

Assignment 4B
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Word Count: 999

Write a 750-1000-word reflection that responds to the following question: **To what degree did you use effectively (or, perhaps, did you fail to use effectively) one or more of the concepts presented to help you craft your popular argument in Essay #4A?**

For my research paper from Assignment 3 I looked into the current state of JavaScript libraries for frontend web development. Specifically, I looked into which of the popular libraries out there are truly worth a developers time and effort. The three main libraries that currently have a share in the market are Angular, React, and Vue.js; although, Angular is now a library of the past so I decided not to include it in my evaluation. In this evaluation I touched on various aspects that one would be looking for in a frontend library like the overall usability, technical performance, and future opportunity. There are a few existing library evaluations out there that I based my own on such as those by Dash Magazine [2], and Yogev Ahuvia [3]. All of these points came together in my final decision to highlight which library best enabled the developer to focus on the content of their work rather than struggling with the tooling. By taking the main claim from my research paper arguing that React is a better frontend JavaScript library than Vue.js and remixing it into an informational photo gallery website, I was able to effectively apply concepts presented by Crowley and Hawhee such as the difference between theoretical vs practical and the importance of knowing your audience to my previous research.

In the piece “Stasis theory: Asking the Right Questions” Crowley and Hawhee discuss the difference between theoretical and practical questions: “Unlike theoretical questions, which

address the origins and natures of things, practical questions always concern what people should do” (Crowley 56). Crowley and Hawhee clearly define the contrast between the two terms as abstract vs real and when applied to the situations of everyday life, practicality typically proves more useful than theory does. My previous research paper for Assignment 3B touched on various aspects that I think should weigh heavily into the decision process of choosing a frontend JavaScript framework; many focusing on the theoretical features of each choice rather than the practical application of them. One of the main points that I argued was important to factor in to the decision was the usability from a developers perspective. This is the most practical quality to that paper and it is for this reason that I expanded on it with this remix assignment. In doing so it allows me to directly confront each framework and properly evaluate it from the point of view of those who will actually use it in their everyday lives. Because my remixed assignment integrated the concept of practicality into my previous theoretical research, the final product serves as a more useful tool to developers searching for answers on which frontend library should they choose.

The second concept brought to light by Crowley and Hawhee in their piece “” then incorporated into my remix assignment is the notion of knowing who your audience is in order to better suit your work towards their needs. Crowley and Hawhee detail this concept in the following passage:

“Of course any decision you make about the level of generality at which you will pursue an issue is always affected by the rhetorical situation for which you are composing. Who is the audience for the paper or speech? What is the setting? How does the audience feel

about the issue? What do they know already, and what will the rhetor have to tell them”
(Crowley 59).

Here Crowley and Hawhee say that if you want to really connect with your audience, you must first know who that is and everything about them. This concept directly translates into my remixed assignment because since I am apart of the target audience that I built a website for, I know exactly which direction to focus the content. Not only does belonging to the group that I am targeting this remixed assignment at give me a considerable advantage to be able to go through the creation process, but it also enables me to highlight the areas that matter most to a frontend web developer. Having past experience dealing with some of the libraries that I’m currently evaluating allows me to make a better informed decision regarding the problem itself. Because of this I can identify certain weak points that each library has compared to the other. From my research and personal experiences, it is clear that if you want to make a more complex web app that has a ton of support from the community, React is the library to choose. But on the other hand, if you have a simple app or need a small bundle size to speed things up, Vue.js is the way to go. Each of the libraries has both its advantages and disadvantages but at the end of the day the right library for a developer depends on the project they intend to use it for. By going through exactly what my target audience would have to go through, I have essentially cut out all the research from a developers perspective and provided a basic guide on how to choose a library depending on the situation that they’re in. This in turn allows other developers to spend less time researching what library they should use and more time actually using a library to build their application. Knowing exactly what my audience is looking for has allowed me to take my

previous research about the subject and present it in a quick and easy to understand manner that's specifically tailored to frontend web developers.

By actually applying my research to a real life example and walkthrough I was able to take the theoretical information and convert it into practical knowledge. The concept of knowing your audience also shaped the content of the remixed project and allowed me to better tailor the information to frontend web developers, much like myself. Overall, I believe that I effectively integrated the concepts of theoretical vs practical and knowing your audience in the transition between my previous research paper to my remixed website.

Work Cited:

[1] Crowley and Hawhee, "Stasis Theory: Asking the Right Questions"

[2] Dash magazine, "React vs. Vue", September 11, 2018

[3] Yogev Ahuvia, "React vs. Vue (vs. Angular)", June 28, 2018