

## Learning Road map/ Diary

I started out as suggest by reading everything in the athabasca comp 266 portal instructional menus. After I read all the sections I turned my focus to the first which was html. My original thoughts were that it looked strange but I could just copy and past the example given and manipulate it. Fast forward to when I became more comfortable with it using visual studio code I could just type “! shift” and the layout was automatically generated. I had looked up many tutorials on youtube which only gave me bits and pieces of info but showed me how people could use html. At this point I still didn’t understand it very clearly but I stumbled upon w3schools website and that changed everything. I quickly became much more aware of what every individual tag could do, I copy and pasted some basic css to my file which I refused to even look at in this phase as it gave me anxiety just to think about another language when this one was still new.

Once I did manage to get around to watching tutorials on CSS I watched almost all of Dani Krossing’s videos on CSS/HTML like this one for example “<https://youtu.be/0e02dl66PYo>”. I had seen many other HTML tutorials on YouTube but found I was very laboured watching them like I had to work hard at focusing on their concepts and how I could find them useful which felt very hopeless at first. This is where I started to learn that HTML and CSS are basically not separate and entirely rely on one another. I got carried away with the wrapper ID tool that Ia discovered on w3schools, whereas my original site mock-up had everything in the center and a menu that opened vertically on the side. This was the tough trick about the whole thing as I found many web designs I could copy but I had one fairly specific one in mind and it I didn’t want it to be overly modern aesthetically because I feel like most websites look exactly the same trying to have that professional look which there's nothing wrong with but my website is artistic and it needs to set its self aside from a business oriented website. I think after this course is done I will re touch up the front page by possible making the background image a blurred sticky image and making my header pictures opacity more transparent so it blends in. Aside from that I was able to get it to exactly what I imagined. The `<hr>` tag I discovered looking at “Bucketheadpikes.com” in dev view. This is the site that inspired me because I think of it as a very bad site as its not very user friendly but its content is great and has some unconventional uses of page structures. I noticed that on alot of things to separate completely different content the hr tag was employed so I started using it on my site as I felt like I needed that aspect of the aesthetic. A big breakthrough was when seeing people who would talk on stack overflow about writing css they would say its not good to use multiple css files and that using everything on one file would reduce loading times and makes your folder neater etc. I took this very seriously as I had made the styling of all my pages the same as they all shared the body, header, paragraph tags so I thought maybe I could get away with them all looking the same. I knew this is not what I wanted so at first this was a hard concept to understand but I reached out to a programmer friend and he told me to just make ID tags. So I looked more into it and tested this out in a

few different ways, I had also been spacing all of my words originally so that didn't work at all and figured also just use lower cases, then eventually it clicked in place and I could just do it which was my most monumental hurdle of HTML/CSS I would say was just understanding then utilizing that. It seems simple but for someones first time with front end coding languages it was sort of like sensory overload because I thought how much easier it would be for every page to have their own separate css page, which is so wrong, but I was stubborn at first.

The css hover effect I used on nearly all my pictures I slightly edited to make the picture appear smaller than it actually was then just grow to slightly bigger than it was which was taken from this link "<https://codepen.io/kw7oe/pen/mPeepv>"

The Java script road map really involved just constantly watching tutorials on youtube but I fell into what other coders call a "tutorial loop" and once I heard this term I snapped out of it and just dove right in. After searching for several media players, as music was the purpose of my site, I discovered one which had a background blur aesthetic which I instantly clicked with over every other player I saw. Although some were much more simple and would have been easier to implement I decided to use this one because artistically I envisioned it this way and I ended up achieving the look I envisioned originally which was a beyond amazing feeling. I had functionality issues with the player as soon as I started adding my own info, I backtracked several times but still things were just slightly off, as I had already described my struggles in greater detail in the proposals for each section. I asked many coder friends for an idea of what kind of java script writing I could do for this specific project and literally none of them thought of anything relevant. I myself felt it a bit unnecessary especially the API aspect but none the less found it fascinating so dove right in anyways. I knew what JSON was from doing Salesforce/Trailhead work "[https://trailblazer.me/id?lang=en\\_US](https://trailblazer.me/id?lang=en_US)", So I came up with the idea to rewrite the script for the media player on the basis that I could make the code fill in the artist details by making a blank "Playlist=[]" function and making that the overarching function in my json file that contained my artist details for each track and thumbnails. I tried to do this with 2 separate media players in 2 different ways which ultimately confused me and made the function ability suffer but both will still show my artist name and song name and play a song at-least.

With the JQuery tutorials I was definitely cut short on them by advice given from a friend to just download the script and go for it. I found that advice vague but that's what I did. I had the script downloaded then searched the web for a vertical slide-out menu and had worked through about 3 different ones strenuously until one moment I just took a different stab at writing the html code in a certain way that wasn't clearly indicated and I finally got it to work. This was huge as I had been at this for weeks.

A broader context to this was how my plan was to record all this music by renting professional gear and recording in my apartment then outsource the audio to a professional sound engineer to mix and master. I managed to record about 11 songs but didn't completely finish them, this took alot of work in itself and cost alot of money with the gear I rented. I ultimately realized it wasn't realistic in the time frame I had to have these tracks finished then sent out and sent back completely finished within the duration of this course, so I had to settle for making just some bare demo unmixed tracks sub in place of the tracks that I long to show the world. This project seriously means alot to me, and any input as to how I could do anything better would actually be appreciated as I will continue to work on this as my artist portfolio likely for years to come, keep adding and toying with it. I am so proud of how much I have accomplished with it and I really hope you like it.