

Overall, I found this project to be incredibly time consuming, but mostly due to my own experimenting and “messaging around”. Thus it was also very enjoyable. I began by watching some youtube tutorials by *TheNewBoston* and attempting to build my page from the ground up. I created navbars, sidebars, divs, columns, and rows by hand before deciding that it was more trouble than it was worth when I could just download a professional template for free and configure that. However, I do think that in that experimental phase I learned a lot that made it fairly easy for me to jump into a bootstrap template with a decent understanding of what was going on in the html.

Once I had downloaded a template (I chose the Landing Page theme from startbootstrap), my project went through two main iterations. In the first, I made some big mistakes that I will never repeat. Feeling slightly overconfident, I decided to dabble in the CSS of the template. While I didn’t actually change any of the properties, I did attempt to splice two templates together by copy/pasting html and css from the Agency theme (again from startbootstrap) and into the Landing Page theme. My motivation for this was wanting to add some degree of “originality” to my page. I didn’t want it to be a strict copy of someone else’s template. Therefore I changed the pictures and icons to ones I found online through search.creativecommons, and tried to mix and match parts of different templates. While this worked at first, it soon got confusing and overwhelming with strange class and id names that didn’t refer to what I expected them to. This also resulted in large blocks of useless code which attempted to modify headers, paragraphs, divs, etc that no longer existed because I had removed them and replaced them with something from another template. However, I did ultimately get everything to work. The final product looked quite nice and I set it aside to forget about until it was time to submit.

Later, in my free time I was browsing some more themes online when I found one that I immediately fell in love with. The theme was called RISE and it was a free download from ShapeBootstrap. The RISE theme felt much more dynamic and fluid with elements floating or fading in as you scroll down the page and with a banner picture that changed every 5 seconds or so. Essentially I completely reworked the assignment with this new template. I spent probably another 6 hours finding new pictures, rewriting/editing the text, and deciding which elements to keep and which elements to remove. I did not repeat the same mistake of mixing/matching themes except to take the facebook, twitter, and github formatted buttons from the landing page theme and insert them at the bottom of the RISE theme for the contact section.

After finding the RISE theme and beginning on my second iteration of the assignment, the most time consuming aspect was definitely in making small adjustments, such as repositioning the navbar menu elements after removing the RISE logo from the far left or making sure all of the list items under the “Who Am I” section of my page were displayed in an appealing fashion after taking out the other 5. While these were fairly simple fixes, for

someone relatively new to bootstrap they were very frustrating tasks that took way longer than they should have.

All in all, the project turned out very nicely and I couldn't be more pleased with it. My webpage was created using Brackets and tested successfully in Google Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer 10, and Microsoft Edge.