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HW 8 Writeup

Part 1: Description

As someone who practices yoga, I wanted to dedicate a website to provide a basic introduction to yoga because yoga can get confusing – there are *way* too many types of yoga (e.g. Ashtanga, Vinyasa, Hot Yoga, Flying Yoga, (even Goat Yoga) and the list goes on) and involves *a lot* of postures with confusing names (e.g. Eka pada adho mukha svanasana). My yoga instructor first introduced the Ashtanga flow to me, so I thought it would be a good place to start my website as well.

The website is composed of a home page, content, and quote. The home page has the title and a navbar to navigate to the content. The content portion is further divided into four sections. The first provides a quick description of what Ashtanga flow is, the second is about the benefits of doing yoga, the third gives an example of an Ashtanga flow, and the fourth includes images and names of inspirational people who post their practices on Instagram. The last section includes a short quote by Lori Deschene I found to be very true and inspiring.

I organized the website to slowly gain people's interest – a quick understanding of what it is, how it'll be good for them, what impressive poses they'll be able to perform once they start practicing, and further incentivize them by showing people who do crazy cool poses. Moreover, I tried to make this website engaging by focusing on the animations. For example, the elements fade in from different directions depending on how the user scrolls through the page, giving them control over the positions of the elements during transition. In addition, another element spins according to the user's scrolling action, rotating clockwise when they scroll down and rotating anti-clockwise when they scroll back up.

Part 2: Interaction

At a high level, my website is a standard web page where the user will simply click and scroll through. The below are the intended steps:

1. To navigate to different sections on the page:
   Option 1: Click on the "type," "benefits," "postures," and/or "inspirations" to go directly to that section.
   Option 2: Scroll through the page in order.
2. To see the entire yoga flow, scroll horizontally across the yoga icons in the "postures of yoga" section.

3. To access the respective Instagram pages, click on the images or the Instagram handles in the "inspirations" section.
4. To go directly back to the top of the page (home page), click on the "top arrow" button that floats on the bottom right corner of the page.

Part 3: External Tools
1. jQuery
   - I was looking for examples to animate the landing page onload, and a [tutorial](#) I came across used jQuery to implement it – so I followed through. Same situation with the smooth scrolling, I was looking for ways to code it, and although CSS was a possible option, the [tutorial](#) mentioned how using jQuery will be more compatible across devices.
   - I used it to animate the elements on the landing page onload and to implement smooth scrolling. On the landing page, different words of the title float in from different directions (changes the position in CSS) and the flower spins (transforms/rotates in CSS) according to the number of scrolls. Also on the landing page, when the user clicks on "posture," the user is taken smoothly to that specific section instead of abruptly jumping to that section, giving the user more spatial information.
   - As mentioned in the beginning, I implemented the animation in hopes of making the website more engaging and enjoyable compared to a static page. I implemented the smooth scroll because I wanted to provide a shortcut to the different sections without losing contextual/spatial information.

2. ScrollMagic (JS Library)
   - I wanted to animate based on user's scroll position to let the user trigger animations. An example I found online used this to implement the effect I wanted, so I followed their [tutorial](#).
   - The headings (the smaller, full opacity titles like "types of yoga"), the background texts (the bigger, half opacity titles like "types of yoga"), black description boxes in the "benefits of yoga" section, the group of icons in the "postures of yoga"section, and the pictures of Instagram influencers all fade in from different directions as the user scrolls through the page.
   - As mentioned above, I implemented this animation in hopes of making the website more engaging and enjoyable compared to a static page. I think this also adds to the *sophisticated* vibe I was aiming for by providing a more seamless interaction with the website.

3. Bootstrap
   - Since I knew that I wanted the three elements to be in a grid layout and needed to make the website responsive, I immediately turned to Bootstrap. I learned

that using the ready-made classes (e.g. col-md-12) would make my life *a lot* simpler.
- I needed the three images to be in one vertical line when the screen size was smaller than 992px and to be equally spaced across the page when the screen size was bigger than 992px. Therefore, I gave each image's "div" a class of "col-xs-12 col-lg-4."
- This adds a great level of cleanliness, especially when the user is resizing the screen size. It has more value behind the scenes as it makes the code much simpler and easier to edit.

4. CSS Animation
   - I was Googling ways to implement an indicator to tell the users to scroll through the yoga poses in the "postures of yoga" section and I came across this [tutorial](#), which utilized CSS animation to implement it.
   - I used it on the arrows either below or next to (depending on the dimensions of the browser) the "postures of yoga" heading. I used keyframes to change the position of "left" and the "opacity" of the arrows.
   - I received multiple feedback from my peers that it's not obvious to the users to scroll horizontally across the "postures of yoga" section. Therefore, I decided to add animated arrows to give a semantic carrier of meaning. I wanted it to be as subtle as possible because I didn't want it to get too distracting and ruin the serenity of my website.

Part 4: Iteration from HW 7

I thought I liked my HW 7 prototype, but after building it, I hated how *kid-ish* it looked due to the overuse of pastel colors (I wish I realized this before I implemented it! But, a good lesson learned). Therefore, although the content stayed the same, I ended up ripping everything apart and went back to the drawing board. I chose a new color palette (warm tone), new fonts (dominant serif font), new images (real photos, not just icons), and new interactions (animating elements based on scrolling) to give the website a more sophisticated, elegant vibe.

Part 5: Challenges

The first and main hurdle I bumped into was positioning elements to make the website responsive. This was difficult because the majority of my design didn't follow the grid layout and I thought Bootstrap was the *only* way to easily make websites responsive. Although I eventually figured out how to position elements, not being able to see the big picture/all the possible ways to execute something made it really hard for me to start.