

Module 7

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WRA 210

From the usability process, I learned a lot about what designs other people found appealing, which was great to hear. I know what fonts and colors I like, so getting a second opinion on my color palette choices and typecard sample was very helpful. I was undecided about which colors I thought would work the best, and hearing other people's feedback helped me make my decision. It was also beneficial to show my peers what fonts I was considering and hearing from them which ones were most easily readable. I don't plan to have an excessive amount of text on my portfolio website, but it's still crucial that my audience can read everything on the page. My classmates made good suggestions about which font and color combinations might work the best together on a webpage, and I utilized some of their suggestions in my final design.

It was brought to my attention that the first palette samples I put together did not include a more subtle color that could be used as a background. For this reason, I altered the palette colors a bit and created a new palette with softer colors that I could use as a background and more dark colors that would function well as a header or subheader. I decided to ignore the advice I heard about adding another tab for contact information. Instead, I made sure to include that in my landing page where I will also have a short bio about my philosophy on design and environmental writing. I understand that it might be more obvious to have a page dedicated to just my contact information, but I felt like the page would be mostly blank and therefore a waste since I don't have a whole lot of contact info to list. Other than those few larger edits, my revisions were pretty minor.

Going through the step-by-step process of web design has been a challenge for me. I tend to jump into a project without much planning ahead, and this process is forcing me to slow down and think every detail through thoroughly before I make any decisions. I like the methodical process, although it did feel repetitive to do both a sitemap and navigation map when my website will be so simple. My digital sketches ended up looking pretty similar. The usability test was helpful, although it was a pain to go back and change things afterwards. I understand that that is part of the job description when designing for a client, and so it was good practice in the end. I think I was able to give and receive some good feedback through the usability test, and I know I implemented some of the suggestions I heard. I got some inspiration from my classmates' designs, including things that I did not want to replicate (especially with color schemes). I have found the design process enlightening to say the least. I've helped with editing the content of websites after they've been mostly constructed, but even then I didn't realize how much behind-the-scenes legwork goes into the design of each page. I have a renewed respect for web designers.