Final Project Summary

This is a summary for the first part of the final project, final-part1.html. For this file I first created an html file and css file that was used to stylize and create a fake forum page that’s supposed to represent funny stories of potential happenings in the game Dwarf Fortress. This portion of setting up the basic outline of the forum took a long time to do mainly because I wanted the design to be fun and interesting, this is when I found an image that had what I wanted for sprites and so I started to crop and create different sprites for the background, and for the fake users on the forum page. After this was done I created/borrowed fun and interesting stories from dwarf fortress and then started to look at scriptaculous effects that I wanted to use, the first effect was the slideDown and slideUp effect and I thought it would be funny to make a fake ad that loads at the start of the webpage and whenever you close it it just reappears after some time. Then I decided I would create a link at the bottom of the webpage that when pressed would bring you back to the top of the webpage, this was also done using scriptaculous. After I was searching around for some more effects I could use to add a little more to the webpage, and then I found the parallel effect that allows you to do multiple effects at the same time, and when I viewed the example it made a light bulb light up and I thought it would be fun to use the same parallel effect on the dwarf sprite on the top left of the page, and when pressed, it allowed the dwarf to be swapped out with the other sprites I made as users. This probably took the longest to do mostly because there was a decent amount of trial and error, but in reality I was able to figure it out pretty fast and then after that it was mostly timing and tedious work of replicating what I wrote but for different sprites.

This is a summary for part two of the final project, final-part2.html. So for this project I thought it would be fun to edit the baseball assignment to make use of some of my sprites I worked hard on cropping and creating to play some baseball, I remember I had asked you if it was alright and you said it was fine as long as the baseball didn’t go in the same direction and if I added more animations to it, so I did. What I ended up doing was setting up a dwarf that would run the bases and I had planned on having him and maybe one other dwarf do the same, what ended up happening was after I had finished the array needed for the initial dwarf to run the bases I had figured it would actually be pretty easy implementing dwarves for every base on the field so I did that, also another thing I did for animation was after the home-run image pops up I had the batter dwarf throw the bat to the side before running. Now I will say this, manually typing in all of the ‘coordinates’ for the dwarf to go into arrays was most definitely the longest I had spent on this part of the project and probably the longest I spent in general on this project. After going through the pain of doing this though, that’s when I set up the rest of the arrays for the other dwarfs, and then I added a little thing at the end of each one that would line them up nicely after passing the home plate. In addition to doing this I thought it would be fun to have a fake scoreboard that showed the points when the dwarves pass over the plate, so I put my image editing skills back to work and found a scoreboard and re-created the numbers and made five separate images that would be cycled through when a certain point in the time interval happened.

This is a summary for part three of the final project, final-part3.html. On this project I looked around at the links and ended up finding this one add-on for jquery that was called jqFancyTransitions. What I liked when I went to the page for it was the transitions were nice and smooth and all of them seemed pretty interesting. So I went to work and decided I would make slide show of all the sprites I had cropped and created, in doing this I ended up making eight different panels, each having their own fancy effect. One thing I really liked about this add-on was that the documentation for it was very descriptive and was very simple to use, however I will say that getting the panels to be right next to each other and be in different rows was kind of a pain to do, I had to make separate divs outside of the slideshow divs so that they would be in a different row, and I also couldn’t set the panels in an absolute position, I had to make them float to the left for them to be next to each other, it was kinda strange. Figuring out that floating thing as well as the separate divs was what probably took the longest, that and also figuring out some of the ways to alter the effects and some small timings that I had to do on them. After that was all said and done I created a footer for the link to the web-page where I got the add-on and its documentation.

For an overview of the class, I would say I learned a lot of things about javascript and jquery and all the other stuff we did, and I enjoyed it. I will say there were times where I was distracted, mainly because I knew some of the ways we did certain things and a lot of it was review, but I can tell from listening that it was being taught in a way a lot of people could understand or if someone already knew but not as well they would be able to understand it a lot better. Another thing that I liked was how the work we had done in class was also reflected on the homework and how I could reference what we did and class and complete the homework easier, instead of say looking at a book constantly trying to figure out what something does, and instead having an example to go off of. As suggestions go, the only thing I would say is maybe having more of those in-class extra-credit options where students get a challenge and have to use what they learned that day to create a program or do a specific task like we did that one day with the different boxes.

My future plans are pretty much this, I only have one more semester to go after this and I think this year I found what I like to program. I’ve felt that programming websites and using html, css, javascript, jquery, the works is very fun and I very much enjoy it. Originally I came back to Saint Paul college to get a career in networking and when learning python for it I realized how much fun coding could be, after that I changed over to the Computer Programming AAS and decided I would have a focus in java because I figured that would probably be better in the long-run than the web development or web based 2d game element focuses, but after actually taking the html and client side classes now, I feel like I enjoy doing this side of programming more than java. So pretty much I plan on finishing my AAS focus in web development and probably not java, and after that will be on the search for jobs in this field, but I will keep my options open when looking and if there's an opening for some other type of programming that being java, python, or whatever other popular language they want then I’ll probably try that and see how it goes. So basically my future will hopefully be being a web-developer or some other type of programmer, and hopefully having fun with it.