

## Week 6 Assignment

### Technical Decisions & Community Impact:

*How does your grid layout serve your community's information needs?*

I used named grid areas (header, nav, main, sidebar) so vets can jump to what they actually need: Get Help Now, benefits and VA info, events, and contacts. On mobile it collapses to a clean single column. On desktop the sidebar keeps quick actions visible while details live in main. The layout mirrors real tasks instead of just looking pretty.

*Which JavaScript features genuinely solve community problems vs. which might be "cool but unnecessary"?*

Genuinely useful: live search for resources (faster find), grid or list view toggle (people scan differently), and a simple mobile nav that just opens and closes.

Cool but optional: the slash keyboard shortcut to focus search. Power users like it, most people will not discover it.

*What accessibility considerations were most important for your community?*

Clear heading hierarchy, proper landmarks, visible focus outlines, keyboard friendly nav that works with Enter and Space, strong color contrast, large tap targets, and keeping the reading order logical as the grid reflows. Those matter more than visual effects.

### User Testing & Iteration:

*What did you learn from testing with your target community?*

People go straight for Get Help Now, GI Bill or benefits, and certifying official. Search beat browsing for most tasks. The featured card that spans two columns works when the label is obvious.

*How did feedback challenge your assumptions about "good" web design?*

Jargon like advising was not as clear as plain words like tutoring, tuition, and GI Bill. Clarity beats aesthetics.

*What would you change if you had more time/resources?*

Add an obvious active state on filters, show a small "Showing X items" message, categories and labels with plain language, and validate terms with VMA staff and student vets.

### Data, Privacy & Agency:

*If you're storing user data, how are you protecting privacy?*

Everything runs in the browser. No storing of user data yet.

*How do your interactive features give users control vs. taking it away?*

Users can choose grid or list and filter instantly. The mobile nav exposes real links instead of trapping content behind script only interfaces. Nothing autoplays or steals focus.

*What biases might be embedded in your feature choices?*

Keyboard shortcuts favor power users. Search depends on our wording, which can hide info if the terms do not match how people talk. To reduce that, I am using plain language, adding common synonyms like GI Bill, and testing labels with actual student veterans.