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WRA 210 002

Usability and Revision Report

Usability Process:

When discussing and mapping out the ideas of my design with my classmates, they found a few design choices that I had made could have been made better. Or simply, they could've not been made at all. The first and most reoccurring criticism the group had for me was that most of my pages were too content heavy – in a sense the design was too much for the reader to look at and fully comprehend. Another thing my classmates advised me to do was to take away the titles of each webpage. I agreed with this mostly because they are right in seeing much of my content was being repeated on several parts of the page. Therefore some of the initial designs I had thought would enhance my viewers experience were actually cluttering, and taking away, from his or her experience. So again, changes were made and agreed upon.

When speaking specifically with my professor, she only had two major critiques. Those were: the landing page is way too cluttered with content and the color designs were too bright and lacked contrast. We discussed deeply in class way in which I could fix these problems, which is where I came up with the solution of a slideshow. My teacher and I both pointed out I am obviously trying to make use of many images, and with modern technology a slideshow is the easiest way to do that! The other problem, my color palette, was equally as easy to solve. By using Colorate as a reference I was able to find a color palette that was balanced and appealing to the eye.

My Revisions:

To start off the revision process, I first started by declaring a new color scheme for my webpages. After finding a balanced palette on Colorate I was much more pleased with the overall design. The next step was to re-organize the landing page. This process required a few different steps. First, I swapped the side navigation for the top bar navigation in order to create more space for my content, and also to create consistency between pages. After moving my navigation I had to de-clutter the home page. Again there was a problem with information being repeated. Thus I cut out all unnecessary information and left only one paragraph (which sits underneath my slideshow) to describe who I am and what my aspirations are.

Many of the other, smaller, changes were made to my design such as deleting the home button that used to sit in the top right corner. Instead, I will be replacing that with the header as a home link. And Lastly, I added a submit button to my contact me page since I have designed it to be a form.

Reflection:

      I believe usability testing is a very important and influential part of the process of designing a website. It especially helped me to de-clutter my website and make it overall easier to navigate and use for my viewers. I know without the eyes of my classmates, roommates, and professor I would still be stuck with webpages that were too bright, had too much content, and overall lacked effective design. Now not to say all my previous design work was thrown to waste, but without the constructive criticism I received I'd still be barely staying afloat. Another thing too is that I believe providing feedback for others designs provided as much insight as getting feedback did. Moreover, by being able to look over other classmate's designs I was able to (*sneakily)* steal some key design points from their work as well. Moving into the future, I can clearly see how usability testing can be helpful for both design and actual online activity. Therefore I look forward to continuing this process and learning more and more what works best on the web.