Communication Labs

Spring 2023

Assignment 5

Portfolio

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1. INTRODUCTION

The last project of the semester was our own portfolio. A portfolio refers to a collection or compilation of works, projects, or assets that demonstrate an individual's or an entity's skills, abilities, experience, achievements, or creative output. Since we have done so much this semester in Communications Lab, the idea was to present the semester-long work on a website and show others the progress we have made from beginning to end, in terms of both the technicalities and skill in different areas. Since time was limited, the portfolio would mainly serve just to showcase the projects finished during Spring 2023 semester and can be worked on later in order to both be improved, as well as enlarged with other projects that will be done in the future.

Since interactivity was not an issue as the portfolio would be on a website which is interactive as is, the main objective of finalizing the project would be to make it aesthetically pleasing. Since we live in the age of minimalism, the most practical way of creating the website is in such a style, with intuitive buttons and just enough information as to not confuse the user but engage them with the work presented on screen. It was important to first look for a few portfolio websites before setting off on the individual journey towards one.

2. MEET THE CREATOR

Ajla

3. PHASE ONE: PLANNING

3.1 Analyzing different portfolios

Since this was the first portfolio project, to start off, there was urgent need to look at other peoples' work. Understanding the conceptual framework of a

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portfolio is extremely important, especially if this website was to be used later on to showcase the projects. Portfolio websites are not a recent invention, so there was an enormous number of examples to go through. Although, in the beginning the main idea was to create a game that would introduce the viewer to the projects. Unfortunately, there was just not enough time to finalize that idea and it remains something to be done in future as a final portfolio solution.

There are many portfolio websites to be seen and some that are incredibly intricate, such as Yasio [1] (Figure 1). Although the push for intricacy and complexity was strong, the time limit did not permit extravagant attempts but practical solutions. By advising online tutorials on portfolio building [2], there was enough information obtained to start off the project and attempt to create an aesthetic, intuitive and accessible portfolio.
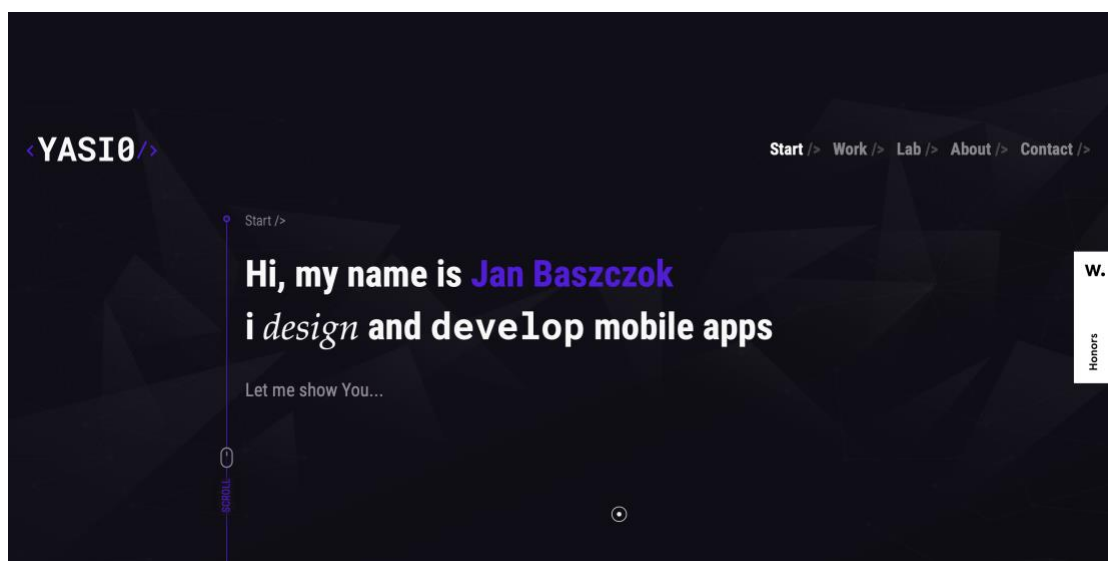

Figure 1 Yasio website home page

Realizing the components of an effective portfolio is very important. Moving along a website and now knowing which section one is on while being presented with an information overload is not something that is guaranteed to help you obtain a job. Hence, differentiating the "Home", "About", "Skills", "Work" and "Contact" sections at least is very important in making the website readable.

