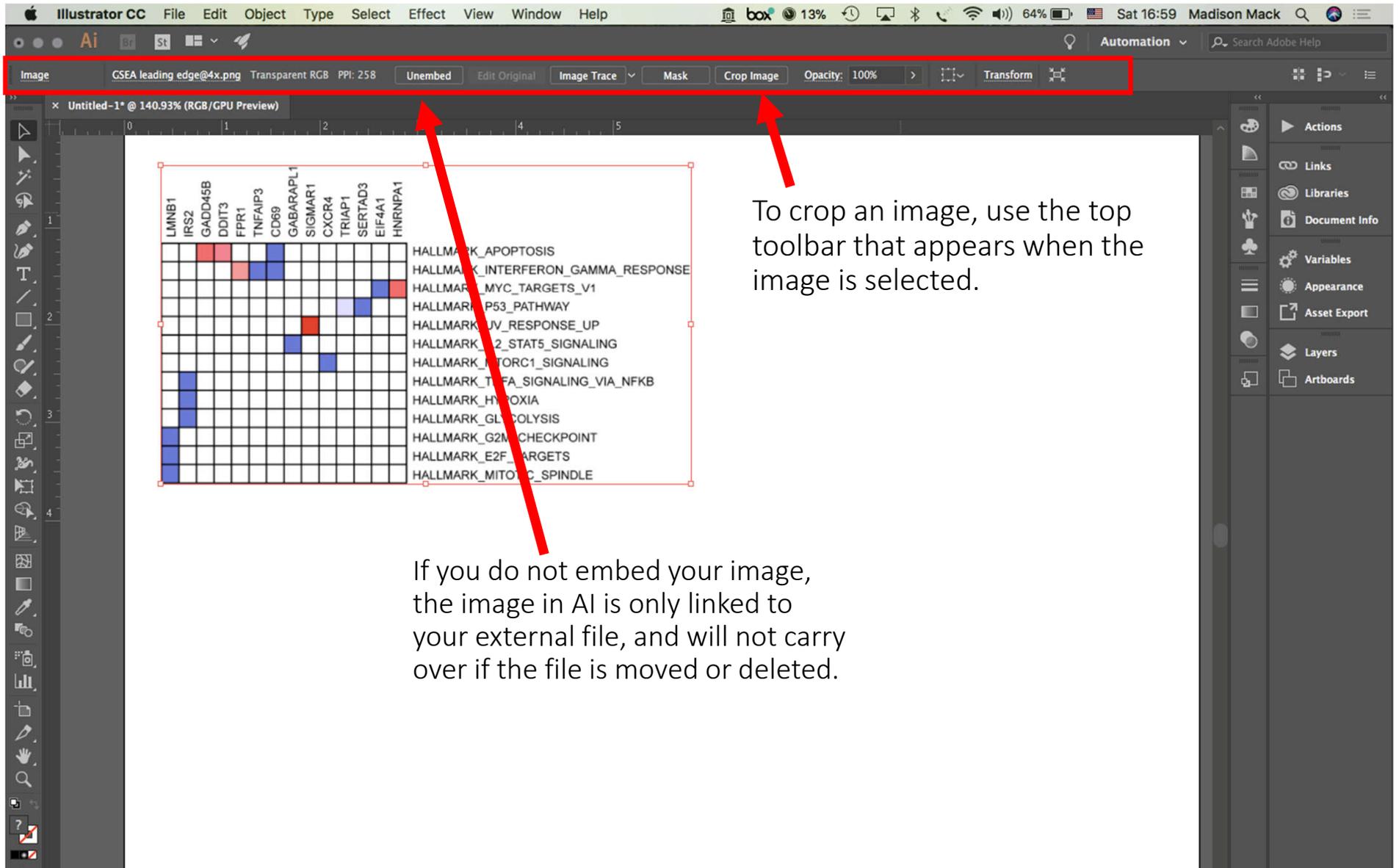
You can adjust the size of your blur effect in this popup window

# Place and crop images



To import an image in the most “illustrator-friendly” way, use File > Place

Placing a PDF file allows editing of content within the PDF in Illustrator (like tables or graphs)



# Making advanced shapes in Illustrator

Illustrator does these functions a little differently from Inkscape, and there are *many* ways to achieve the same results.

Two options:

A) Shaper tool

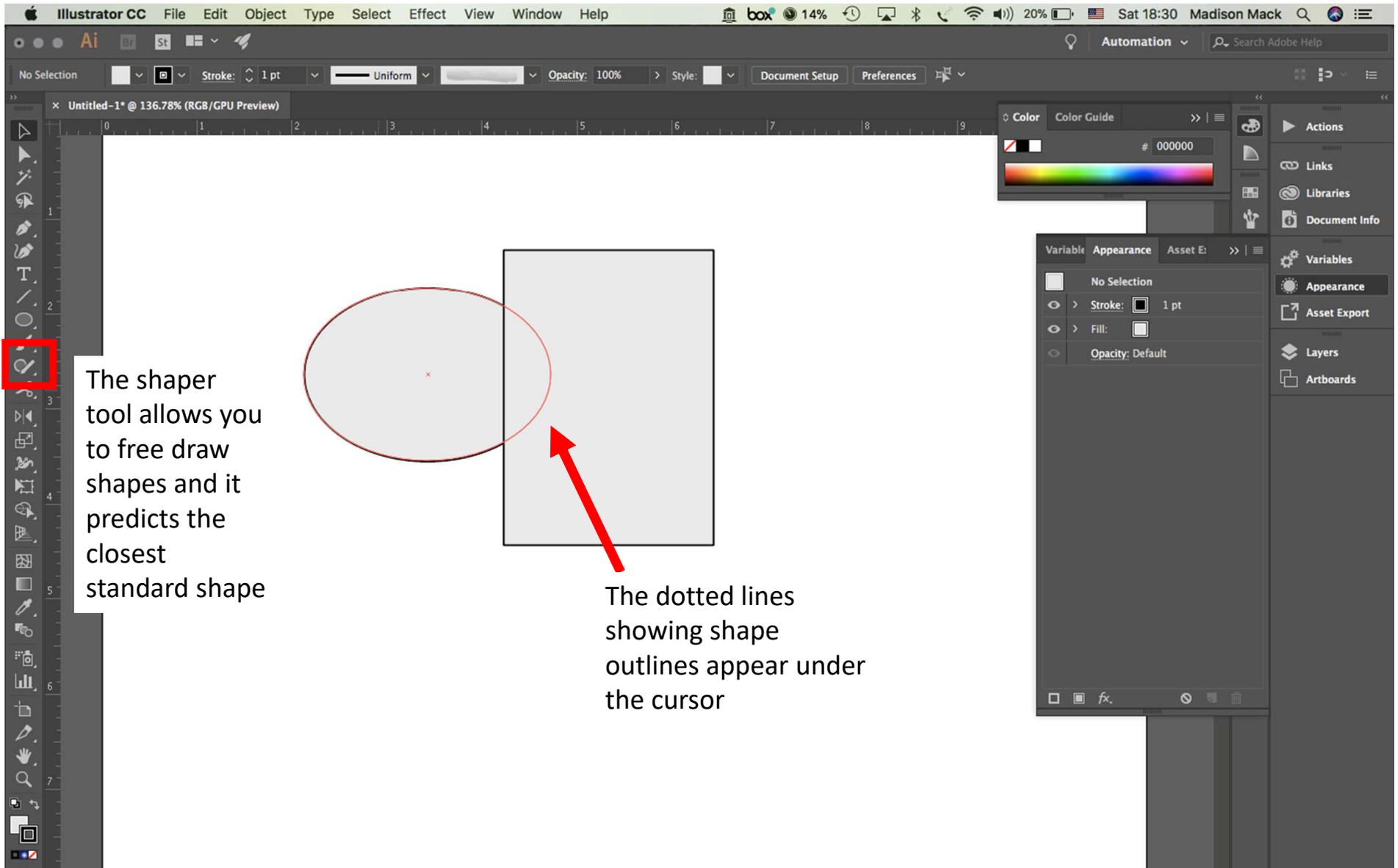
→ The shaper tool creates pre-made shapes based on your freehand strokes

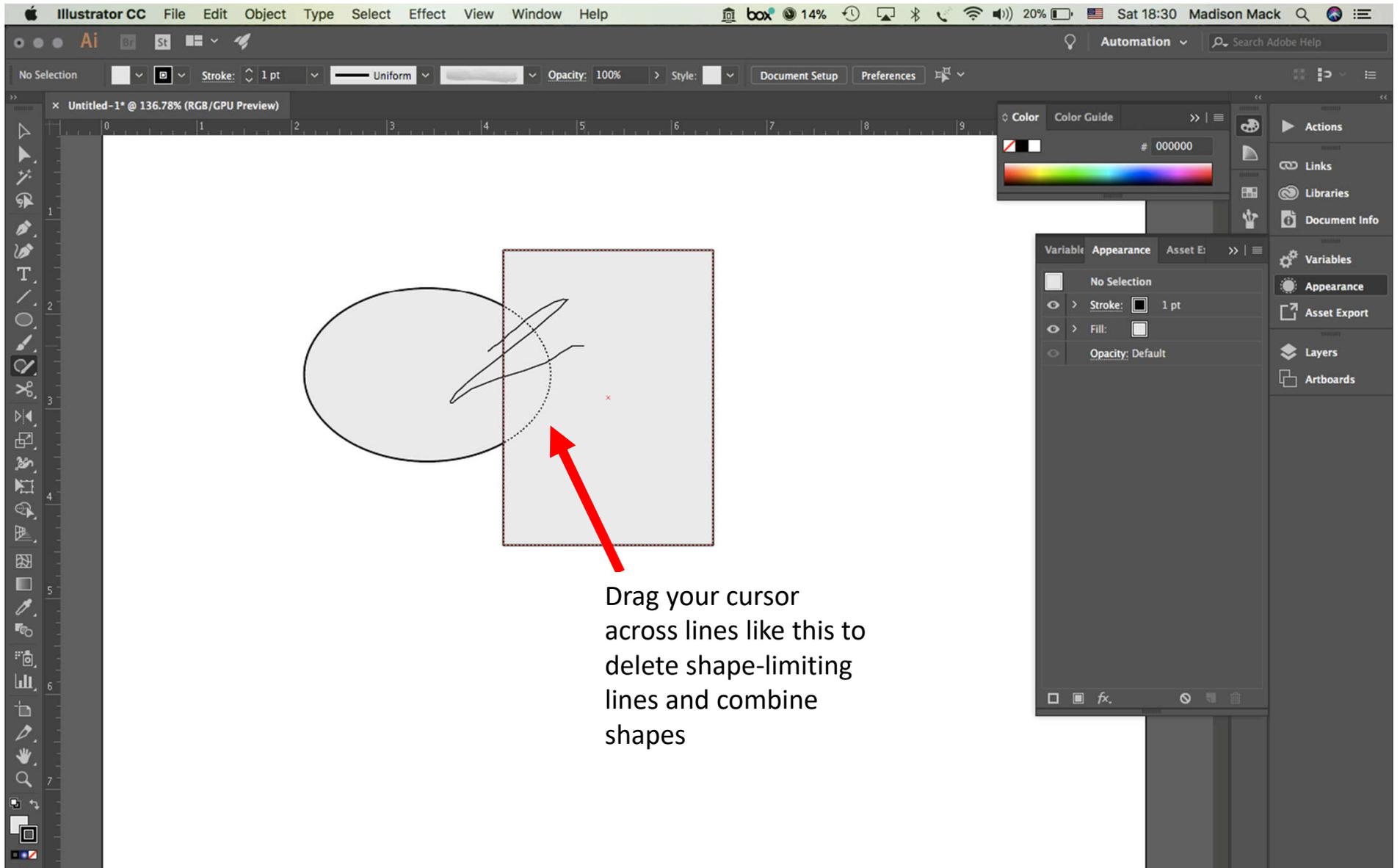
→ These shapes are mutable and can be combined or subtracted with cursor gestures

