

Brooklyn Wakefield

Mrs. Letourneau

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Quarter 1 Report of Progress

In my action plan for this quarter, I outlined 3 main objectives. I was to decide on the topic of my website, plan details of contents included, and start the early development process through a rough outline of the visuals. The first task I took on was deciding on a topic for the website. I wanted a meaningful purpose for the website, to help other high school students. I found during the difficult college search process that there isn't a website that exists to search for schools specific to their financial aid. As a first-generation college student from a low-income household, the percentage of demonstrated financial need is one if not the most important factor when considering colleges. I have also seen that other students lack equal access to college resources, making the financial aid process confusing and overwhelming leading to some of my friends to give up on the college process entirely. My idea is to add additional information along with the college search function to simplify the college process or at least provide suggestions of good resources to help students.

It is possible the focus of the website might possibly transition as I begin coding. The programming for a search engine for all colleges or at least New England schools seems like a challenging task to take on. If the process becomes too overwhelming I could resort to making the website a directory for college resources. For now, my plan includes the college search feature that will be a database of schools with the school's specific financial aid information including the percentage of demonstrated financial need. I wanted to include additional financial

information about schools but I want to wait until I start coding; I don't want to overwhelm myself with too high of goals in case it proves too difficult.

Next, I started to think of the basic visuals of the website. I used PowerPoint to create a basic outline of the website. I also looked around at HTML websites like w3schools for the basic code for a template. Looking at the samples of other website's layouts helped give a good starting ground to begin coding. Although I haven't started coding my website I adjusted some basic code from templates I found around the web to find what designs were most virtually appealing and functional. It is important that the website be accessible to everyone therefore the template that I follow must be user-friendly. I was considering using a basic top navigation bar with a drop-down menu feature since I have used a similar style for my AOIT digital portfolio and student website, plus the top navigation bar is one of the simplest user navigation options I've seen to code and also is more simple for users to navigate. On the webpages, some of the included content might be a list feature as well as iframes or at least a directory of links since many websites aren't compatible with the iframe feature. Links or iframes would lead users to helpful websites for financial aid resources. For the college search feature included on the website, I wanted to find a way to have the information pulled from a spreadsheet. I found through my research that there is a way to do this if you use excel and implement it into an iframe. I now have to either find a spreadsheet online with the information I need already included or create on myself and have to enter information about colleges manually.

The finalized product of my website is bound to change as I start coding but the main idea of the website is going to stay the same. The core function of the website is to help high school students with the confusing college search process including the financial aspect. Through

more research on HTML features, I hope that my idea for my website will become more achievable.