4. PHASE TWO: DESIGN

4.1 Wireframe

The class was required to present a wireframe before the actual website was created. The wireframe is a useful tool used to lay out all of the sections and components of the website to be made. It helps tremendously in visualizing both the appearance of the website as well as grasping the code needed to produce the desired outcome. By using Figma, sections of the wireframe were created for both desktop (Figure 2-5) and mobile application (Figure 6-9), though not all aforementioned sections were included as most of them revolved around the same theme.
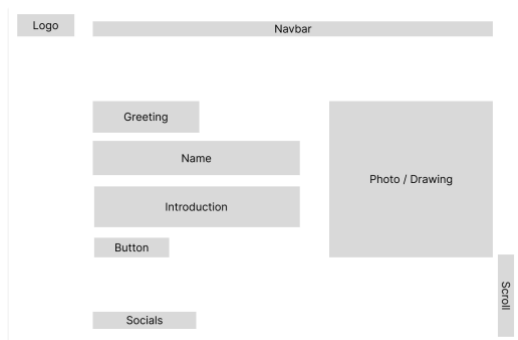
Figure 2 Home page
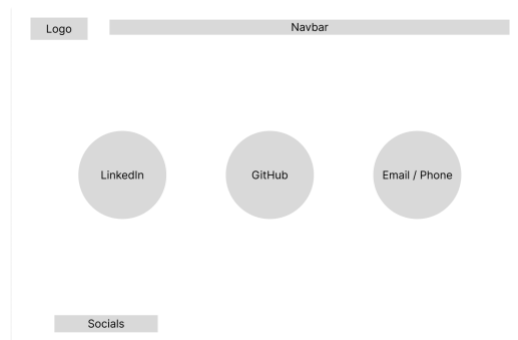
Figure 3 Contact page
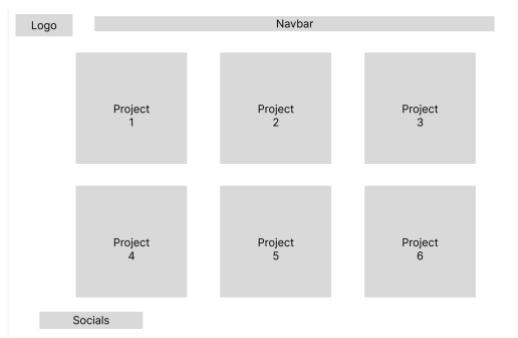
Figure 4 Projects page
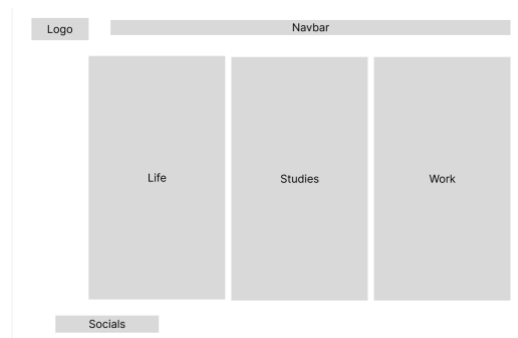
Figure 5 About page
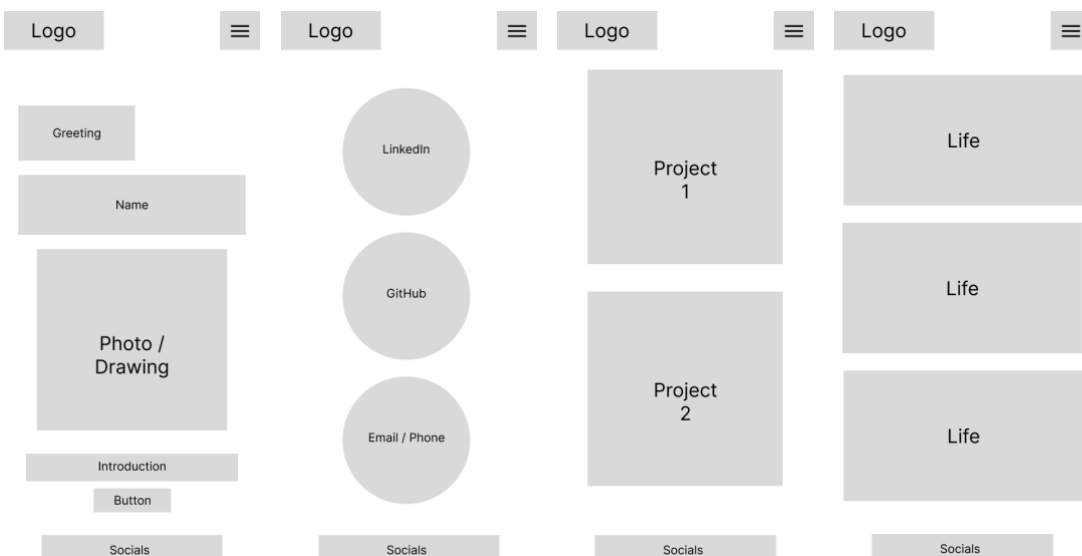
Figure 6 Home page (mobile)

