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Usability and Information Design

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Dear Dr. Crane,

I have provided you my URL for my portfolio website requested by you for my final individual portfolio assignment for the Technical Communications 305 course. What is included in my website you may ask? Well my website includes a home page, a portfolio, and page, so people can get ahold of me by email. My home page has a paragraph about me. It includes information about myself such as my major, and interests. Then, my portfolio page includes assignments we have worked on during this course and others, and my contact page contains my information to get ahold of me.

In this course of Usability and Information Design I learned many things such as how to conduct a usability test. One of our assignments in the beginning of the course was to make a logo to brand ourselves, business cards, and a letter head, which is content I as a students can use for my portfolio. This content was a starting point because it's something we can use in our future, and having these things gives us the opportunity to make changes as time passes to improve them. Designing our business card, and letterhead was very helpful as well because it opened up my mind about document design. From the alignment of my logo to the rest of my text, to staying consistent with my format, and not having a bunch of different styles on my letterhead. All these assignments and activities that led to our usability test and were great because they helped me get prepared for the group project.

Doing an individual usability report was great because it helped our group gain understanding of problems the Sustainability B.S document currently had, which led to the re-designed prototype. In the individual usability test I was a bit confused because I never had a list of tasks for my participant to complete, but my confusion was cleared once I spoke to my group members about the way they conducted their testing. The changes we made to our first prototype of the document were based on the results we obtained on our individual usability tests.

Having to do the group usability test plan was a great because it helped our team and me to visualize the outcome of the project. I feel like it made the testing more efficient because I knew what we were doing during the testing from beginning to end. From the people who qualify for the test, the questions we will ask, what we will do, and what we will record. All these things helped us run the usability test efficiently without any problems. The results we obtained from our groups usability test led to the final designed prototype. The usability test plan was very helpful because it helped me understand, and visualize the test while also thinking about what qualifications a participant needed in order to be able to qualify as a usability tester.

The final outcome of our re-designed Sustainability B.S document was based on the results we obtained from the usability test. For example, our participants were confused in task four and five, which led to the decisions we made such as providing a bolder title for these tasks to make it easier for the user to find what they are looking for.

Thank you for taking the time to look over my cover letter about my online portfolio, and the outcome from this course. Hope you have gained some understanding of the content of my online portfolio, and the outcomes of assignments that lead to the Sustainability B.S Capstone manual group project. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank You.