# Summary of thoughts and approach for portfolio site.

Got it! Here’s a summary of your thoughts and approach to creating your portfolio site. These ideas will form the backbone of the detailed project description for your final documentation:

Key Themes and Concepts for the Document:

1. **Overall Purpose and Design Philosophy**:
   * Emphasis on a **clean UI** with **ample white space** to ensure user focus and visual comfort.
   * Use of **hero text** to immediately convey each page’s core purpose.
   * Strategic combination of **images** (self-created using Photoshop and AI) and concise text to maintain balance and avoid overwhelming the user.
2. **Portfolio Page Features**:
   * Highlights your **professional work**, with specific sections for each project.
   * Includes a **collapsible content feature** using JavaScript, where users can click a button to expand and reveal more details about a project, ensuring an uncluttered initial view.
3. **CSS Best Practices**:
   * Extensive use of **CSS variables**:
     + **Organized styles**: Variables for font sizes, colors, and other design properties.
     + **Ease of updates**: A single place to change the color scheme or sizing, cascading throughout the site.
   * Established a **font-size baseline** of 62.5% for easier calculations when using em or rem units (1 rem ≈ 10px).
4. **Color Scheme**:
   * Thoughtful **color scheme design** with primary, complementary, tertiary, and neutral palettes.
   * **Primary color** is reserved for key focus areas, while secondary and complementary colors are used elsewhere.
   * Benefits of CSS variables for **theme consistency** and quick updates to the color scheme.
5. **JavaScript Highlights**:
   * Use of **modular functions** for:
     + **Dialog initialization**: Handles dialog display and interactions.
     + **Toggle functionality**: Allows dialogs to open and close dynamically.
     + **Alert and update management**: Ensures dialogs visually reflect alert or update states with color cues.
   * Implementation of a **universal event listener** to manage user interactions efficiently.
   * Scroll-based visibility for the "Back to Top" button.
   * Clear structure with comments and reusable logic for maintainability.

Next Steps:

* I will start drafting a document that thoroughly explains these aspects, ensuring we emphasize your thoughtful design and development decisions.
* Once completed in a regular text format, I’ll convert it into a **README.md** file.

Let me know if there’s anything specific, you’d like to prioritize or elaborate on!

# DRAFT of README.md

**Blue Gorilla Studio Portfolio Website**

**Video Demo: [cs50\_final\_project-bobtobey.mp4]** [**https://youtu.be/C2Bh4CzWIzE**](https://youtu.be/C2Bh4CzWIzE)

**Description:**

The **Blue Gorilla Studio Portfolio Website** is a project that I started about midway through the class and kept refining as the class progressed. I crafted this project aimed at showcasing my professional work and skills as a UX Engineer and Frontend Developer. The site is designed with a user-centric focus, emphasizing clean design, intuitive navigation, and functional interactivity. Below is an in-depth explanation of the project, its features, and the technologies employed.

**Project Goals:**

The primary goal of this portfolio was to capture viewers' attention immediately with compelling hero text and visually engaging content. Each page is designed to balance imagery and text effectively, providing ample white space for visual comfort and reducing cognitive overload. This ensures an enjoyable user experience while allowing my work and skills to shine.

**Key Features:**

**1. Clean and Engaging Design:**

* Hero text on each page clearly conveys its core purpose.
* Ample use of white space ensures that the layout feels open and uncluttered.
* Eye-catching visuals created using **Photoshop** and **AI tools** enhance the design.

**2. Portfolio Page:**

* Each project block includes:
  + A descriptive image and brief summary.
  + A button to expand and reveal detailed information about the project.
* This feature, implemented using **JavaScript**, ensures that the page remains visually clean while providing detailed content for those interested.

**3. Dynamic User Interactions:**

* Interactive dialog boxes powered by **JavaScript** allow for seamless content expansion and collapse.
* A "Back to Top" button, also utilizing JavaScript, becomes visible as users scroll, enhancing navigation.

**4. Interactive Navigation Bar:**

* A responsive navigation bar was designed using **CSS** to provide visual feedback through hover, focus, and selected states.
* These states keep users informed of their current location and enhance the overall user experience by offering interactive feedback.

**Technical Details:**

**HTML Structure:**

The site consists of three primary pages:

* **index.html**: Home page with an overview of services and a welcoming introduction.
* **portfolio.html**: A detailed showcase of selected projects with expandable content blocks.
* **contact.html**: A straightforward page with contact options, including email and LinkedIn links.

