30 Days to a Better You

Personal response to “Be a Better Designer by Eating an Elephant” by Alexander Charchar

*Success is the result of perfection, hard work, learning from failure, loyalty and persistence.*

*– Colin Powell*

Everyone has aspirations of who they want to be, what they want to do, and where they want to go in life. But very few are able to achieve those goals because they feel like those goals are too large for them to accomplish. We have started to learn HTML and CSS in class but if we want to go above and beyond we need to do work outside of class. But we feel like we don’t have enough time so we put it off until later. As Alexander Charchar said, “We tell ourselves we’ll come back to it later. But later never shows up.” In the article “Be a Better Designer by Eating an Elephant”, Alexander Charchar describes one of the most effective things you can do to achieve that goal, the 30 day challenge. But what is this 30 day challenge? The 30 day is essentially completing small parts of a greater goal in 30 days. So let’s continue with the above example, let’s say you want to learn CSS, like we are doing now. You don’t just jump head first into it, you’ll just end up hitting your head. First we should follow these 6 steps.

1. Pick a topic
2. Break it down into parts
3. Map out parts
4. Make a routine
5. Make sure it’s not too easy or hard
6. Do it for 30 days

We’ve already completed step one by identifying our larger goal, to learn CSS. Now we need to break it down into small, bite sized pieces. Maybe your list will consist of getting Sublime , then using style sheets, then using <div> and <span>, etc. But don’t assign goals for day by day. If you do that you are bound to slack one day and then the whole list is broken. Instead do as many as you can in a day so that even if you don’t complete as much on one day it will be counteracted if you do a lot on another. This is all part of mapping out how you are going to complete the tasks. Now for four, arguably the most important part, show up daily. Creating a routine will ensure that you stay on task and gain momentum that you can keep for the entirety of the 30 days. Finally always make sure it’s not too easy or too hard. It’s that simple. All it takes is persistence and motivation and you are on your way to completing the 30 days. But don’t stop there, always keep building on those skills even after the 30 days. Imagine how much we could learn as programmers by not only doing that with CSS but HTML, Java Script, etc. We could increase our coding skill by leaps and bounds all by following those simple steps. Upon doing this we have not only hit our goal, but made ourselves better people.

Article: <http://www.smashingmagazine.com/2014/10/17/be-a-better-designer-by-eating-an-elephant/>

Quote: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/c/colinpowel386437.html>