Figure 7 Contact page (phone)

Figure 8 Projects page (mobile)

Figure 9 About page (mobile)

4.2 Gathering media

Since the portfolio requires a lot of personal images and images of work to be shown, a crucial part is to collect the media needed. The Home page and about page both require two separate images, which in this case were quite scarce as the creator does not like to take pictures of herself. However, there were a

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few photos that were just right for this assignment and were picked to be used on the website.
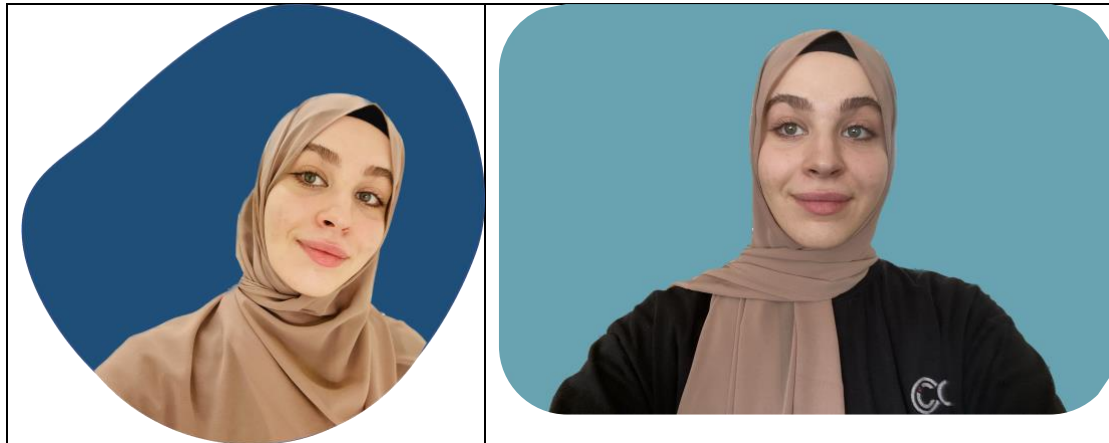
4.3 Website Design

Since the focus of the assignment was primarily video production, the team decided to make the website like a nest for it. In order to reduce distractions, the website was designed to be very simple, without many buttons to press. This would effectively prompt the user to continue on the three different journeys and experience each one by restarting the path. To begin the website implementation, the team first created a simple wireframe (Figure 12) that would help them map the individual elements later on.

