I have always loved photography, which made my decision to build a portfolio as my final project easy. I want to practice making photography portfolios because I think that would be something cool to be able to do for myself and other people. It was a fun challenge to make a site that could live up to my vision in my head. I think that this project was a very good learning experience and I learned many lessons about creation and design that will aid me in my future.

To start my work, I brainstormed ideas on how I wanted to layout my website. I decided to group my photos with collages on the main page and ended up with 3 different categories; Portraits, candid, and landscape. My next step, was searching my hard drives to find which photos I wanted to add, making sure they were of high quality and that I thought they were good work. One of the first challenges I faced was image optimization. I had to make my photos optimized for loading quickly on the site, without sacrificing quality. To do this I used a compressor that worked very well without taking away quality. I also used a resizer to tweak some dimensions where I needed. I laid out the photos in a grid and I like how they turned out. I also had a hero image at the top of the screen. The next step was to add a hamburger style nav menu, I created it with some help from w3 schools and made it work for my website. I then moved to the next page, which was services. The services page contains 3 boxes with the things I offer, under this, was a link to a form that has options for signups for classes. The last page contains information about contacting me and finding me on social media.

I faced a lot of challenges on this project. One of the hardest things was making the images properly work and load properly. I had many trial and error runs with different code and settings for the images. Another challenge I had was making the navbar function properly. I am not the greatest at JavaScript so learning and debugging my small navbar code was a harder process than I wanted. Also making sure that tags line up and other small things like that. Another challenge I faced was making the social media icons the correct size. I tried using a pixel ruler to help measure but it ended up not working. Instead, I went back and forth with a resizer till I got it right and then placed it into the table on the information page.

Now that my website is complete, I feel a weight was lifted off my chest, I dealt with a lot of stress throughout the course of this project, so finishing it up is a rewarding feeling. I feel like I could do better and will in the future. There are a lot of things that go into making a website and I think I underestimated all the moving parts that went into it. I look forward to using the lessons I learned to do even better and more efficient work in the future.