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Professor Flynn

ENGCMP 0610

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Creator Statement and Project Reflection

**Introduction and Reflection:**

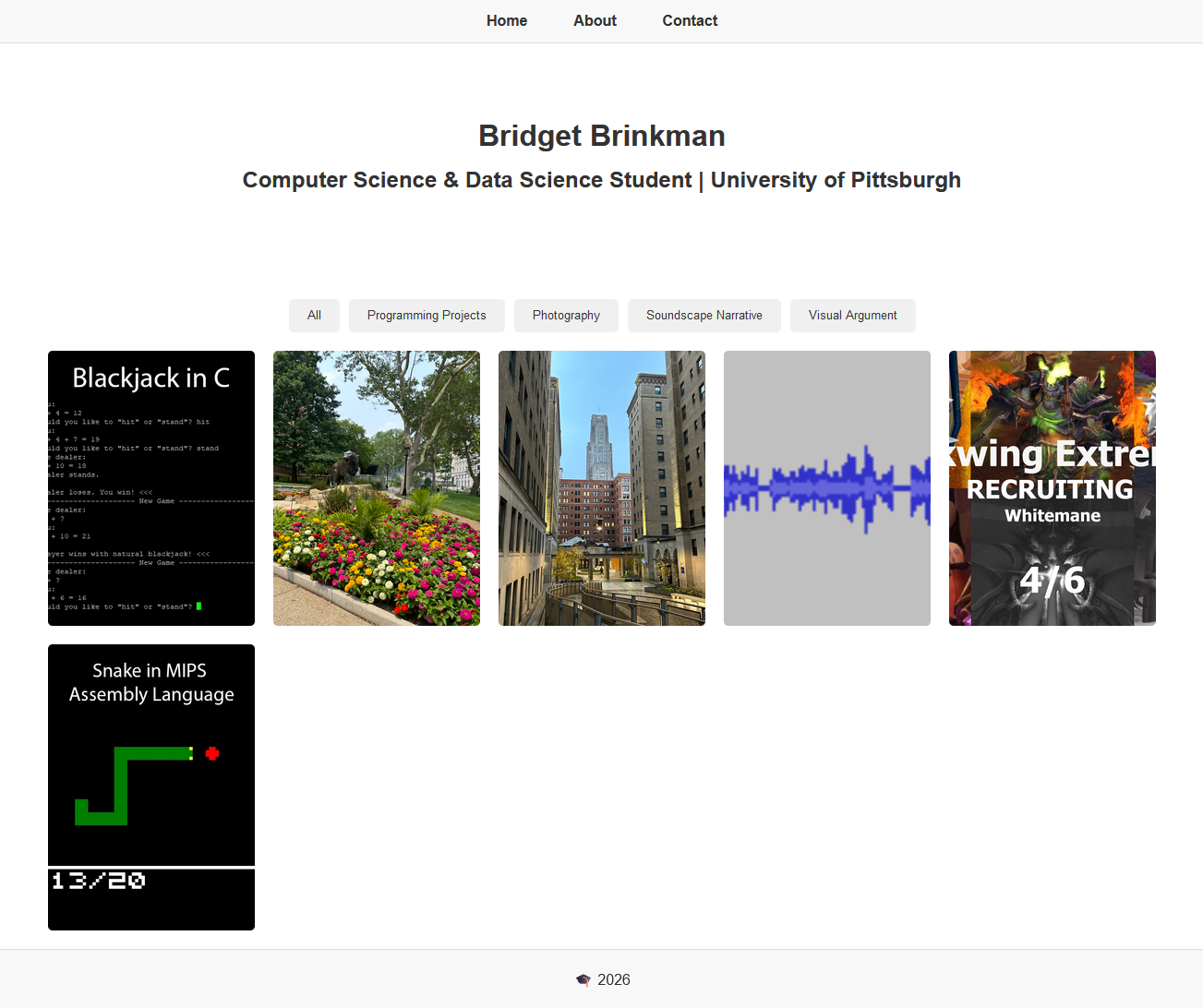
In my project, I created a hybrid job-seeking/personal project storage web portfolio using HTML/CSS. My intention was to design my site in a modular way to store more projects as I continue to create them during my junior and senior years at Pitt. I will add more project links on the homepage as time goes on. The two main qualities I want to showcase on my site are my coding projects and my artistic skills and personality. I want employers to get a sense of the “meat and potatoes” of my computer science education, along with who I am as a person and what I would contribute to the company and workplace (the delicious spice).

