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Unit 4-Webslinging Artist Statement

I was most nervous and excited for the web design unit in this class. On one hand, the thought of what I called “coding” was frightening because I like to understand things in words not “code”. I also had visions of people much smarter than me hunched over computers typing feverishly on their computers as they stared into their screens for the twelfth consecutive hour to make beautiful sites that I used, but did not appreciate. I thought that it must be really really hard. And, it was really really hard. But, another part of me was really excited because I have always wanted to have my own blog some day and have total control over its web presence. Like the perfectionist I (sort of) am I would want to have control over all design aspects of this page. I have this vision in my head of it, but up until this unit I had no idea how I would ever make it look like that.

Stepping over into to designing for this actual project, I took a lot of my inspiration from our classmate Gabi’s design from workshop. I like how she had things arranged in boxes that popped off the page with different colors and that it was organized and easy to ready, not just a jumble of text line after line down the page. So, I thought, I’ll try to make it look something like Gabi’s (which also terrified me because she seems really really smart).

I wanted the headline of the page to tell you exactly what the project would be about, and then the next part of the body to give you a sense of my passion for the work. I really do want to learn how to make interactive infographics because they are so good at giving people information. I am obsessed with the consumer and will be doing work with these consumer insights at my first full-time job, so I have a passion for the information, but also an interest in how it is displayed because that’s sometimes what really sells people. After I included my short writing on the topic, I wanted to arrange the rest of these mandatory aspects of the content portion of the project into boxes across the page so the information would be easy to find. Finally, I wanted to include the image of a static infographic, knowing that I had included links of raw data and interactive examples, to show the middle product. That is, the static that can come from the raw, but is not at the level of interactive yet. This was so people could both see what an infographic was (because they might not be data geeks like me) and know where it could potentially go after seeing my inspiration from the links.

All of these design ideas were arranged on paper, but it was really hard for me to get them to look the way I wanted using atom. I was able to successfully use flexbox, a major feat in my book. This feat caused considerable frustration, but I am rather happy with the css I was able to employ on the site. My biggest challenge was aligning the divs on the page so that they filled up the whole page, but also weren’t bumping into each other, and were in an order that made sense. The image I included was pesky and I am still not happy with its size and position. If you couldn’t already tell, I have a bit of OCD when it comes to organization.

In terms of the baseline criteria, I have both block level elements, by using divs, and inline elements, by using strong. I used more than three css rules: displaly, justify-content, and padding. There are multiple divs, one image, and headers in sequential order to allow accessibility on the page. I used background colors and borders to provide contrast and organization. Sizing, as I said, was a bit of an issue for me, but I believe the alignment on the page allows the viewer to follow my thought process and find the information they need. The image I included, with its citation in the sources section of my webpage, was not copyrighted or under any creative commons license. It promotes the sharing of the image on your own site and even provides you with the html to do so. In terms of aspirational criteria, I designed all of my elements using flexbox, include two links, and have accessible atl text attributes for my image.