Bridget Brinkman

Professor Flynn

ENGCMP 0610

20 June 2024

Creator Statement and Project Reflection

**Introduction and Reflection:**

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 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 spice.” I maintained a balance between text and images by using a plain grayscale text theme contrasted by colorful, vibrant clickable grid images for navigation around my site. I aimed to balance these two aspects 50/50 to create a visually pleasing site.

On my individual coding project pages, I paired embedded code segments with multimedia elements like images and videos that showcase my code in action. I showcase two games that I created: Snake in MIPS Assembly language and Blackjack in C language. I believe that by accompanying plain source code with visual examples of the code in action, visitors to my site will remember a storytelling scenario associated with my projects.

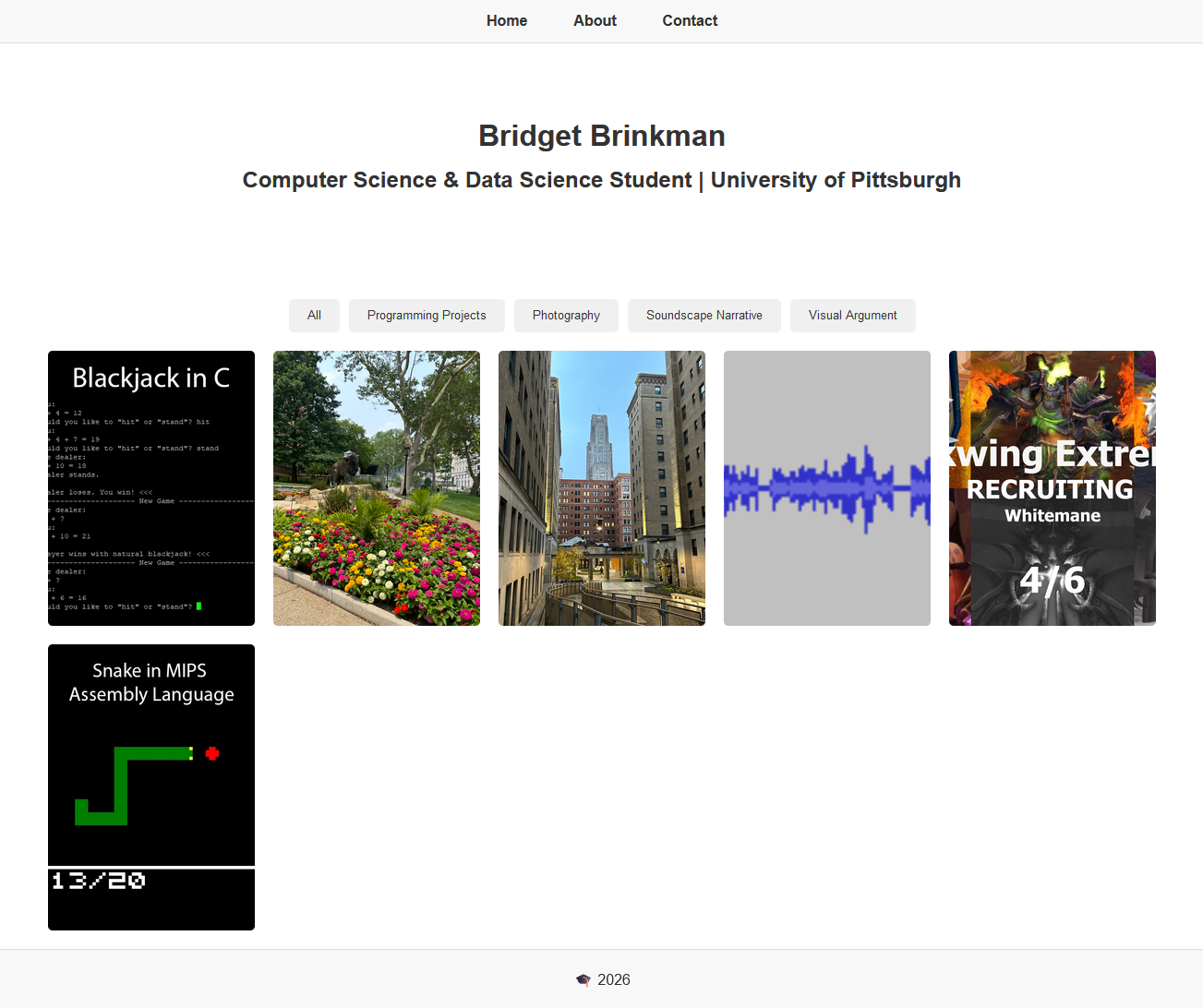
For aesthetics, I went with a simple grayscale theme. I chose grayscale instead of black-and-white to give the skeleton of my site a bit of life. I wanted the general structure to be very clear to understand and navigate. On the other hand, my icons are vibrant; they remind me of gems with how they stand out against the grayscale background. I want viewers to be drawn to click on icons to explore my projects. I designed my site with flexbox and block CSS styling to keep content symmetrically placed and to dynamically adjust to the page for usability purposes. It is important to me to have my site meet accessibility and usability standards so everyone can enjoy it. I did not want any design aspect of my site to hold anyone back from viewing my projects, whether users are on different-sized monitors, computers, browsers, devices, or for users with disabilities.