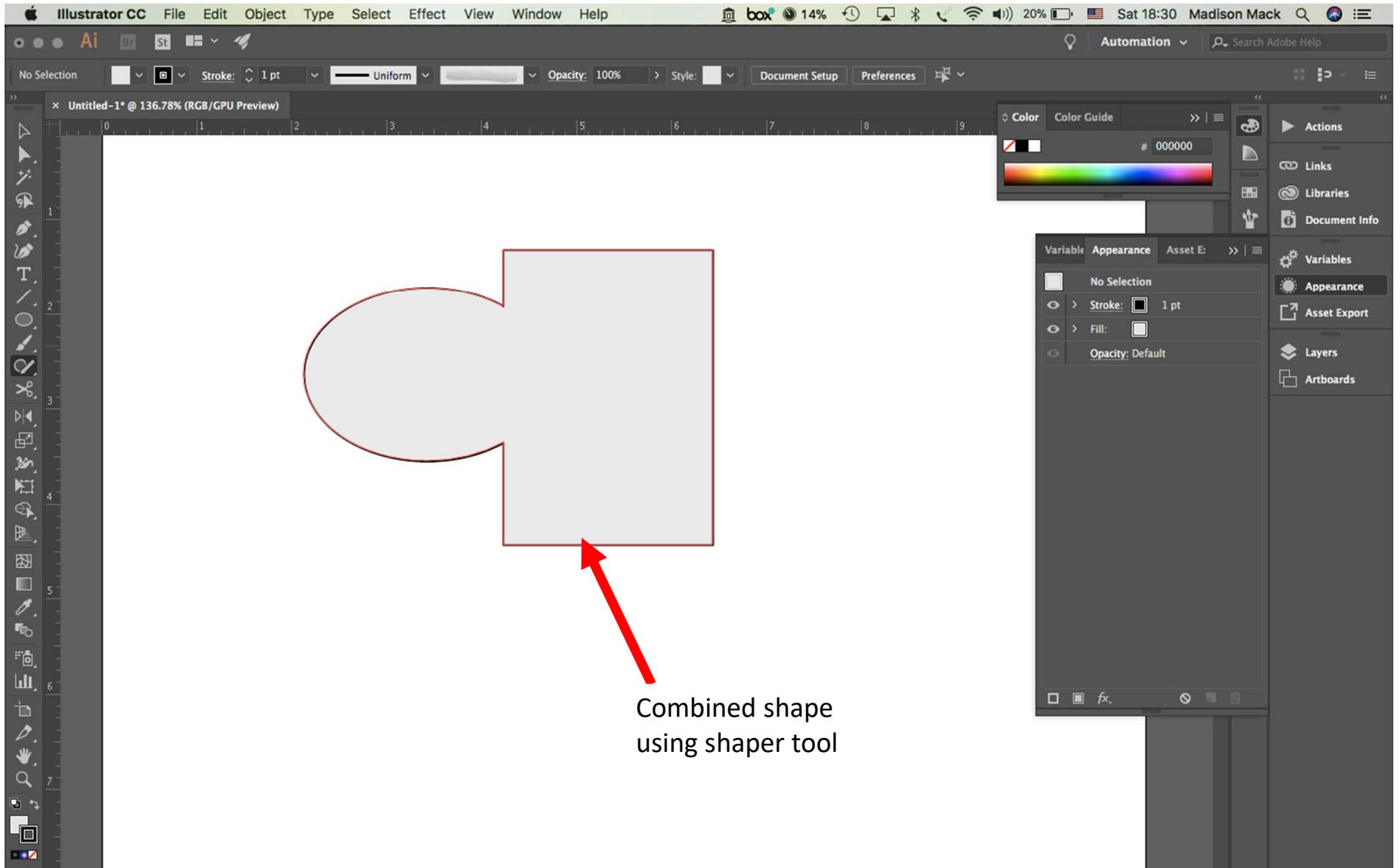
B) Outline stroke & eraser tool

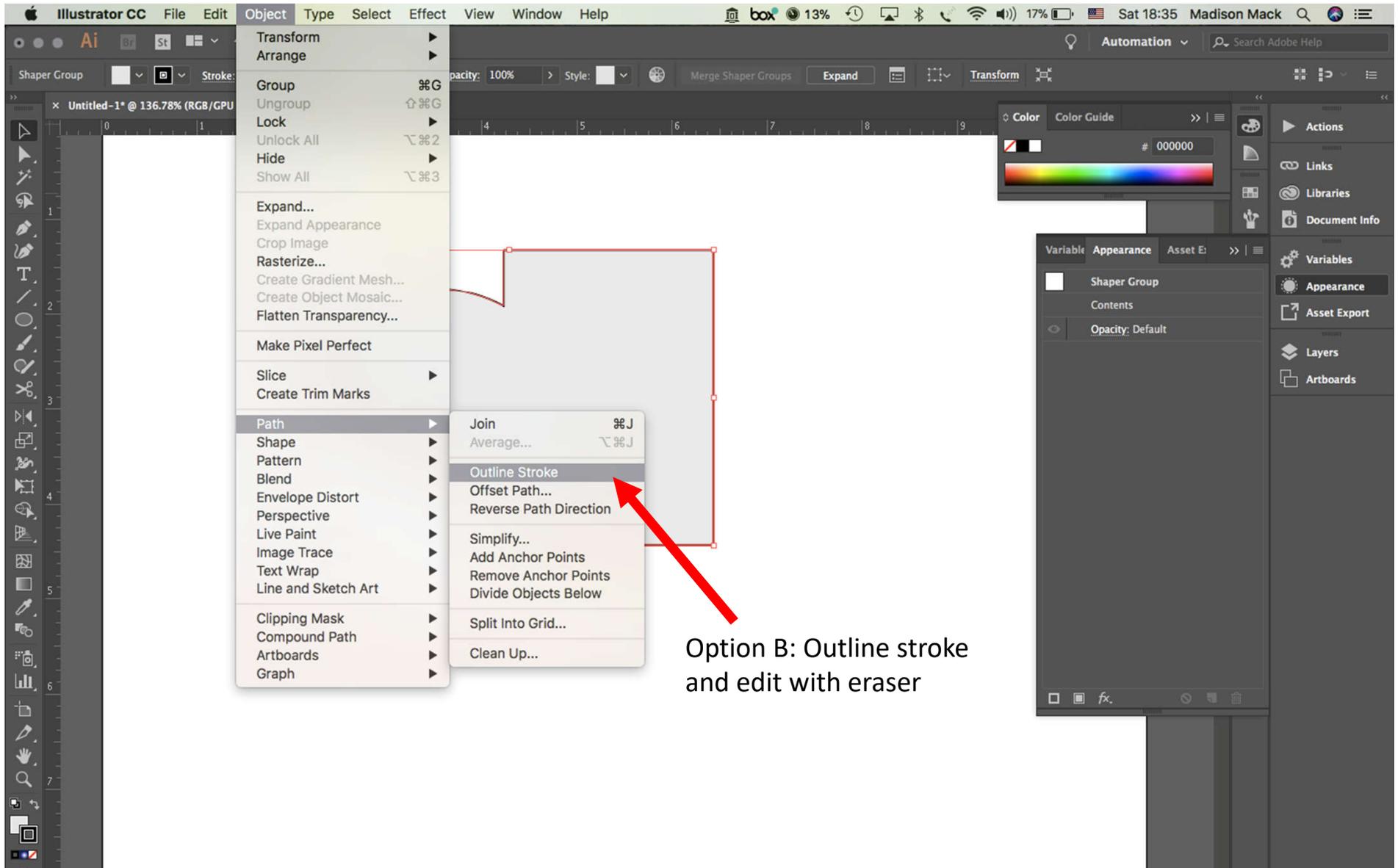
→ This can be used in any freeform shape, text, or stroke

