**General Assembly – Introduction to front end development**

**What did I learn?**

***Day 1*** - HTML and CSS basics, HTML boilerplates, selectors, box models, layout creation, when to use padding vs margins, using inspector

***Day 2*** -how to build a grid using css, using inspector

***Day 3*** - CSS positioning, When to use inline vs block, responsive design, sticky headers.

***Day 4*** -  javascript, Dom Manipulations/interactions

***Day 5*** - interactions and project work

***Day 6*** - Presenting our homework website project

**What was good about the course?**

* They had us all do some pre work ahead of time so we could understand a lot of the basics before we started class so that we made the most of the 6 days in class.
* Gives you a really focussed time to learn - finding time to do self learning is almost impossible at Amazon.
* The course was very well planned out and the instructor was great
* The class only had 10 people in it so it had a very good teacher:student ratio
* The course was very much theory and practical. We had opportunities multiple times per day to apply what we had learnt in hands on labs so what we learnt was really easy to remember
* They used online tools (e.g slack, codepen) in a great way to share the slides, example projects for labs and general sharing of info between students
* In the evenings we each built a website, applying what we had learnt that day to our own site - this really helped ember what we had learnt.
* In the evenings a TA stayed for several hrs to get 1:1 support with our homework project if we were ever stuck.
* We went over good places to work things out on our own after class finishes - this will help a lot when troubleshooting things in the real world
* The course also covered what to do for accessibility throughout and how to code for accessibility - something very important for AUI and Amazon in general.

**What was not as good/challenging?**

* While doing an intensive course gives you solid focus on learning for a week it was hard trying to keep ontop of important work at amazon while doing the course and having evening homework. Dependent on the persons work load and ability to offload onto others while on the course the part time evening course (2 nights a week for 10 weeks) might be better.
* Its not cheap. So this really should be used only for those who are

**What do I think I can take away and use in my current role?**

* Much better ability of using the inspector tool. This is going to help me with being able to look at clients code to see where they are overriding AUI so I don’t always have to rely on divs to help triage if the issue is more adhoc.
* It will also allow me to manipulate an AUI devs code to see how to alter a code change we made to stop breaking our clients code. We had this exact scenario recently where an api change made lots of buttons across the site truncate and I had to rely on a developer to work out what changes out of 5 we made needed to be reversed to stop breaking clients.
* I can better understand other people scripts and starts to get me to a point where I could write my own scripts to automate the pulling of data I need from Amazon systems

**Who else could benefit from this course:**

Any Program managers, product managers, designers and QA’s that haven’t had past hands on experience with writing code. It will help in their day to day and to understand the possibilities and limitations when developers are writing in html, css and javascript