Dubs Imagery Report

## What you are most proud of and what you could have done better with more time:

Overall, I am most proud of the overall unique and simple design of the website. It is easily one of the best websites I have ever made, and I worked hard to make sure that it looked good and didn’t look super basic like many sites which use MUI or Bootstrap do. I did a lot of customization and spent a lot of time making the pages look unique but still natural. If I had more time, I would probably look into pulling from a database or storage bucket to keep the images somewhere else instead of internally. For the purposes of the assignment, I just left them in the storage of the website, but that wouldn’t be good for a serious website with more images.

## Changes made to project in response to feedback provided by three critiques and instructor:

* Changed the color of the input fields on the form since the contrast was poor.
* Optimized the photos to fit where they are needed, made them smaller to help them load quickly.
* Added custom validation to the contact form since the default one wasn’t great.
* Added a “scroll to top” button with an arrow on it to the Gallery page.

## Resources/assets and what they were used for (frameworks, libraries, code snippets, plugins, templates, etc.):

I used React as the framework because that’s what I’m most used to and I much prefer to use React than basic HTML/CSS/JavaScript. I also used Typescript to make my life easier down the road. For most of the buttons, input fields and components of that nature, I used Material UI. I also used Bootstrap and React Bootstrap for some of the spacing things and other small design choices. I used React Router to route between pages to make it an effective way of navigating the site. Also, I used Sass for the styling because I prefer it to basic CSS and it helps me save time and stop repeating code.

## Justification of some of the key design decisions:

The color scheme was, in general, chosen by the client. I did take some creative liberties to add some colors of my own, but it was his idea. For the home page, I looked at other photography websites and decided to just make something simple which displayed some of the client’s work in all its glory. I thought a carousel would be a nice touch to make it look nice and to add some personality to it. For the other pages, I just tried to make the colors look natural without being too complicated or too boring. I wanted the site to be unique but not “too much” as I think many websites do nowadays.

## Ways that you customized the framework design:

## To make the website stand out, I tweaked things around to give it a special look and feel. I used Sass to make sure everything looked consistent and saved time on styling. The base was Material-UI, but I made it look less generic by changing colors and layouts to match what the client wanted. For some design parts, I added in Bootstrap and React Bootstrap to keep things tidy. The contact form got a custom check to make sure it works smoothly. Pictures were resized to load faster and fit better, keeping things snappy. Moving around the site is easy thanks to React Router. The home page got a cool picture slideshow to show off the client's work. I played with the colors a bit to make the site look good without being too flashy. Each page layout was made with simplicity and modern style in mind.

## Advanced features that you incorporated into the project:

Here’s a few advanced features I used:

* Carousel on the homepage that required customization to make natural and look good.
* Masonry layout on the Gallery page, which I’ve never used before.
* Netlify Forms to track if people submit the form and we can get actual feedback.

## Problems that you experienced along the way:

The biggest issues that I experienced while creating the site were the Carousel on the home page. I couldn’t get it looking how I wanted it to, and it took quite a bit of time and troubleshooting to customize it. I finally got it to the point where it looks good, and I thought it was better to remove the background on the navbar on that page to look more natural. Overall, the biggest issue that I faced when working on this website was working with the client. Although I was making this website for a friend, he was not being very cooperative, and I had a really tough time getting the information I needed from him in a timely manner. He still hasn’t sent me more photos to add to the site. That was definitely the biggest struggle I encountered, which is probably the case with many websites out in the real world as well.