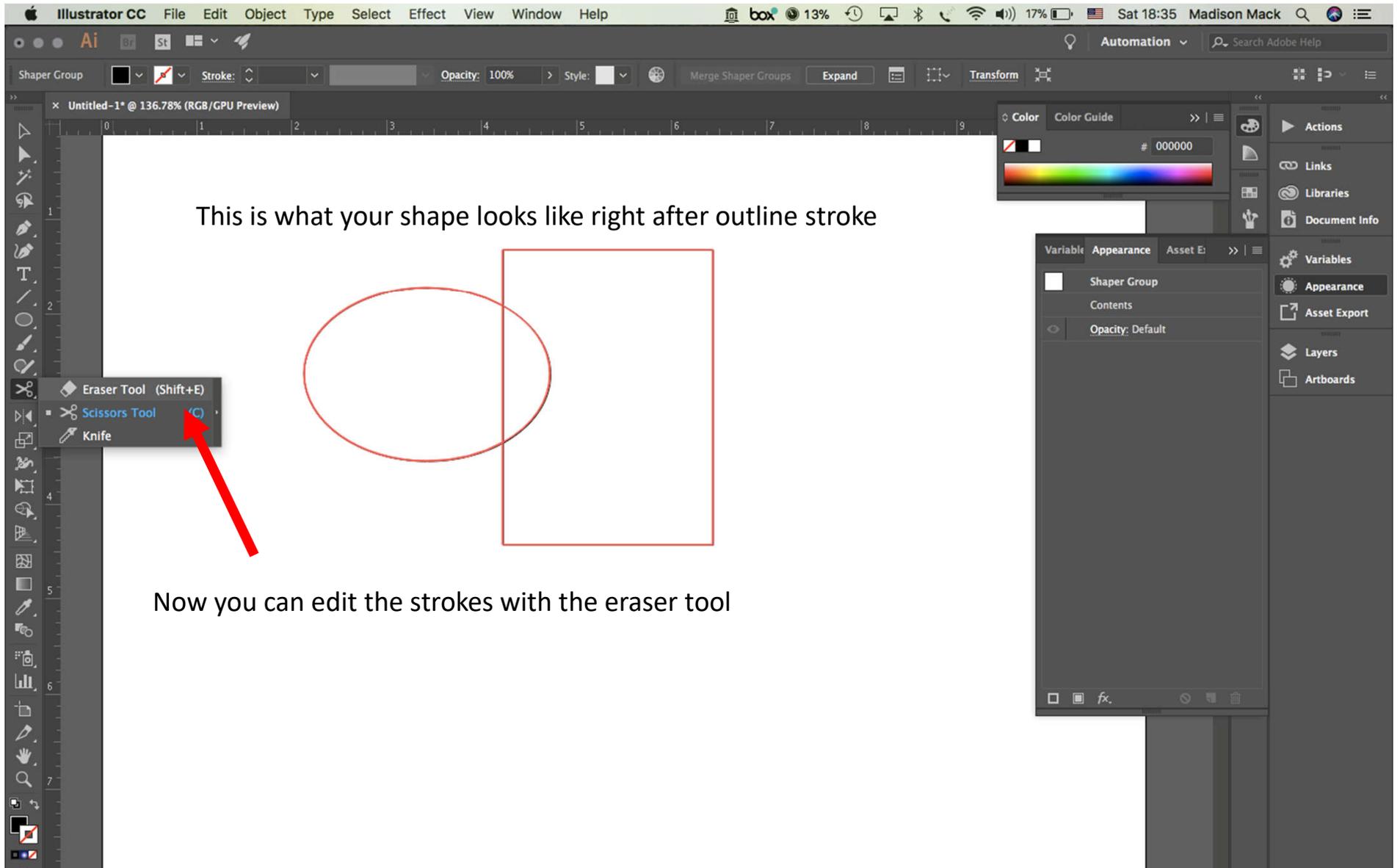
→ Once the path is “outlined” it cannot be reshaped