The most important rhetorical goal of my site is to showcase my education to land a summer internship or job. It is 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 an internship.

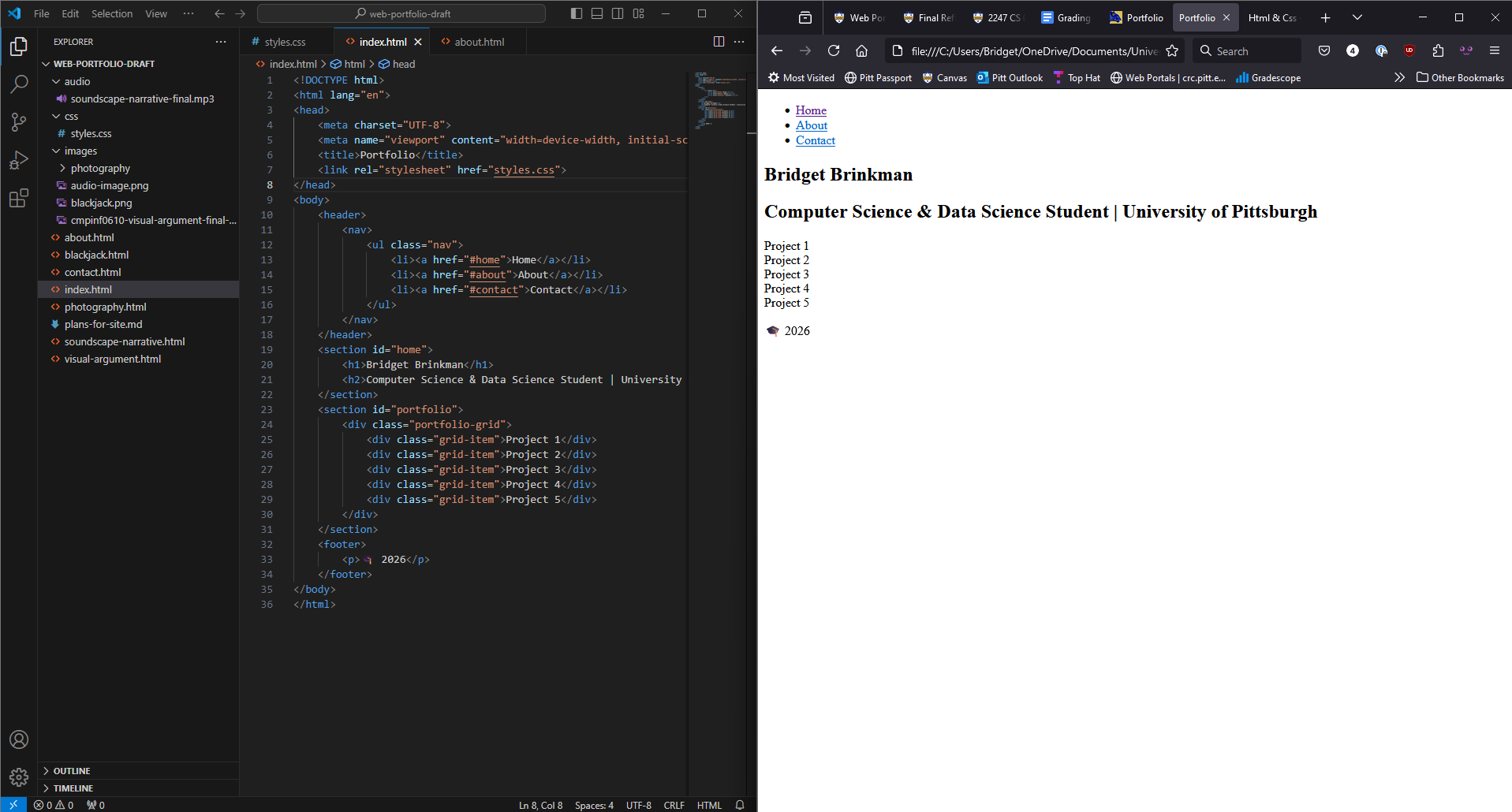
One feature I want to improve on my site in the future is the clickable JavaScript buttons on the homepage. As I add more clickable grid icons when I develop more projects, the homepage may become more cluttered, and visitors may want to filter the grid icons by categories, such as programming projects, photography categorized by year, non-CS projects (such as for Composing Digital Media), etc. 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 users of my site should not have a problem navigating to see my current projects.