I think accompanying my code with multimedia elements like images, videos, and vibrant colors will help people browsing my site remember a storytelling scenario associated with my projects. As my website stands right now, I was unable to get the JavaScript elements working for my filter buttons. There aren’t many project navigation icons right now, so I am not too pressed that I was unable to get that functionality working. Users of my site should not have a problem navigating to see my current projects.

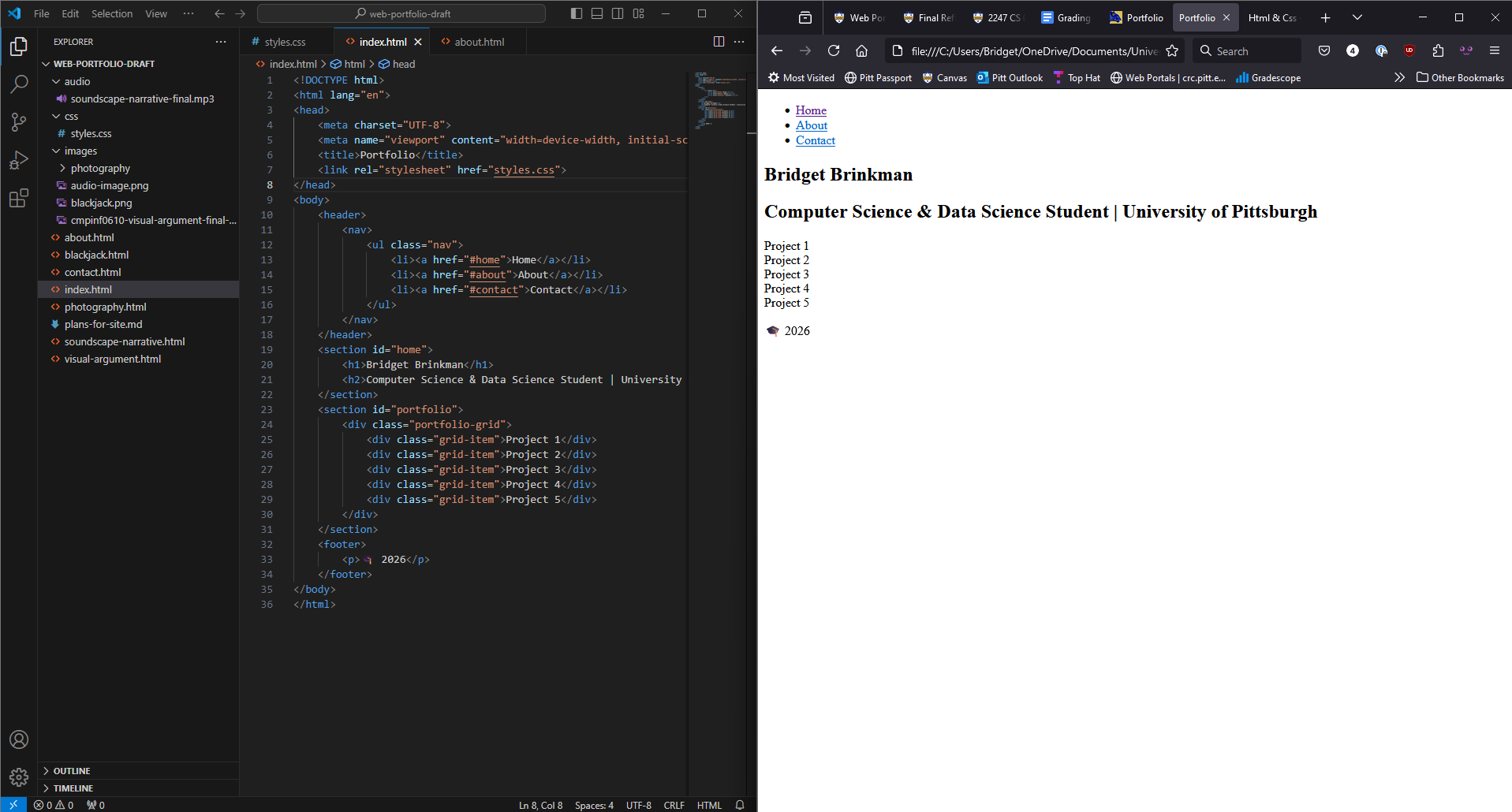
For aesthetics, I went with a simple black-and-white theme, with touches of gray to give the skeleton of my site a bit of life. I wanted the general structure to be very clear to understand and navigate. On the other hand, my icons are vibrant; they remind me of gems with how they stand out against the colorless background of my site. I want viewers to be drawn to click on icons to explore my projects. I designed my site with flex and blocks to keep content symmetrically placed and to dynamically adjust to the page for usability purposes, such as if users are on different-sized monitors or devices.