Figure 10 Wireframe

5. PHASE THREE: IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Video Editing

To edit their videos, the team used iMovie. Since the scenes did not require an immense amount of editing, the software served its purpose without overwhelming the members, few of whom have ever extensively edited movies. By importing the footage recorded a few days prior into iMovie, the team was able to
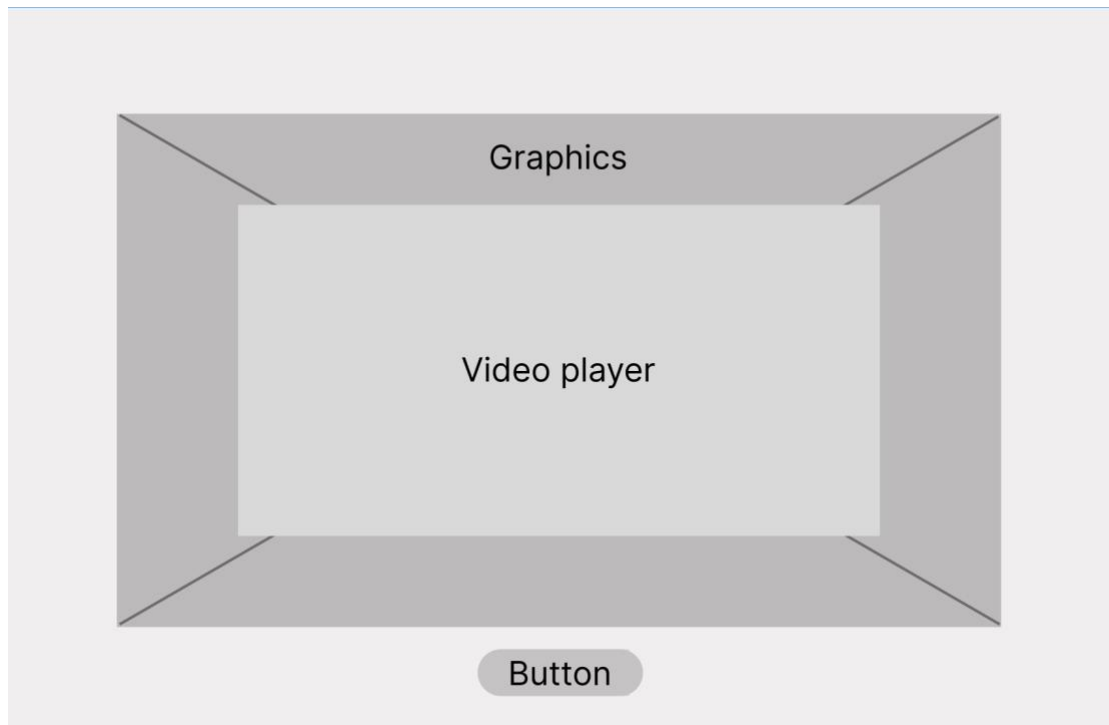
Editing involved selecting relevant clips, then cutting them to the appropriate length. The types and angles of shots were also varied: sometimes, POV shots were used, while sometimes third person shots were used. Editing mostly focused on trying to keep the general motion and progression of the clips consistent. Meanwhile, audio mostly involved a mix of sound from the original clips and original voiceovers by the main actor. Because the original audio was usually noisy or not quite effective, background noise reduction was used, and voiceovers and some audio sounds such as a gunshot sound were added during editing in order to enhance the experience.

The background image was designed in order to show the title and theme of the video. To make the website responsive, the team provided both the background photo for the desktop (Figure 13) and mobile (Figure 14) viewing. The colors chosen are playful and bright, and humorous memes and illustrations from the varying stories are used to reinforce the theme. For example, the banana, computer, banana peel, a solitaire card, and a punching glove were drawn to reference the action points from all three branching universes.
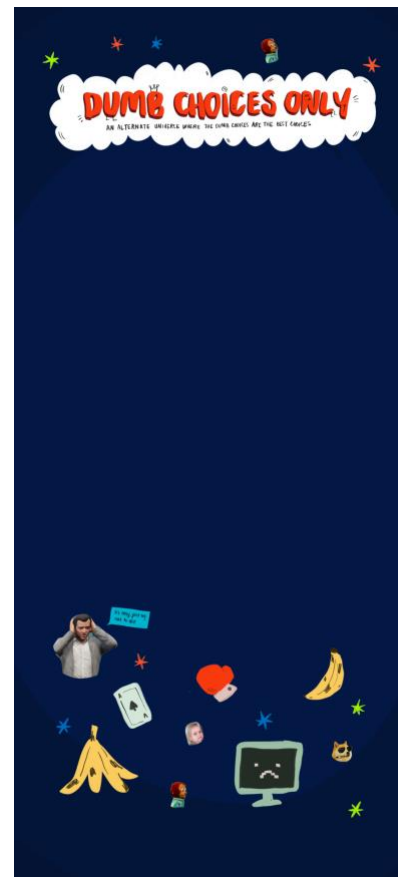
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Figure 11 Desktop view

