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Composing Digital Media

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Webslinging Reflection

I did the thing that I usually do, which is to make extremely lofty goals for myself and then be kind of disappointed when I don’t achieve everything I set out to do. If I had all the time in the world to figure out how to use media queries, and to make sure all of my colors were totally accessible, I would definitely do these things. But for today, it’s enough that I used a couple different flexbox attributes to align things, and learned about elements I wouldn’t usually need to use that can make for a more streamlined web site experience.

Before I began writing my site’s XML, I did the flexbox tutorial from “html/css is hard”. This is the tutorial we link to in our comp methods class, so I had skimmed it before. I liked how easy it was to build on from the beginning and it made me feel more confident than if I had just started in on my usual Stack Overflow route. It was a nice change to get a prose explanation, with well-defined, contextual code bites that don’t make vague reference to some wildly antiquated software. I should probably have a little more patience with things that say “tutorial” on them; they seem to be useful to me.

As far as struggles go, I feel like flexbox made it easier for me to focus on the actual design, an area that is less comfortable for me. After playing around with quite a few color palettes and iterations, I decided to go with this green and pink look in varying shades for subtle emphasis. I made the h1 and h2 elements black and they are all left-aligned, while subcategories are a darker shade of the background color. Along the top menu, these colors are more subdued, but on the pink background they’re much stronger. I really went back and forth about having the borders. Once I put the borders on all of the div boxes that divided content, I was sold.

I decided to include the tool and house icons, but I had a lot of trouble getting the house to align the way I wanted it. After a while, I just decided to leave it, as I had bigger content things that needed attention. If I revise, I’ll definitely find a better way to work with those. I like them, they’re just not right yet.

I decided to organize my content from least valuable to most valuable, but with clickable links so there wasn’t so much scroll. I think my organizational blocks serve to fulfill the content requirements as well as a non-proposal site can. My skills and projects are sort of the breakdown of labor aspect, I have a why in my About section, and I clearly state my goals. As it is now, I don’t have very much scroll on my page. This is one thing I really hate to do when I visit a site on my laptop, though I suppose designing for phones is different. The act of scrolling used to be easier when we always had a mouse, but I feel like scrolling with a laptop trackpad takes a lot of wrist movement. I haven’t read or thought much about this aspect of design outside of my own preferences, but it feels important to note that the way we interact with screens is likely to change in the next twenty years as much as it has in the past twenty.

My images are either owned by me or are cited in my HTML as comments. They’re both CC-0 attribution and are from Pixabay. There are URLs included in the comments. I hope this is what you meant by attribution in the content layer.

I don’t feel a need to go into why I used each element the way I did, as I am comfortable composing this way already. I hope my HTML could be styled differently and still make logical sense. I wanted to comment my CSS but things got away from me a bit. I tried to use descriptive markup where possible though, so hopefully things aren’t completely opaque. I definitely fulfilled the baseline technical requirements, but I’m a little murky on the content side of things because my proposal is not exactly a proposal. As for aspirational, I think I effectively made use of flexbox, I added a non-commercial attribution license, included a lot of links, and used a non-default font. I wish I’d had to time to ensure it was completely websafe and mobile device reactive, but those can come at a later date. I’m still unwilling to use a high luminosity contrast spot color. I just don’t like the way it looks, even on other sites. Instead, I decided to use black to emphasize headers and a softer color to de-emphasize subheaders. I realize that doesn’t count, but I don’t want it to seem like I didn’t try.