Overall, I think I accomplished my goal to create a visually pleasing and aesthetic website that is easy to navigate and showcases my skills and personality. I look forward to maintaining my site in the future, especially with the GitHub web hosting. I want to link my site to my friends and family. I have learned a lot of skills this semester in class that helped me bring my vision to life.

**The Final Product:**



**The Process:**

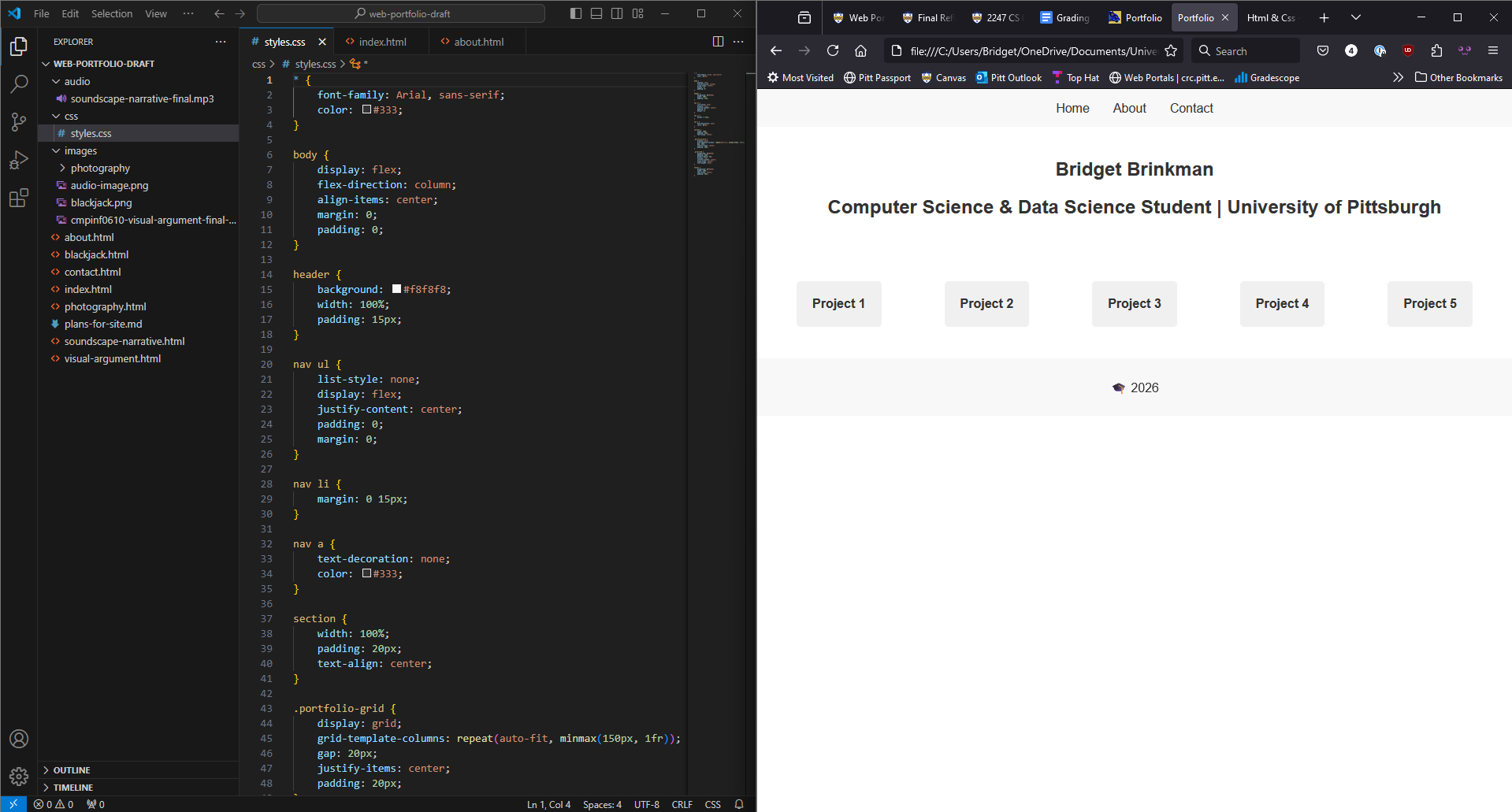