The most important rhetorical goal of my site is to showcase my education to land a summer internship or job. It’s key for me to demonstrate my programming knowledge and skills with various programming languages such as Java, C, HTML/CSS, and assembly language, as well as technologies like Audacity, GIMP, UNIX, and Windows. It is important to me to show off my personality and my other life skills to convey that I will be a sought-after candidate for a job.

**The Final Product:**



**The Process:**

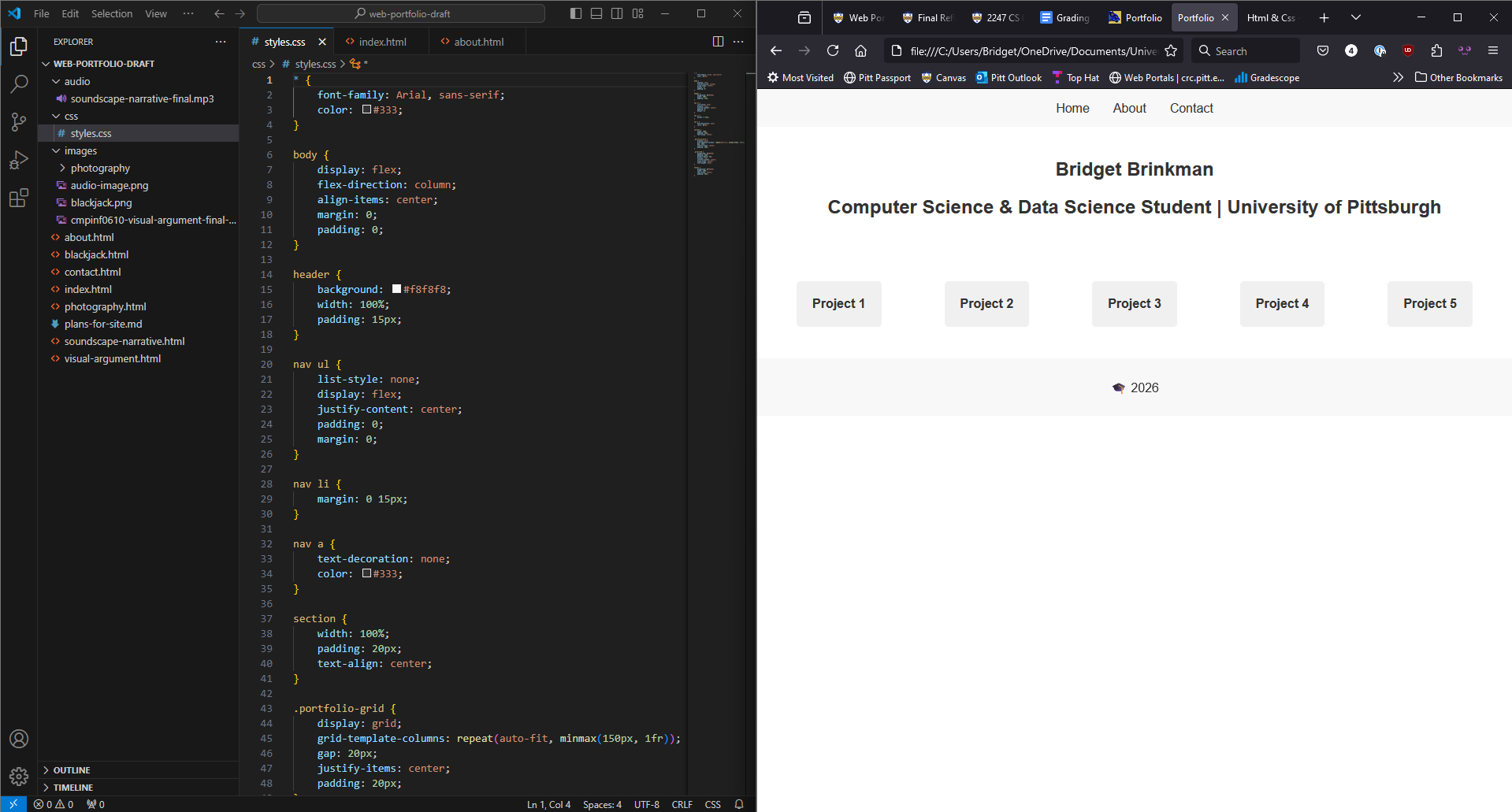


Creating the basic skeleton structure of the site

Creating basic folders and HTML files

Head filled with the meta tags, title, and a link to the CSS stylesheet.

Body filled with a header, a main home section, and grid for projects, and a footer.



