👋 Session 3 Handout

Date: August 16, 2025

Topic: CSS Review, Environment Variables, Forms & Airtable Integration

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👉 [Session 3 Video – Next.js Cohort 2](#)

📊 View the Slides

👉 [Session 3 Slides](#)

📁 Access the Code

👉 [GitHub Repo: NextJsCohort2](#)

✅ What We Did

- **CSS Review**: Used global styles, CSS modules, and custom properties consistently.

- **Environment Variables**: Created a `.env.local` file to securely store secrets (API keys).

  - Learned the difference between `NEXT_PUBLIC_` (client-side) and private server-only variables.

- **Forms in Next.js**: Built a client component form with validation and accessibility (labels, roles, disabled button states).

- **Airtable Integration**: Connected the form to Airtable using an API route.

  - Server handles Airtable API calls (secrets stay safe).

  - Prevented duplicate subscriptions with `filterByFormula`.

💡 Key Takeaways

- Always restart your dev server after creating or updating `.env.local`.

- Use client components when you need interactivity (`onChange`, `useState`).

- Never expose your Airtable key in client code — keep it in server routes.

- Combine **client-side validation** (UX) and **server-side validation** (security).

📅 What's Next?

Session 4: Saturday, **August 23, 2025 at 10 a.m. PST**

We'll dive into:

- Authentication basics with Auth0

- Protected routes in Next.js

- More practice on server vs client data fetching

✨ Thanks for being part of this learning journey. Keep experimenting and share what you build!