Creating the basic skeleton structure of the site

Creating basic folders and HTML files.

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

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



Applying the CSS

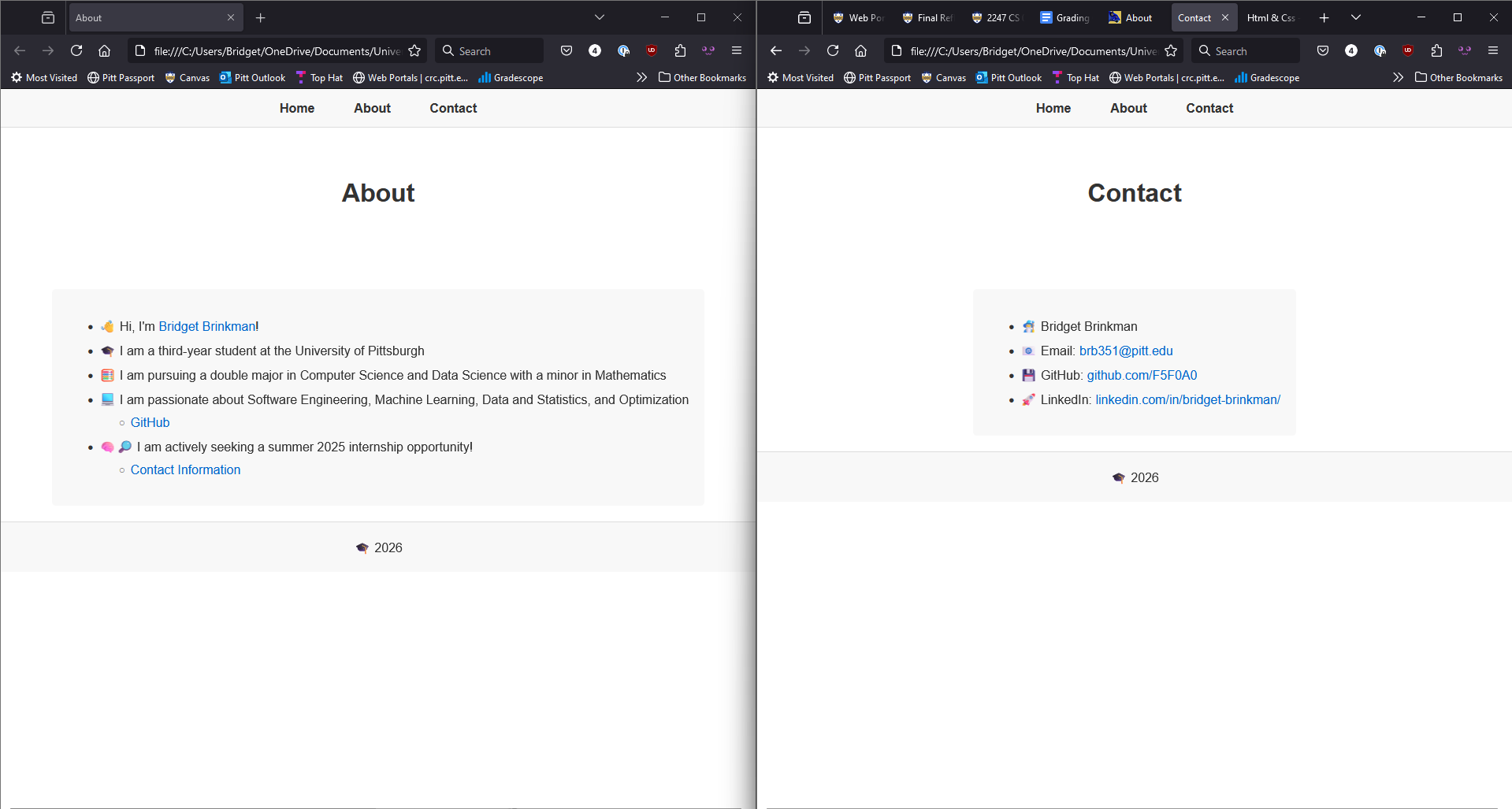
Chose Arial font and sans-serif for good web reading. Chose dark gray color (instead of black) to be easier on the eyes and less harsh against the white background. Wanted a simple grayscale feel.