Applying the CSS

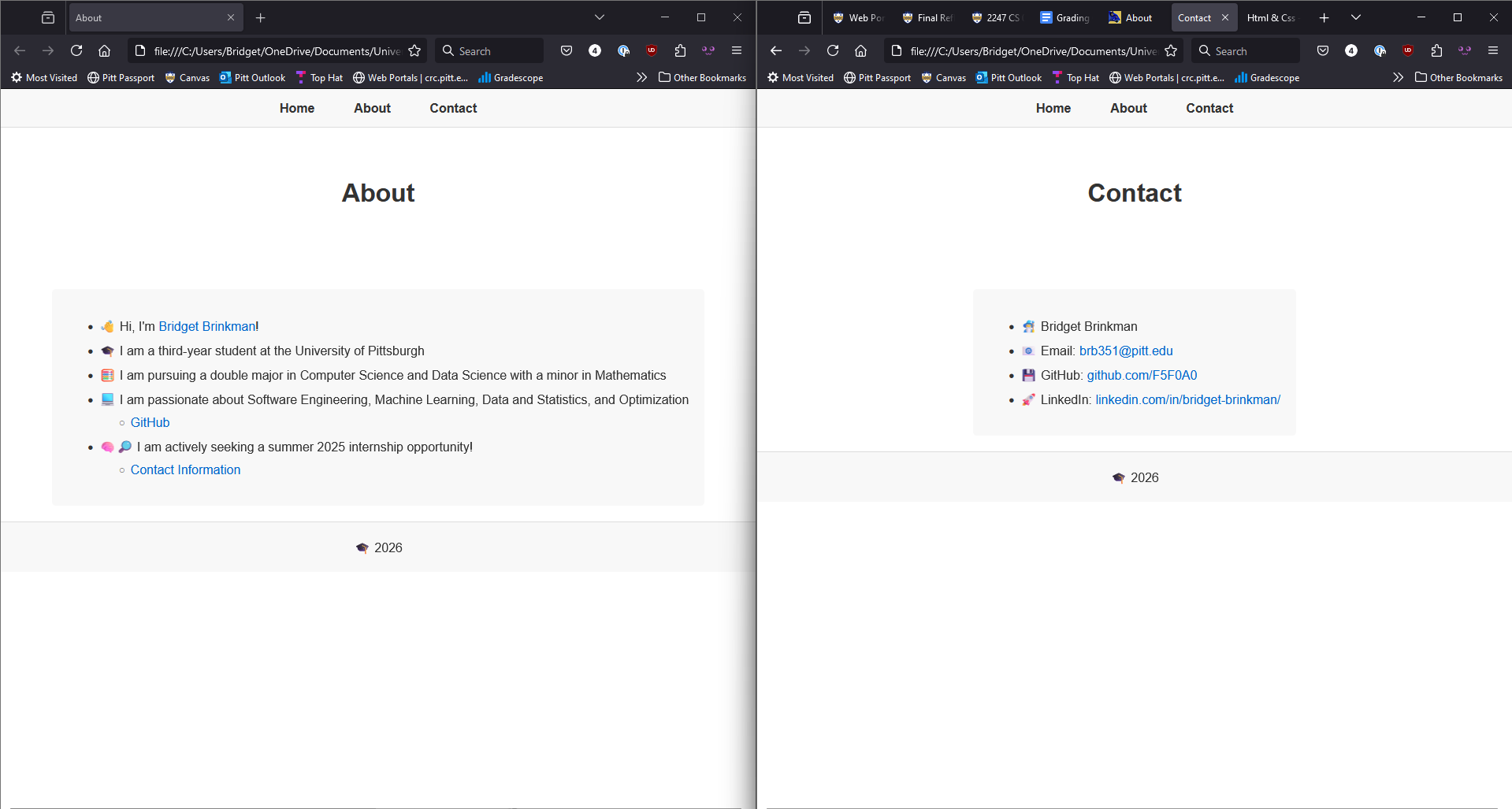
Chose Arial font and sans-serif for good web reading. Chose dark gray color (instead of black) to be easier on the eyes, and a less-harsh contrast against the white background. Wanted a simple black and white feel, with shades of gray to soften the harshness.

Used flexbox layout to adapt to different screen sizes and devices. Centered items for symmetry. Used horizontal and vertical flexboxes.

Chose a light gray for the background of the header, footer, and the grid elements, to spatially distinguish them from the background to create good whitespace balance.

Created a modular grid layout to fill with thumbnail icons that preview the projects each grid item will link to (a separate HTML page for each grid item). I will fill the grid items with some of my programming projects, and other fun modules like photos I’ve taken around campus, and my soundscape narrative and visual argument.

The CSS was the most difficult part of the project since there are so many creative things possible with CSS. My CSS got a little messy toward the end of the project, where I felt like I had to tack on way too much extra code that could be simplified if I was more familiar with the language.