Figure 12 Phone view

5.2 Website Development

An important aspect of the video production project was the planning and implementation of the website. The primary objective was to create a simple, yet intriguing user experience by seamlessly integrating videos and interactive menus. To achieve a seamless flow, event listeners were incorporated into the website. The listeners were programmed to detect the ending of each video, triggering the display of two or three menus which designated the choices users were able to make. By implementing event listeners, the website could dynamically respond to user actions, enhancing interactivity and engagement. This allowed users to navigate through the content effortlessly and provided them with a sense of control over their "destiny".

The videos and menus were organized in a specific order to ensure a smooth and logical progression of the interactive videos. Careful consideration was given to the narrative enabled by the videos and the desired user journey. Each video was strategically placed to build upon the previous one, creating a coherent and immersive storyline. This sequencing not only helped convey the intended message effectively but also maintained the user's interest and engagement. The team made sure that the video was responsive and functional across all devices. By managing the file sizes, the team ensured that the

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website would load in a reasonable time and that the GitHub repository could hold the files, which amounted to more than 2GB of data at the onset of the project.

6. PHASE FOUR: DELIVERY

The last phase was the delivery phase. This phase consists of a few steps, namely, the publishing of the website, its testing, and the writing of documentation. All members of the team tested the functionality of the website by visiting the repository on GitHub Pages. The delivery phase also included presenting the website during the Communications Lab class.

7. REFLECTION

The project offered a completely new experience for the team members. Considering nobody in the team had ever worked with filming video before, the project gave the team an opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of creating both videos and interactive storylines. The experience has, thus, been both challenging and rewarding, pushing the boundaries of the team's creativity and technical skills.

One of the most valuable lessons learned during the project was the importance of collaboration. By working with a diverse team, different perspectives and expertise were brought together to produce a satisfactory end product. Through open communication and effective teamwork, the team was able to navigate challenges and capitalize on each other's strengths.

One of the most powerful aspects of video production is telling engaging stories. Throughout the project, the team focused on creating an engaging narrative that captivated the audience. By carefully crafting the sequence of videos and menus, the team aimed to take viewers on a journey with the protagonist. The team also wanted to create an immersive experience where users could connect with the content on a deeper level and. The project highlighted the impact of storytelling and emphasized the significance of interactivity in video production.

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Table 1 Three Week Overview Plan

Plan	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3
- Practice storytelling fundamentals	▨		
- Brainstorming Idea	▨		
- Brainstorm scenes	▨		
- Create storyboard/script	▨		
- Allocate design/implementation roles	▨		
Design			
- Design settings and coordinate scenes		▨	
- Prepare filming locations		▨	
- Ideate auditive aids		▨	
- Find needed props		▨	
- Design website		▨	
Implementation			
- Edit video		▨	
- Add the video to website		▨	
- Add interactive components to website		▨	
- Organize GitHub repository			▨
- Run GitHub website			▨
Delivery			
- Publish the website			▨
- Write documentation			▨
- Submit project on Brightspace			▨
- Present in class			▨

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Baszczok, Jan. " Portfolio: Full-Stack Developer: Full-Stack Designer." *Yasio Portfolio*, 2018, yasio.dev/.

Ragaine, Linda. "The Anatomy of a Perfect Portfolio Website to Showcase Your Work." *Kinsta®*, 23 Dec. 2022, kinsta.com/blog/portfolio-website/.

