Web Fundamentals Reflection Essay

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In terms of design, I decided to use the original template from the previous labs to test the different colors, background images, and other specifications such as fonts/margins/padding, etc. I decided on a color scheme of dark red, black, and white with the background image sourced from Imgur under the search of "Dark Art Photography"- this choice reflected my personal aesthetic. The black and white elements were to ensure that the content was readable. Dark red was used to draw attention to the website's overall design. The navigation bar allowed easy guidance for users to the "Home", "About Me", "My Projects", and "Contact" sections.

The challenges are mainly focused on coding. The first issue was not being able to fix the home button on the navigation panel- I tested different ways and structures but still could not get the button to work. The second challenge was getting certain margins and padding inaccurate or not working out the way I expected as minuscule changes to them impacted the entirety of the design and I had to test out different sizes or alternatives such as changing it from margin-left to margin-right or adding in borders as well. Personally, the hardest challenges were the dark mode toggle and the dynamic gallery. For the dark mode toggle- I have tested out scripts from different websites and it still did not work for me (I could only implement the design and the toggle button). The dynamic gallery was a struggle in terms of figuring out the JavaScript issues and commands that must be synchronized with the HTML script. I could not include the text descriptions in the gallery and when trying different scripts for both HTML and JavaScript, the website's design would change.

I have learned the importance of structuring web content and how it is organized and presented, providing a responsive design with a planned color scheme and layout, and how to add interactivity aspects to the website. Personally, this assignment taught me how to troubleshoot and refine code when it does not work the first time around- leading to extensive research. This forced me to adapt my strategies to find creative solutions and different methods.

In the future, I will pay more attention and have patience in researching and implementing the code when I am unable to find a solution and find different ways to design the project- such as including fonts such as Gothic Old English, changing the cursor to emojis or image design and overall improving the look of the website. This includes evaluating the user interface design and finding ways to include interactive elements such as creative animations and unique buttons. I would also aim to improve the website's functionality with a personal section where I share my insights and updates on the projects I have done.

This project has piqued my interest in web development. Before I started this project, I just saw it as another assignment in terms of showcasing my existing skills and content that we have learned. However, as I learned more about HTML, CSS, and JavaScript – I started to take a deeper interest. I would say it is mostly from the creative aspect of designing the interface and the nature of web technologies. The creative process of designing and implementing the website has been my favorite part of the project as it allowed me to explore different design choices. Moreover, this project has taught me the importance of continuous learning and adaptability in the industry as there are always new frameworks and practices present. I look forward to improving my technical abilities and perhaps pursuing this interest.