

Part 1: Research (Individual)

1. Initial Reading

Read the provided content on web accessibility (section 1 and 2) and take note of key concepts, such as:

- **What is Web Accessibility?**

Web accessibility means designing websites and tools so that people with disabilities can use them. This includes people with visual, hearing, motor, or cognitive impairments.

- **What are WCAG and Their Compliance Levels?**

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) are rules to make web content accessible to everyone. They have three levels:

Level A: Basic requirements for accessibility.

Level AA: Fixes the most common accessibility problems.

Level AAA: The highest level, which is harder to achieve.

- **Supportive tools and technologies for people with disabilities.**

Screen readers

Screen magnifiers

Alternative input devices

Voice recognition software

Keyboard navigation

2. Analysis Example:

Choose a website that you use frequently (for example, a social network or educational site). Briefly evaluate its accessibility. Reply:

- **Is it possible to navigate with just the keyboard?**

Yes, YouTube allows navigation using the keyboard. Tab key navigation cycles through links, buttons, and video controls. There are also specific shortcuts for video playback

- **Do the colors have good contrast?**

Generally, YouTube uses high-contrast designs for text and background. However, there may be instances of low contrast in certain banner ads or thumbnails, which could impact users with visual impairments.

- **Is the content clear and organized?**

Yes, YouTube organizes its content well, with clear sections such as the search bar, recommended videos, and user playlists. However, the abundance of advertisements can sometimes clutter the interface.

- **Is the design clear?**

The design is intuitive, with clear icons, a well-defined menu, and responsive layouts that adapt well to different devices.

- **Do they include subtitles in the videos?**

Yes, YouTube provides closed captioning for most videos. Many videos also include auto-generated captions, although these can sometimes lack accuracy.

- **Do they include feedback or notifications?**

Yes, YouTube provides feedback and notifications, such as when a user uploads a video, subscribes to a channel, or receives comments. These are displayed clearly in the notification bell or within the user's account dashboard.

3. Result: Accessibility Strengths and Weaknesses of YouTube

Strengths:

- **Keyboard navigation:** Comprehensive support with dedicated shortcuts.
- **Closed captioning:** Extensive support for captions, including auto-generated ones.
- **Organized content:** Well-structured interface with logical navigation.
- **High contrast:** Most of the interface uses colors with adequate contrast.
- **Responsive design:** Works well across various devices and screen sizes.
- **Notifications:** Clear feedback and notification system for user interactions.

Weaknesses:

- **Auto-generated captions:** Often inaccurate, especially for videos with complex speech or accents.
- **Ad clutter:** Advertisements can disrupt the clarity and organization of the interface.
- **Color contrast issues:** Some thumbnails or banners may not meet WCAG AA standards.
- **Screen reader optimization:** While accessible, certain elements (e.g., dynamic video thumbnails) could be better optimized for screen readers.