Which library/framework should we use?

# Spoon

Pro:

* Small library but gives us everything we need
* Recently updated
* stable

Con:

* No controller class to set up MVC
* Isn’t that documented 🡪 hard to learn

# Zend framework

Pro:

* Stable
* Decent documented
* Lots of tutorials
* Possibility to integrate it with Smarty (much config to do)

Con:

* Too big for our project
* Hard to learn 🡪 would take too long to get something working
* Doesn’t provide complete separation between functionality layer en presentation

# Symfony

Pro:

* Gives us everything we need
* Supports MVC

Con:

* Again no complete separation between functionality and presentation
* Less known, so harder to find tutorials or solution for your problem

# CodeIgniter

Pro:

* Well documented
* Lots of tutorials
* Not that hard to understand (due to very good tutorials 🡪 screencasts)
* Gives us everything we need
* Stable

Con:

* Functionality and presentation aren’t completely separated

## Smarty

To solve the issue of separating the functionality completely from the presentation you can use Smarty. It’s not possible to only Smarty, you still need an MVC framework or set up your own framework which would take too long.   
But you can integrate Smarty with other frameworks like CodeIgniter or Zend.

This however isn’t that easy and need to keep everything simple so we can focus on the website instead of setting up a complete solid framework.   
Lucky for us there is a library called Plonk which was written by our teacher which combines both.

### Difference using template ⬄ no template in HTML

#### Simple assign of value

Not using a template system:  
<p><?php echo $value ?></p>

Using a template system:  
<p>{$value}</p>

#### Loops

Not using a template system:

<ul>

<?php for($i=0;i<10;i++) {

Echo ‘<li>.$values[i].</li>’;

}?>

</ul>

Using a template system:

<ul>

{iteration:iUsers}  
{$value}  
{/iteration:iUsers}

</ul>

# Plonk

Plonk is a library which is also free to use. It provides you with all the functionality to set up a complete MVC framework with complete separation of functionality and presentation.

Pro:

* Nicely documented
* Very easy to use
* Lightweight
* Complete separation of functionality and presentation

Con:

* Sometimes less stable
* Maybe not enough functionality in it 🡪 can be solved by writing your own functions or include some functions of the Spoon library

# Remarks

* Some people give the argument for not using templates that it takes too much time to parse the template variables back to the native php code
* As you may notice we would prefer Plonk but you’re free to propose your own framework