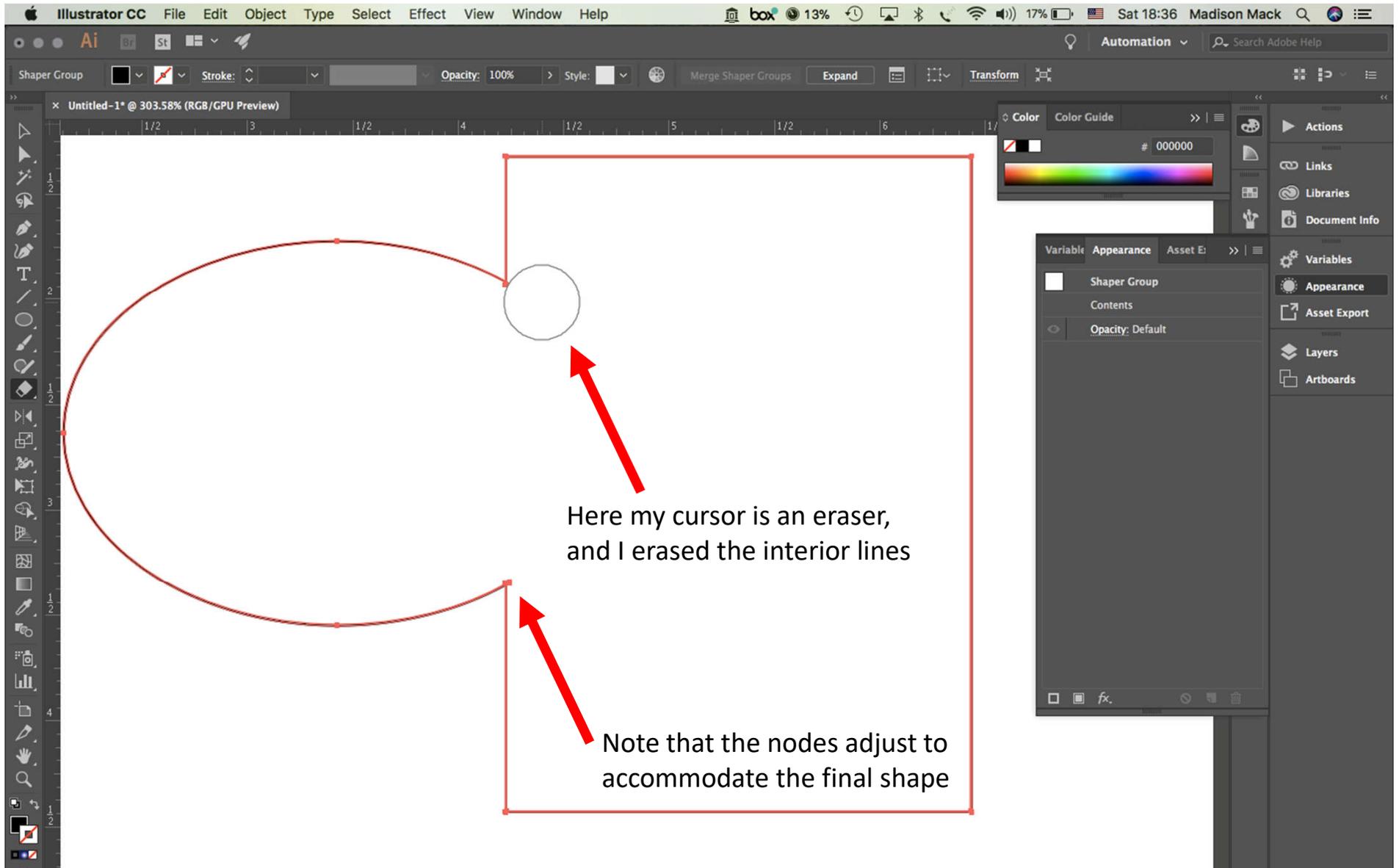


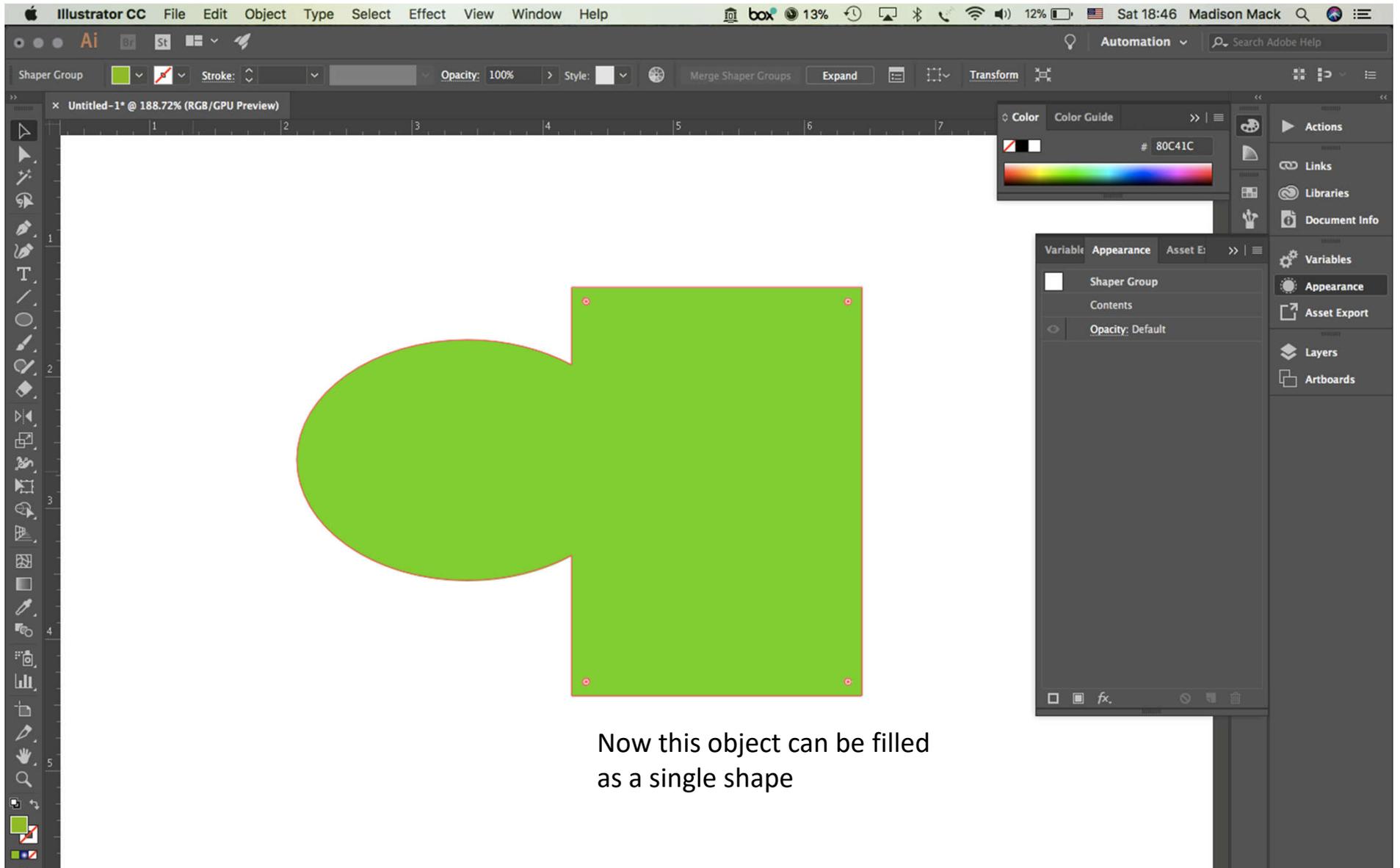




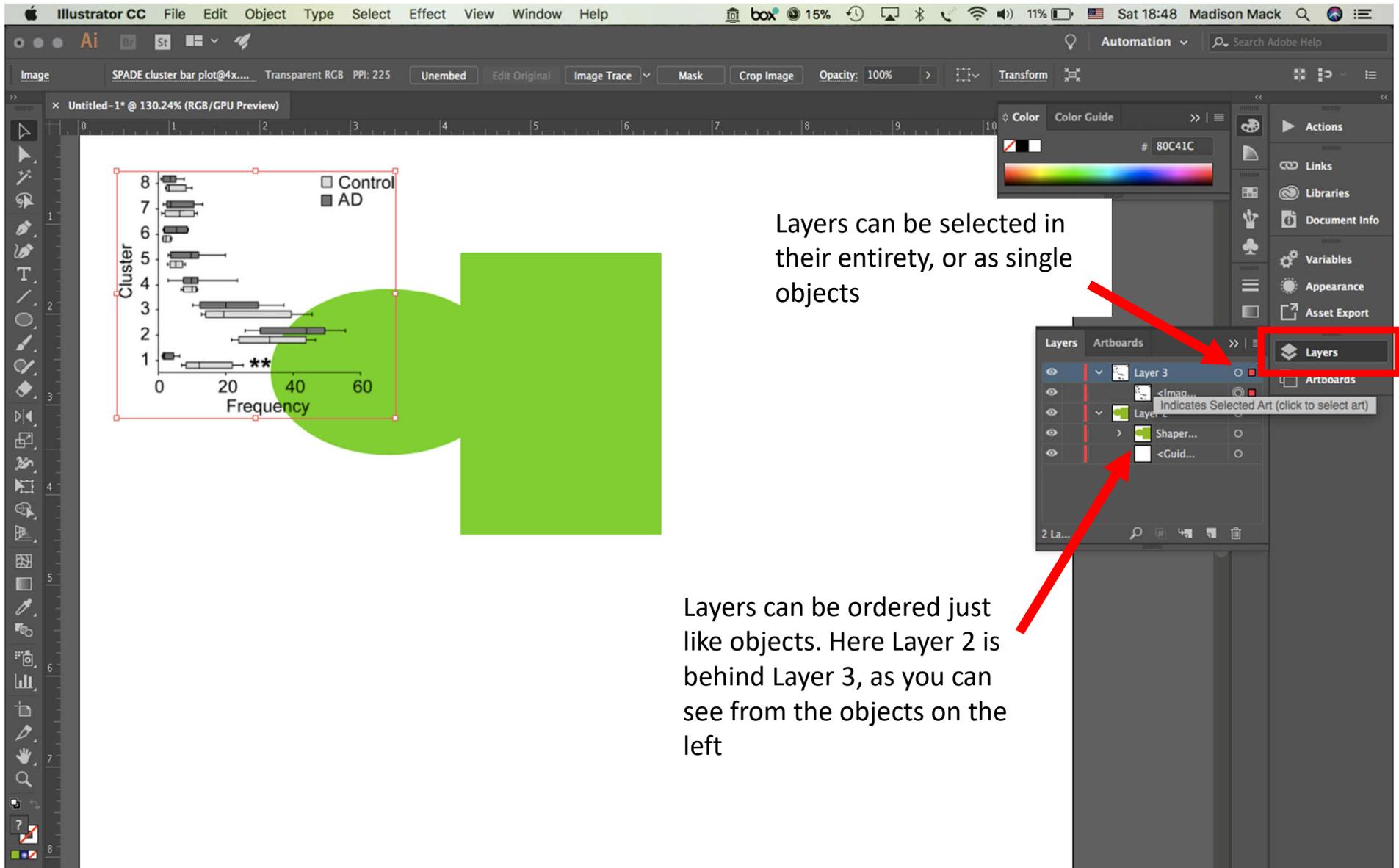








