Project 1 – Informative Web Page

# Synopsis of assignment

Your task is to create an informative web page in which you will combine a researched essay with HTML and CSS. The topic of the essay will be the history of computing. Below, you will find a list of people, terms, and items which should appear in your narrative. You will also find a list of HTML and CSS techniques that I would expect to find in your page. Lastly, you will be provided with a rubric detailing the specifics of how your work will be graded. You will work on this project individually, but you are certainly encouraged to collaborate your efforts with others in the class. Just make sure that your final submission is uniquely yours. You should be able to complete this assignment in class as I will provide you with a number of days (to be determined, and not necessarily contiguous) to work on it. During this time, I am always available as a resource for questions and guidance. The ultimate goal is that you incorporate your own creativity in the final result. Don’t be afraid to experiment with different ideas. The final product will be a single web page with a formatted essay, included a title, your name, the essay itself, images, links, and references in APA format.

# Notable people, terms, and items in computing history

You may choose whether to focus on the modern era (20th century and forward) or go back further. I would expect to find SOME of the following people, terms, and events in your final product:

Abacus Antikythera mechanism torquetum astrolabe

John Napier Herman Hollerith IBM Marian Rejewski

Charles Babbage punch cards Ada Lovelace Bernoulli numbers

Konrad Zuse Alan Turing ENIAC FORTRAN

COBOL Spacewar BASIC Hewlett-Packard

Intel ARPANET UNIX C/C++

Pong Motorola Apple Commodore

Atari MS-DOS TCP/IP Pascal

Apple 2e Microsoft Bill Gates Steve Jobs

Further, there are countless other people, terms, and items you may choose. Many of the above will lead you to others you might choose. I’m leaving it up to you to choose what you want to incorporate or focus on.

Note: The focus of this paper should really be the time period up through the early years of personal computing (1980s/1990s). There have simply been too many events over the past 20 years for meaningful research past this point. I’m really looking for an exploration of the dawn of early computing through the launch of personal computers. If there is a particular area or time period you wish to focus on, that’s perfectly fine. Just tie it in to the bigger picture. For example, if you’re interested in how computing played a role in coding and decoding messages during World Wars I and II, you can focus on that, but just explain how that contributed to advancements of later decades. Similarly, if you’re interested in mechanical computing devices from the late 19th century, such as those of Charles Babbage, you may focus your essay on that, but just explain how 19th century mechanical computing influenced the 20th century and onward.

# Key html and css techniques

I would expect to see some of the following in your final product:

1. HTML5 containers (<article>, <header>, <footer>, etc.)
2. Hyperlinks to sources or related content
3. Images of at least two or three of the key people and/or items from above
4. Basic HTML tags such as <head>, <body>, <title>, <table>, <p>, etc. as needed and appropriate

# References

Any information that you obtain from sources on the web must be cited. We’ll use APA style for formatting, and here is a link that you can reference for how to do this:

<http://libguides.collegeofsanmateo.edu/c.php?g=308245&p=2058846>

I would expect about 1-2 sources for this assignment. We’ll discuss this further in class, as needed.

# Web essay example

To get a better idea of what a web-based essay looks like, please review the essay “The Evolution of Gaming” by Tyler Palef:

<http://imagearts.ryerson.ca/tpalef/?p=166>

Note: This example is a bit more complex than what I’m asking you to do, but feel free to use “view source” on the HTML to get ideas for your own.

# Due dates

To better manage the deliverables of this assignment, it will be due in installments rather than all at once. Here are the due dates for each piece:

Rough draft of the essay

This is not code, but just an APA formatted essay of 500-1000 words (about 1-3 double-spaced pages). The rough draft should include references DUE: 8/26

Initial HTML page including essay content

This is just the basic html (<html>, <head>, <body>, and <p> (paragraph) tags with the

rough draft of the essay and APA references added DUE: 8/31

Final product

This includes stylistic changes using CSS and any additional formatting to improve the

appearance of the content DUE: 9/2