**CSS Highlights:**

1. **Base Styles (styles.css)**:
   * Established a root font size of 62.5% (approximately 10px) for easier mental calculations with rem and em units.
   * Extensive use of **CSS variables** for fonts, colors, and spacing, enabling easy updates and theme changes.
   * A structured **reset style** based on best practices to ensure consistency across browsers.
2. **Custom Styling (bluegorillastudio.css)**:
   * Custom color schemes with **primary**, **complementary**, and **neutral palettes**.
   * Variable-driven designs ensure that changes cascade through the entire project seamlessly.
   * Thoughtful typography and spacing create a professional and inviting look.
3. **Variables File (variables.css)**:
   * Organized definitions for colors, font sizes, and other design properties.
   * Simplified color management and ensured maintainability by centralizing theme definitions.

**JavaScript Highlights:**

1. **JavaScript File (main.js):**
   * Contains all custom scripts to manage interactivity on the website.
   * Implements modular functions for initializing and toggling dialogs, handling alerts and updates, and managing scroll-based features like the "Back to Top" button.
2. **Modular Functions**:
   * dialogInitializer: Handles the initialization of dialogs, ensuring seamless interactions.
   * dialogToggle: Toggles the visibility of dialogs while maintaining visual cues.
   * dialogAlertAndUpdate: Provides dynamic updates for dialogs with visual alerts or updates.
3. **Universal Event Listener**:
   * A centralized listener efficiently manages user interactions, reducing code redundancy.
   * Handles scroll events for showing the "Back to Top" button and click events for dialog toggling.
4. **Back to Top Button**:
   * Scroll-sensitive logic ensures that the button appears only when needed, improving usability.

**Design and Development Choices:**

1. **CSS Variables for Scalability**:
   * Using variables for font sizes, colors, and other properties ensures quick theme changes and reduces CSS bloat.
   * The centralized variable system provides flexibility for future updates, such as rebranding or theme adjustments.
2. **Color Scheme Design**:
   * A carefully chosen palette with **primary** colors for focal areas and **complementary/neutral** tones for backgrounds and secondary elements.
   * The color scheme was designed to instill a sense of **trust and calm**, enhancing user comfort and engagement.
   * Variables simplify updates to the color scheme, making design iterations efficient.
3. **Collapsible Content in Portfolio Page**:
   * Allows users to focus on high-level summaries while providing detailed content on demand.
   * Balances the need for comprehensive information with a clean, navigable layout.
   * Recognizing that expanding all content on the portfolio page could make it lengthy, I implemented a JavaScript-enabled "Back to Top" button to ensure users can quickly return to the top of the page for better navigation.

**Reflection:**

This project reflects my skills in UX design, frontend development, and technical problem-solving. By integrating design thinking with modern web technologies, I have created a portfolio that not only showcases my work but also demonstrates my ability to craft user-centric digital experiences. The use of native CSS variables, modular JavaScript, and thoughtful design choices highlights my dedication to both aesthetics and functionality.

**Future Enhancements:**

1. Add more projects to the portfolio section, showcasing a broader range of skills learned in class.
2. Incorporate a blog section to share insights and articles on UX design and frontend development.
3. Optimize the site further for accessibility and performance.

This portfolio represents a collection of my work, my approach to problem-solving, and my passion for creating engaging, efficient, and user-friendly digital experiences.

Note: This document was proofread and spell-checked using ChatGPT and Grammarly to ensure clarity and professionalism.

**(Word Count: 879)**

# Video Prep

**Video Script**

**Opening** **(0:00 - 0:30 seconds)**:

* **Text/Visuals**: Display the following on screen: (0:10 seconds)
  + **Project Title**:
    - Blue Gorilla Studio Portfolio Website
  + **Your Name:** *Bob Tobey*
  + **GitHub Username:** *bobtobey*
    - github.com/bobtobey/
  + **edX Username:** *bobtobey*
    - profile.edx.org/u/bobtobey
  + **City & Country:** *Bloomsburg, PA, USA*
  + **Recording Date:** *December 2024*
* **Voiceover (optional)**: Briefly introduce yourself, your project, and its purpose.
  + **(0:10 - 0:47 seconds)**
* **Script**:
  + “Hello, my name is Bob Tobey, and I’m excited to share my final project for the CS50 class. The project is a portfolio web site I created to showcase my professional skills as a UX Architect. This website reflects my dedication to crafting user-friendly and visually intuitive experiences, while also serving as a promotional platform to highlight my work to potential clients and employers. Let me walk you through its features and design choices.”