Now this object can be filled as a single shape

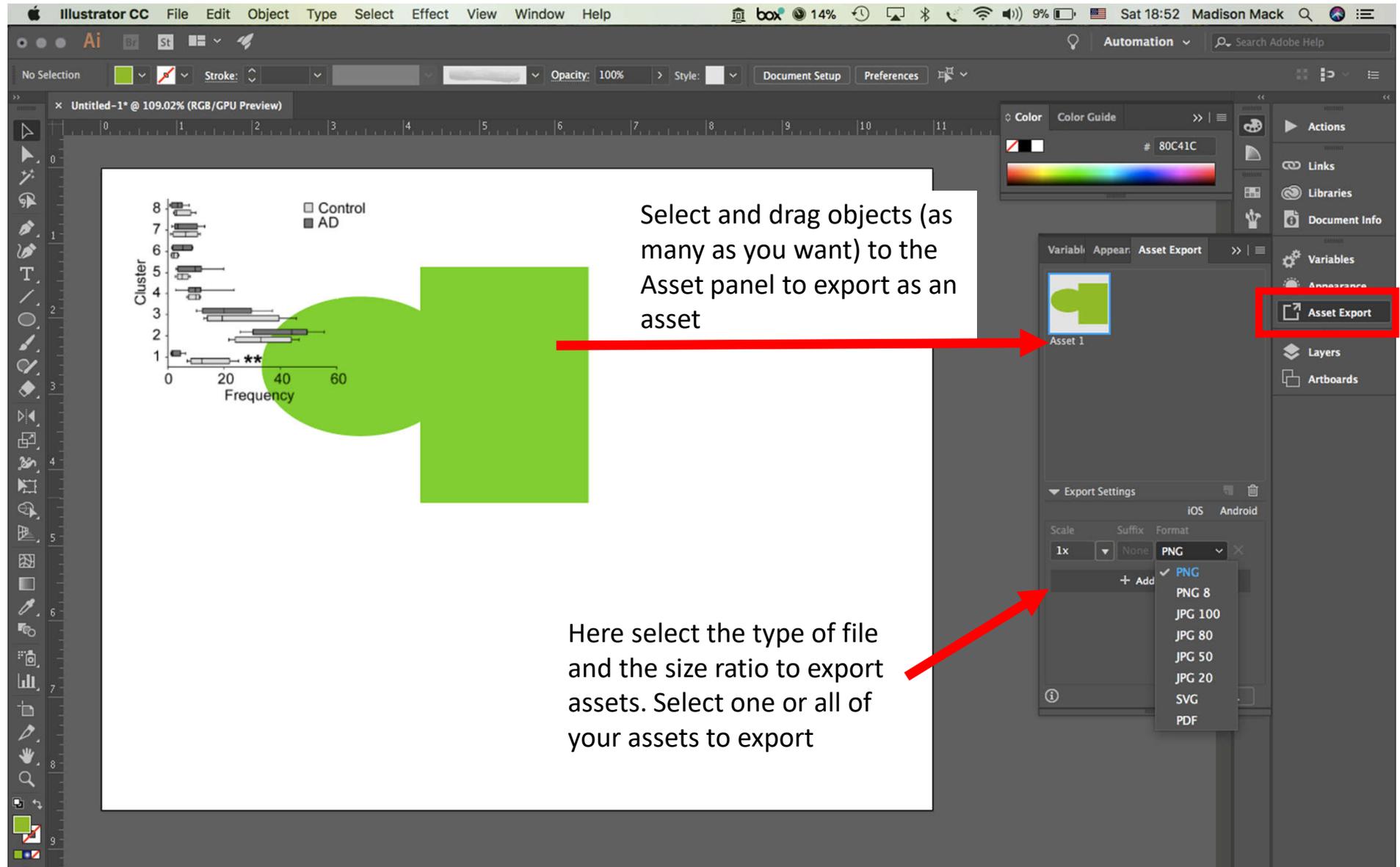