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

Chose light gray for the background of the header, footer, and grid elements to spatially distinguish them from the background and 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, my soundscape narrative, and visual argument.

The CSS was the most difficult part of the project since there are so many creative possibilities 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 were more familiar with the language.

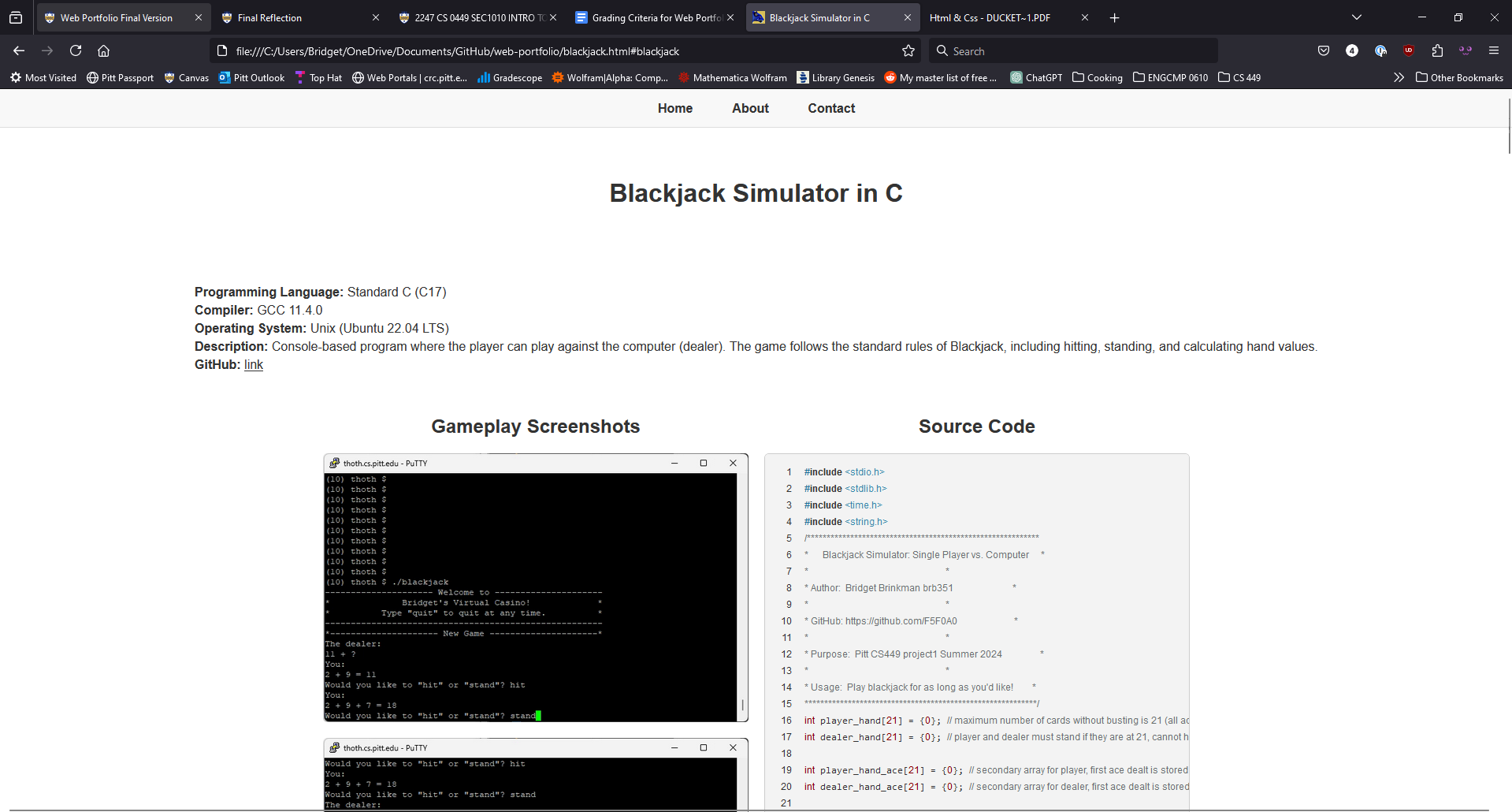


“Twin pages” - About and Contact

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