**Demonstration (0:30 - 2:30 seconds)**:

1. **Introduction to Website** (0:30 - 0:50 seconds)
   * **Visual**: Show the homepage while explaining its purpose.
   * **Voiceover**: Highlight the clean design, hero text, and welcoming layout.
   * **Script**:
     + This is the homepage website. It features hero text to immediately convey the purpose of the site and a clean, material design that uses white space to provide visual comfort. The homepage introduces my skills and services while maintaining an uncluttered layout that engages users without overwhelming them.
2. **Portfolio Page Walkthrough** (0:50 - 1:30 seconds)
   * **Visual**: Demonstrate the interactive project blocks.
   * **Voiceover**:
     + Explain the collapsible design for concise navigation.
     + Describe how JavaScript powers the buttons to expand content.
     + Highlight the balance of visuals and text.
   * **Script**:
     + The portfolio page showcases several projects I’ve worked on, with a brief description and visuals for each. To keep the page concise and visually clean, I implemented a collapsible design. Users can click on a button to expand it and reveal more details, such as challenges, insights, and outcomes. This functionality is powered by JavaScript, and enhances the user experience. Additionally, a "Back to Top" button, becomes visible as users scroll. The scroll-sensitive, JavaScript logic ensures that the button appears only when needed, improving usability and streamlining navigation.
3. **Interactive Features** (1:30 - 2:00 seconds)
   * **Visual**: Show the navigation bar, "Back to Top" button, and a dialog box.
   * **Voiceover**:
     + Explain how CSS and JavaScript improve user interactions.
     + Mention the responsive design elements.
   * **Script**:
     + Additionally, the site incorporates other interactive features to improve usability. For example, the navigation bar provides hover, active, and selected states to give users visual feedback and help them track where they are on the site.
4. **Color Scheme & Accessibility** (2:00 - 2:30 seconds)
   * **Visual**: Showcase color palettes and variable-driven design.
   * **Voiceover**:
     + Describe how CSS variables enhance scalability and consistency.
   * **Script**:
     + The website’s color scheme is designed to instill a sense of trust and calm, using a combination of primary, complementary, and neutral tones. I utilized CSS variables to manage these colors, which not only keeps the design consistent but also makes it easy to update the theme in the future. These variables also extend to font sizes and spacing, ensuring scalability and maintainability.

**Closing (2:30 - 3:00 seconds)**:

* **Visual**: Return to the homepage or an “About Me” section.
* **Voiceover**: Summarize the project’s key features, your development process, and what you learned.
* **Text Overlay**: Include your contact details and GitHub repo link for the project.
* **Script**:
  + In summary, I have tried to combine my existing knowledge with what I have learned in cs50 to create my portfolio site. Thank you for watching!

**Storyboard**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Scene | Visual | Audio/Voiceover |
| Opening | Text introduction on screen | Brief introduction of self and project |
| Homepage | Scroll through the homepage | "This is the homepage..." |
| Portfolio | Click on a project block, expand details | "On the portfolio page..." |
| Features | Hover over navigation bar, use "Back to Top" button | "Interactive features include..." |
| Colors | Show color palette and design details | "CSS variables enhance..." |
| Closing | Return to homepage | "In summary, this project..." |

**Shot List**

1. **Text Overlay**: Introductory details.
2. **Homepage Tour**: Smooth scroll and hover interactions.
3. **Portfolio Interactions**: Click and expand project blocks.
4. **Feature Demonstrations**: Use of buttons, dialogs, and navigation.
5. **Color Scheme Display**: Palette and CSS variable view.
6. **Final Scene**: Homepage with contact details.

**Timeline**

* **0:00-0:30**: Opening introduction.
* **0:30-0:50**: Homepage overview.
* **0:50-1:30**: Portfolio walkthrough.
* **1:30-2:30**: Features and interactivity showcase.
* **2:30-3:00**: Closing and summary.

**Narrative Flow Diagram**

1. **Introduction** → 2. **Homepage Overview** → 3. **Portfolio Showcase** → 4. **Features Demonstration** → 5. **Color Scheme Highlight** → 6. **Conclusion**

**YouTube Video submission**

* **cs50\_final\_project-bobtobey.mp4**
* [**https://youtu.be/C2Bh4CzWIzE**](https://youtu.be/C2Bh4CzWIzE)