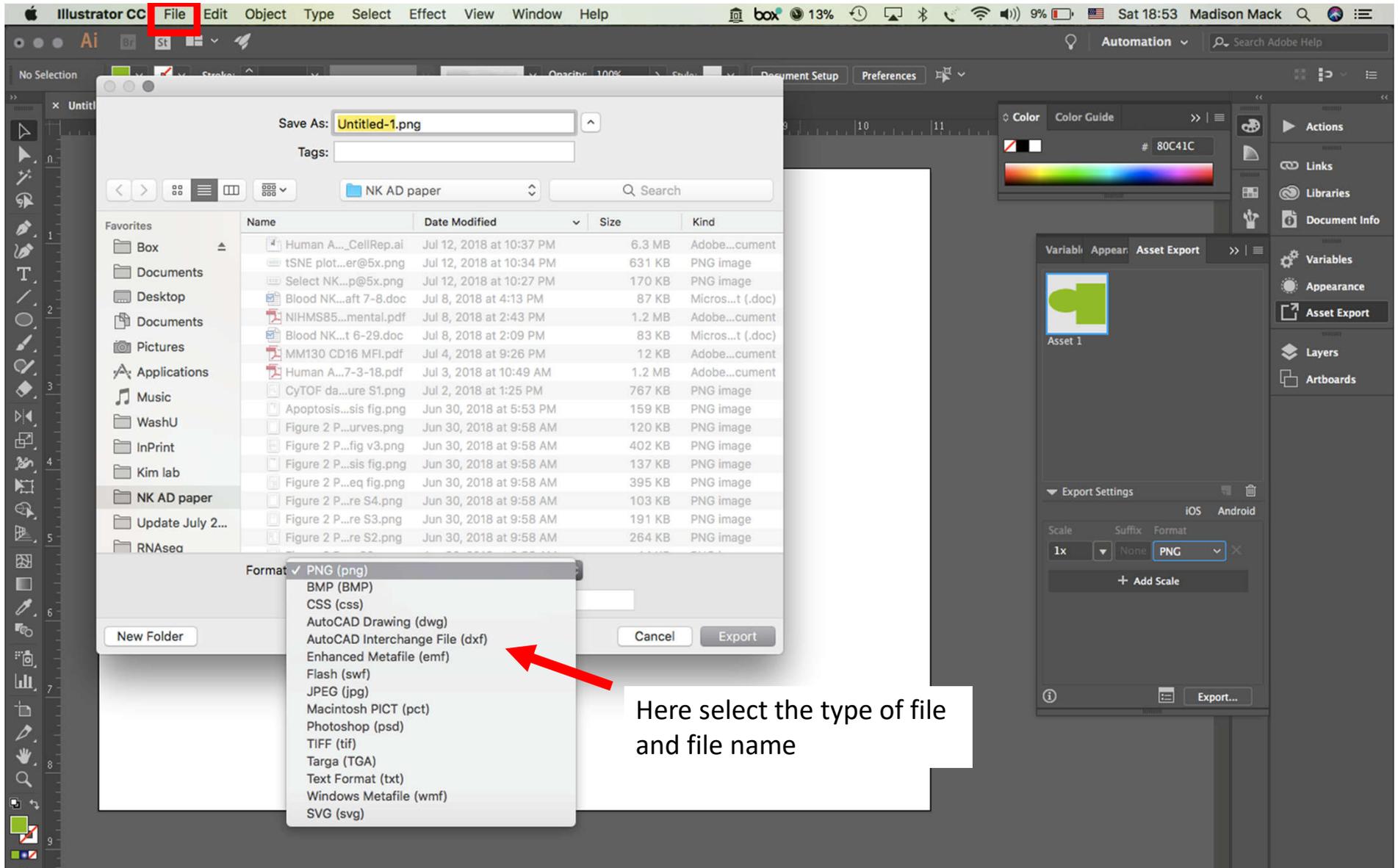
# There are a few different ways to export in Illustrator