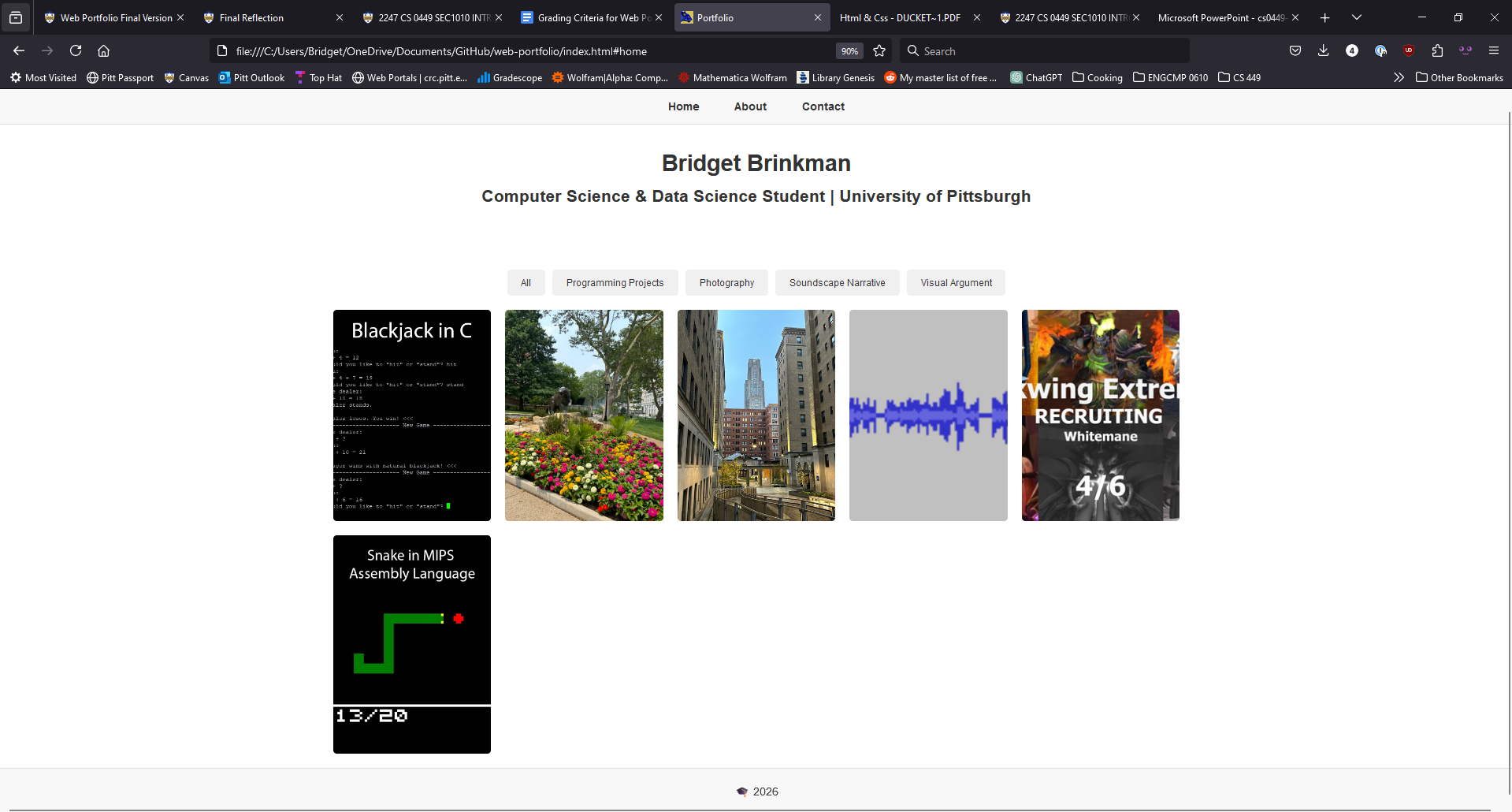
I worked diligently on creating descriptive yet brief information sections for both pages.

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



Programming Project Pages

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 peek at the quality of my code writing. Linking my GitHub is crucial for employers to see my projects and the languages they are written in. Employers can also see my code on GitHub.



The final product

Modular site that allows navigation through the top bar and clickable thumbnail icons. A 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.