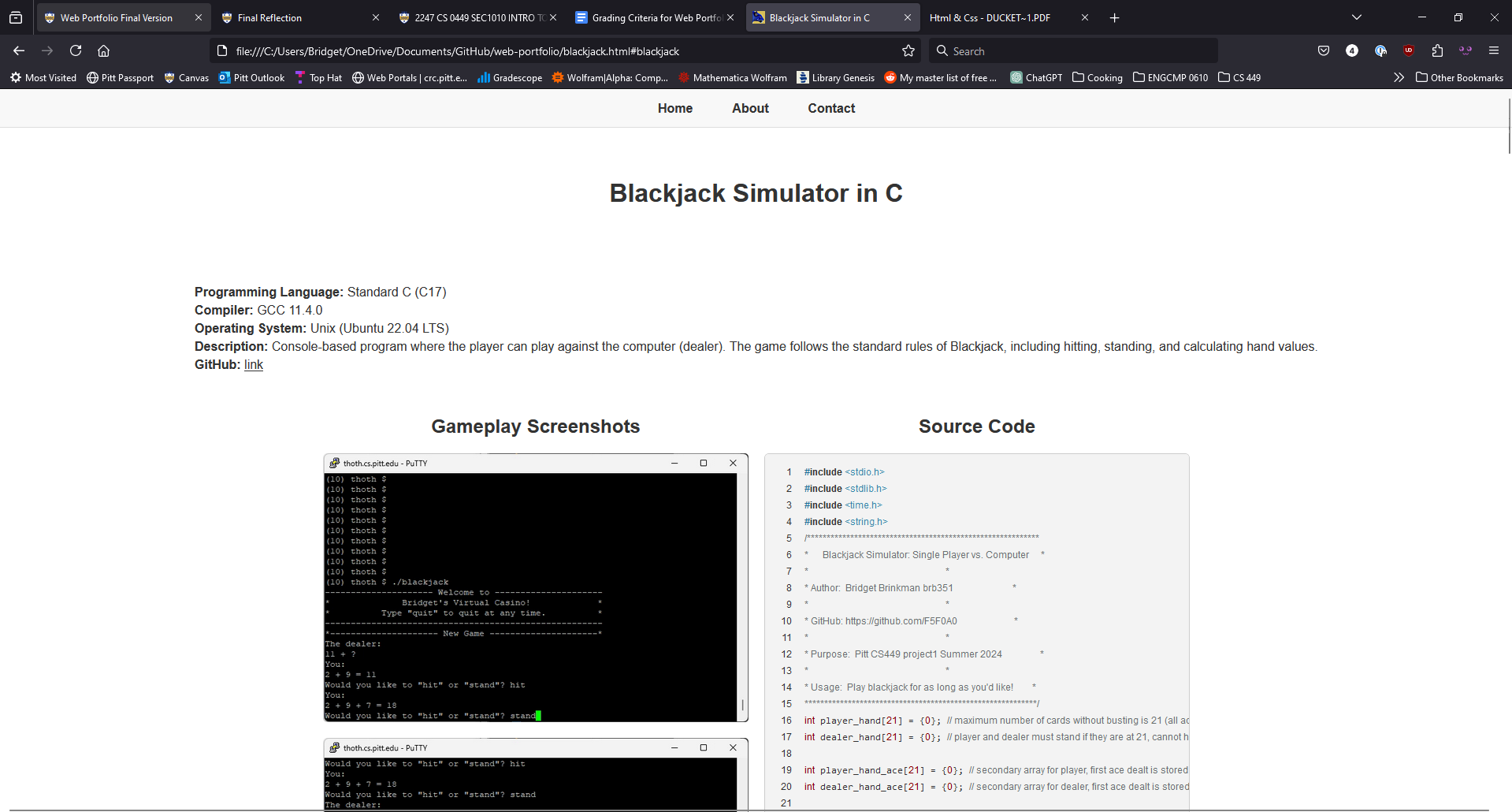


“Twin pages” - about and contact

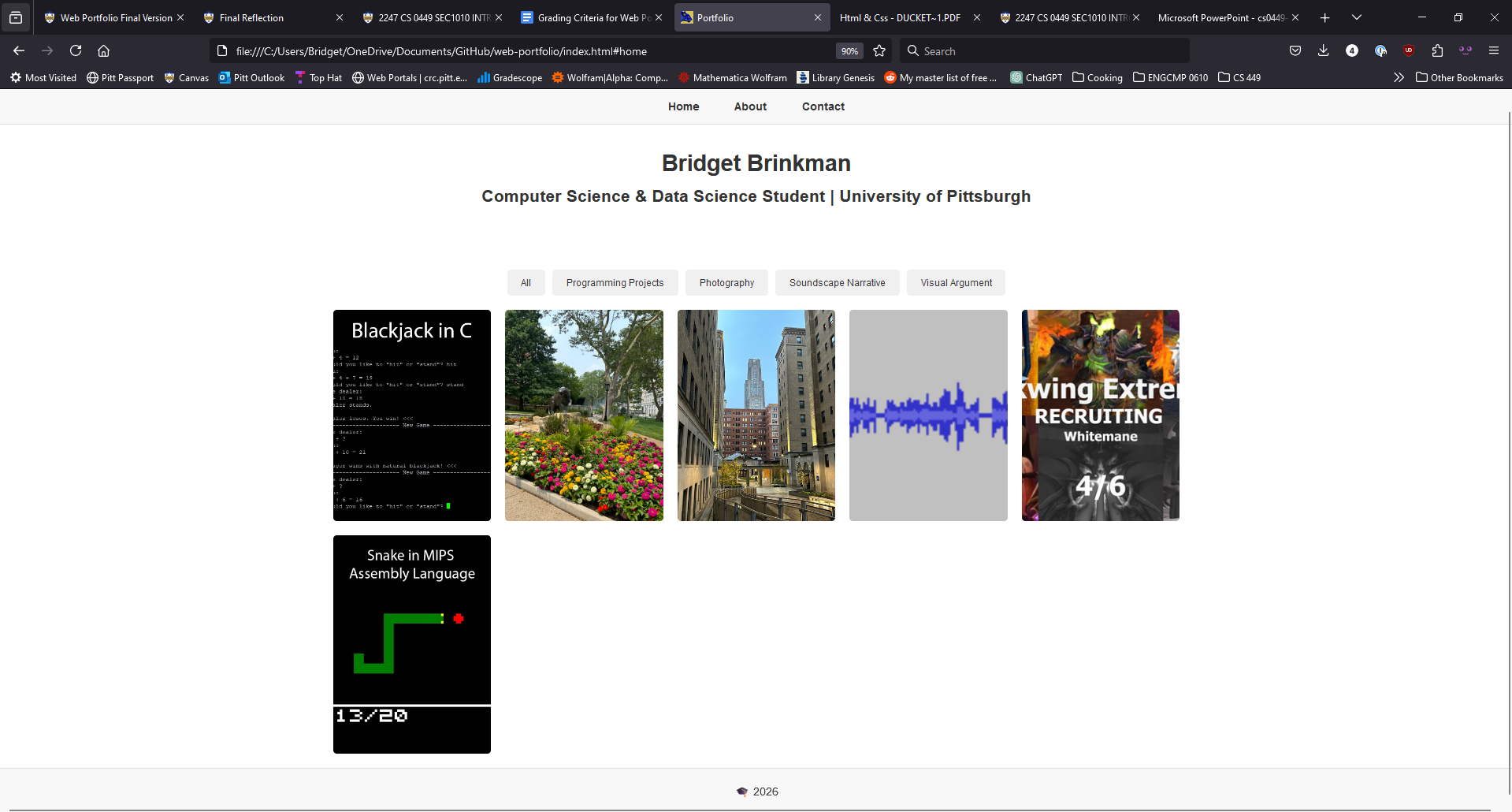
I wanted both pages to have an identical styling and layout.

I worked diligently on creating descriptive yet brief information sections for both pages.

I added emojis to make the pages fun, to balance out the plain text and color scheme (otherwise boring page). I wanted to use a nice balance of text and images to create a basic yet fun site.



I structured my programming project pages with a screenshot or gameplay recording section and a source code section. Viewers of my site can see how my code runs and get a behind-the-scenes peak at my quality of code writing. Linking my GitHub is crucial for employers to see my projects and what languages they are in. Employers can also see my code on GitHub.



The final product

Modular site that allows navigation through the top bar and through clickable thumbnail icons. Small favicon icon has been added along with other small polishing details. The central thumbnails play a critical role in drawing attention to my projects and supporting my rhetorical goal of showcasing my technical and creative skills.