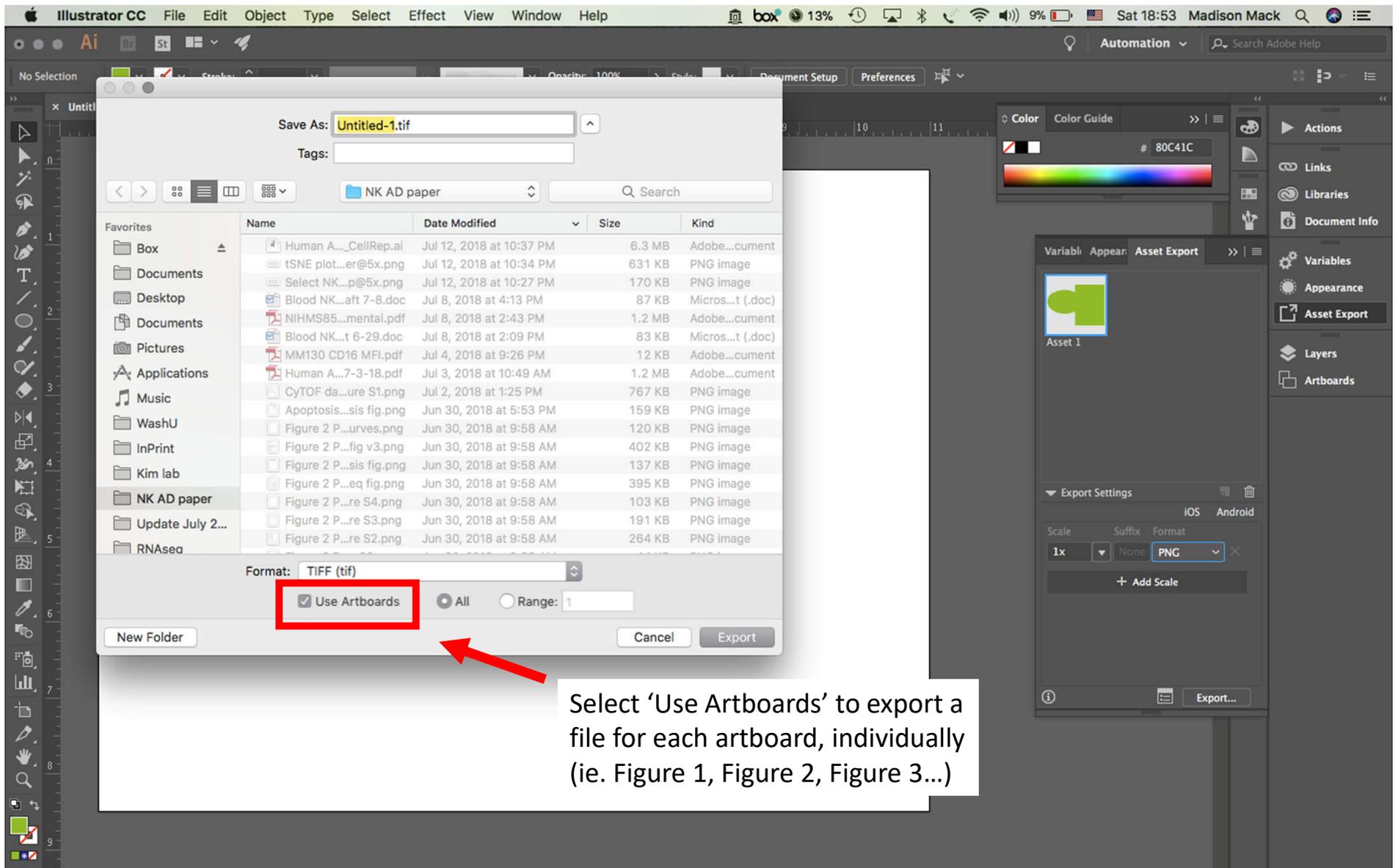
- 1) As Artboards
- 2) As Assets

Common file types:

- \* PDF – retains Illustrator editing capacities, but can be opened by others
- \* PNG – smallest image file, for drafts and quick file transfers
- \* TIF – standard high quality image format
- \* SVG – [scalable vector graphic] can be imported into other graphics software and resized without pixelating (not rasterized)







## Illustrator keyboard shortcuts (a SMALL selection)

- [ and ] keys increase and decrease the point of your cursor
- Hold shift + click/resize to lock aspect ratio
- Hold shift + drag to lock into horizontal/perpendicular line
- “x” to toggle between editing the path and editing the fill of your selection
- “v” to change to ‘normal’ selection tool
- ”p” to select pen
- “l” to select eye dropper tool
- “a” to select direct selection tool
- “g” to switch to gradient editing
- “b” to use the brush tool
- “r” to rotate
- “o” to flip
- “t” to use text tool

# Resources

- <https://helpx.adobe.com/illustrator/tutorials.html>
- Adobe has TONS of FREE tutorials online
- You can also access them via the search bar:

