John Knox 12/11/19

Final Assessment

To recap from the midterm assessment, I was unfamiliar with the techniques used to make websites. I wrote about how other courses I took in HTML weren’t structured properly and didn’t give me the opportunity to create my own style when building webpages. Your class has been very helpful to my understanding of website building as well as coding in general. I mentioned how I learned to use flex box and grid layouts in order to make my midterm website. However, since I was still learning the best way to use the display layouts, I tried to get the function correct rather than making the website look aesthetically appealing. It also took a long time to make the modular layouts I was looking for since I didn’t understand the best practices and techniques within CSS and HTML. It wasn’t until we learned JavaScript that I felt like my websites becoming beautiful not only on the front-end, but also back-end.

JavaScript gave me the power to make my websites as modular as I liked, without spending a lot of time customizing each DIV by hand. For my final project, my main goal was to heavily use the coding language to fill my webpages with content based on the buttons pressed in the pervious page. I accomplished this by creating JSON lists and placing the tag within the content entry string and splitting the two pieces in JavaScript. I would loop through the list and create the tags automatically and fill in the content based on the element I was creating. By creating a fast, and efficient way of creating my webpages, I was able to spend more time making the homepage look nice with my masonry grid layout, as well as make the whole website responsive.

I also learned some techniques outside of class. One example is when I have a fixed element in my webpage. Any content you want the “position: fixed” element to go over must be established before initializing the fixed element. I was able to help Gabriel with this problem with his home navigation bar during our critiques. Another thing I learned about was the difference between “position: absolute” and “position: relative”. Absolute means the coordinate position of an element is relative to the whole webpage, and relative means that an element’s position is associated with the parent tag. I explained this concept to Dominique during our critiques when stating her website could look more like a collage using this technique.

I’m glad I had the opportunity to not only learn a new skill, but also improve my skills as a coder with my JSON and JavaScript final. This class gave me the opportunity to create a website that I can use and easily update thanks to my newfound knowledge of JSON. I will continue to create websites for any future projects that require them as well as update my portfolio.