8. APPENDIX

index.html

```html
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

<head>
  <meta charset="UTF-8">
  <title>Dumb Choices Only</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style.css">
  <link
href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css?family=Montserrat&display=sw
ap" rel="stylesheet">

</head>

<body>
  <div id="video-container">
    <button id="replay-button"> Replay </button>
    <!-- intro video -->
    <video id="video_player1" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/intro_new.mp4" type="video/mp4">
    </video>
    <!-- first three options -->
    <!-- visual design studio -->
    <video id="video_player2" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/design_lab.mp4"
type="video/mp4">
    </video>
    <!-- im lab -->
    <video id="video_player3" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/im_lab.mp4" type="video/mp4">
    </video>
    <!-- lobby -->
    <video id="video_player4" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/lobby.mp4" type="video/mp4">
    </video>

    <!-- second level options - design studio -->
    <!-- sleep -->
    <video id="video_player5" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/design_lab_sleep.mp4"
type="video/mp4">
    </video>
    <!-- work -->
    <video id="video_player6" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/design_lab_work.mp4"
type="video/mp4">
    </video>

    <!-- second level options - im lab -->
    <!-- inside -->
    <video id="video_player7" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/im_lab_inside.mp4"
type="video/mp4">
```

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```html
    </video>
    <!-- outside -->
    <video id="video_player8" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/im_lab_outside.mp4"
type="video/mp4">
    </video>

    <!-- second level options - lobby -->
    <!-- punch -->
    <video id="video_player9" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/lobby_punch.mp4"
type="video/mp4">
    </video>
    <!-- get punched -->
    <video id="video_player10" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/lobby_getpunched.mp4"
type="video/mp4">
    </video>

    <!-- respect -->
    <video id="respect" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/respect.mp4" type="video/mp4">
    </video>

    <!-- wasted -->
    <video id="wasted" class="video-player" controls>
      <source src="./assets/videos/wasted.mp4" type="video/mp4">
    </video>
  </div>

  <div id="menu1" class="menu">
    <p class="select_text"> Pauline should:</p>
    <ul>
      <li id="vd_studio">
        <p>Work in the Design Studio</p>
      </li>
      <li id="im_lab">
        <p>Hangout in the IM lab</p>
      </li>
      <li id="lobby">
        <p>Hangout in the Lobby</p>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </div>

  <div id="menu2" class="menu">
    <p class="select_text"> Pauline should:</p>
    <ul>
      <li id="vd_studio_sleep">
        <p>Take a nap</p>
      </li>
      <li id="vd_studio_work">
        <p>Work on assignment</p>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </div>
```

```html
  <div id="menu3" class="menu">
    <p class="select_text"> Pauline should:</p>
    <ul>
      <li id="im_lab_inside">
        <p>Throw the peel on the floor</p>
      </li>
      <li id="im_lab_outside">
        <p>Throw the peel outside</p>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </div>

  <div id="menu4" class="menu">
    <p class="select_text"> Pauline should:</p>
    <ul>
      <li id="lobby_punch">
        <p>Randomly punch</p>
      </li>
      <li id="lobby_getpunched">
        <p>Keep walking</p>
      </li>
    </ul>
  </div>
  <script src="app.js"></script>
</body>

</html>
```

app.js

```javascript
window.addEventListener('load', () => {
    video_player1.style.display = 'block';
});

video_player1.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    menu1.style.display = 'flex';
});

video_player2.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    menu2.style.display = 'flex';
});

video_player3.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    menu3.style.display = 'flex';
});

video_player4.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    menu4.style.display = 'flex';
});

video_player5.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    video_player5.style.display = 'none';
    respect.style.display = 'flex';
    respect.play();
```

```
});

video_player7.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    video_player7.style.display = 'none';
    respect.style.display = 'flex';
    respect.play();
});

video_player9.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    video_player9.style.display = 'none';
    respect.style.display = 'flex';
    respect.play();
});

video_player6.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    video_player6.style.display = 'none';
    wasted.style.display = 'flex';
    wasted.play();
});

video_player8.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    video_player8.style.display = 'none';
    wasted.style.display = 'flex';
    wasted.play();
});

video_player10.addEventListener('ended', function () {
    video_player10.style.display = 'none';
    wasted.style.display = 'flex';
    wasted.play();
});

vd_studio.addEventListener('click', function () {
    video_player1.style.display = 'none';
    menu1.style.display = "none";
    video_player2.style.display = 'block';
    video_player2.play();
});

im_lab.addEventListener('click', function () {
    video_player1.style.display = 'none';
    menu1.style.display = "none";
    video_player3.style.display = 'block';
    video_player3.play();
});

lobby.addEventListener('click', function () {
    video_player1.style.display = 'none';
    menu1.style.display = "none";
    video_player4.style.display = 'block';
    video_player4.play();
});

vd_studio_sleep.addEventListener('click', function () {
    video_player2.style.display = 'none';
    menu2.style.display = "none";
```

