Semester Reflection

While building my final project, I initially thought that road mapping and planning ahead was a very tedious and unnecessary step because I already knew exactly what I wanted to do. However, I am glad that we were given time to walk through the process though because it proved to be very helpful with figuring out my intent and audience for my website as well as the message I want to convey to my audience. I found out that once you start coding whatever you mapped out, your opinion on things changes. For me, that happened to be my color palette. I originally wanted to go with a black and red kind of website, but the more I started thinking about the food truck I wanted to portray, I decided to go with a brighter color. I tried to pick colors that matched the only decent unsplash food truck picture I could find, and it turned out to be a hideous yellow that I tried to make look nice. The color palette and typography would change to match the food truck's exterior and vibe, and the design choices I used were based on the food truck that was available.

Despite having a detailed list of things that I wanted my website to be, all of which were backed with rationale, I found that creating all the content from scratch and aligning things in the right place using flexbox was already hard enough, but adding in the design and aesthetics was much harder than I expected. If I wasn't so busy towards the end of the semester, I would have spent more time finding the right typography because I know intentionally picking and pairing fonts can do wonders to a website.

One thing that I am really proud of in my website is the plugins that I used. I used a very basic slide show and a very basic snap to screen plug in. They were so basic that when I looked at the javascript code, I understood what it meant. When I first got the snap to screen plug in working, I thought it was really cool, but I soon found it actually hard to navigate the website because any down ward or upward scrolling motion will cause the screen to snap to the next designated area. It was a problem because some of my pages were more than a screen long o(n the smaller screens), so the plugin would cause my users to miss content and would also become frustrated. Not wanting to fully just take out the plugin, I decided to go in and edit the javascript with one line so that it was active only when the screen size with 1200px (which to me is like another level of responsiveness) because that was the size where all the content for each block fit on one screen. If I ever worked on this again, I'd probably just take out the plug in or really make my whole website one long page and use the plug in for that.

This semester I learned about CSS, how to use plugins on a webpage, and sites where people share code. I already know that what I learned in this class will come in handy with my web developer internship this summer. Having the skill of being able to code in general is a good skill to have. What's even cooler is that now I can inspect other websites and understand how it is made. I am also humbled by my inability to code a webpage so it looks like what I have in mind and I know that getting to that point will take a lot of practice and patience. I'm looking forward to learning more about design.