Creative Project 1 - Reflection

Overview

This term, we are introducing a small written component to help students get started, reflect on their development process, and reflect on trade-offs and concepts covered in class that you ran into during your creative projects. These are not designed to take a significant amount of time, but to reinforce your understanding of key web concepts beyond just the source code and end result. For CP 1, this is an optional section (eligible for extra credit, max 100%) to demonstrate an understanding of the concepts covered so far, a reflection of your development process, and anything else you'd like to include. You're welcome to include DOM trees, diagrams, resources you found helpful (also helpful for us to know!) etc. Students may find this a good resource to have already done when building a portfolio for job/internship applications or GitHub.

Instructions

Make a copy of this document for writing your answers and submit as cp1-reflection.pdf **in your CodePost submission** to be eligible for any extra credit. Any additional files, such as DOM tree drawings, can be added in the Github repo for this assignment (we will refer to them with this document).

Reflection Questions

We've started off some recommended questions, but you may change or add to them.

Motivation (1-2 sentences)

How did you choose your topic? Did you find any inspiration from lectures, peer discussions, or other websites you've interacted with?

I chose my topic because I've been on the summer internship hunt since November to little avail. I hoped creating a portfolio to display my projects and experience could help with that.

Separation of Concerns (1-2 sentences)

A key learning objective of this unit is to understand the "separation of concerns" in web development, which will continue to be a theme as we build up to full-stack development. Why is it better to separate CSS from HTML (linked in the <head>)?

Separating CSS from HTML makes the file cleaner, easier to maintain, and more efficient by allowing consistent styling across multiple pages and allowing for caching.

HTML5 Semantic Tags

Why is it important to choose tags appropriately (semantics over style)? What is at least one example you ran into where you weren't sure which tag was the better choice between two options?

Choosing tags based on semantics rather than style is important because it makes the HTML more accessible and easier to read and maintain.

For example, there was a case where I wasn't sure if I should use a div tag or an article tag, and chose div because it was a more general container for layout purposes that I could use across all the pages eventually.

Design, Implement, Test, Iterate

This section encourages students to build awareness of different user experiences and the impact of small changes made in HTML/CSS. It also gives more practice thinking about separation of concerns between HTML and CSS.

Show someone your webpage (a friend, Discord, etc.) and ask for feedback (don't worry about how it looks/etc. this is your first project :)). Think content, responsiveness on different screen sizes, design (a word that refers to any of aesthetics, usability, readability, etc.), creativity, etc. What do they like? What are 2 suggestions they'd have to change/add? Would you need to change the content (text, images, etc.), HTML, and/or the CSS to implement those changes?

They like:

The organized layout of the grid style with the bordered image.

2 Suggestions:

- One suggestion for readability was to have every bit of text that the cursor hovers over light up.
- Another suggestion was to make it so that the background of each grid item changes to reflect the back (more for aesthetic purposes than accessibility purposes).

Would I need to change?:

The content and HTML stayed the same, it just took the CSS changing.