```javascript
        video_player5.style.display = 'block';
        video_player5.play();
});

vd_studio_work.addEventListener('click', function () {
        video_player2.style.display = 'none';
        menu2.style.display = "none";
        video_player6.style.display = 'block';
        video_player6.play();
});


im_lab_inside.addEventListener('click', function () {
        video_player3.style.display = 'none';
        menu3.style.display = "none";
        video_player7.style.display = 'block';
        video_player7.play();
});

im_lab_outside.addEventListener('click', function () {
        video_player3.style.display = 'none';
        menu3.style.display = "none";
        video_player8.style.display = 'block';
        video_player8.play();
});

lobby_punch.addEventListener('click', function () {
        video_player4.style.display = 'none';
        menu4.style.display = "none";
        video_player9.style.display = 'block';
        video_player9.play();
});

lobby_getpunched.addEventListener('click', function () {
        video_player4.style.display = 'none';
        menu4.style.display = "none";
        video_player10.style.display = 'block';
        video_player10.play();
});

const replayButton = document.getElementById("replay-button");

replayButton.addEventListener("click", function() {
  location.reload();
});
```

style.css

```css
body {
  background-image: url('./assets/images/background.png');
  background-size: cover;
  background-repeat: no-repeat;
}

#video-container {
```

```css
  display: flex;
  position: relative;
  width: 100%;
  height: 100vh;
}

video {
  position: absolute;
  display: none;
  top: 50%;
  left: 50%;
  transform: translate(-50%, -22%);
  max-width: 50%;
  max-height: 50%;
}

.select_text
{
  background-color: rgb(15, 43, 82);
  border: 2px solid #f1c40f;
  color: white;
  position: absolute;
  justify-content: center;
  top: 15%;
  padding: 20px;
  border-radius: 30px;
  font-family: 'Montserrat', sans-serif;
  text-transform: uppercase;
  font-size: 24px;
  text-align: center;
  letter-spacing: 1px;
  text-decoration: none;
  transition: all 0.2s ease-in-out;
}

.menu {
  /* display: flex; */
  display: none;
  width: 100%;
  height: 100%;
  background-color: rgba(0, 0, 0, 0.8);
  position: absolute;
  top: 0;
  left: 0;
  justify-content: center;
  align-items: center;
}

.menu ul {
  list-style: none;
  display: flex;
  /* flex-direction: column; */
  align-items: center;

  /* justify-content: space-between; */
}
```

```css
.menu li {
  /* margin: 10px 0; */
  padding: 50px;
}

.menu li p
{
  display: inline-block;
  padding: 20px;
  border: 2px solid white;
  border-radius: 30px;
  background-color: #f1c40f;
  color: rgb(15, 43, 82);
  font-family: 'Montserrat', sans-serif;
  text-transform: uppercase;
  font-size: 24px;
  text-align: center;
  letter-spacing: 1px;
  text-decoration: none;
  transition: all 0.2s ease-in-out;
}
.menu li p:hover {
  background-color: rgb(15, 43, 82);
  border: 2px solid #f1c40f;
  color: white;
}

#replay-button {
  display: inline-block;
  margin: 0 auto;
  position: absolute;
  bottom: 2vh;
  left: 50%;
  transform: translate(-50%, -30%);
  background-color: #f1c40f;
  border: 2px solid white;
  border-radius: 30px;
  color: rgb(15, 43, 82);
  font-family: 'Montserrat', sans-serif;
  text-transform: uppercase;
  font-size: 24px;
  padding: 10px;
```