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Reflection

Entering the realm of HTML and CSS was intimidating at first as I had no previous experience whatsoever. The tutorial laid out the different aspects of HTML and CSS quite clearly and I started to enjoy learning the next tool or lesson. There are 2 aspects to this project that posed separate questions in my head, one relating to this new and foreign concept of HTML and CSS while the other related to the content of our websites. For the collaborative project pitch, I changed my original idea of creating a website hub for all sorts of crafts. I decided on a hub for College Foodies to identify and locate the numerous, diverse, and versatile options that exist around Pittsburgh. I figured I would enjoy creating this because I am very passionate about food. Additionally, me being from Pittsburgh, I figured would help to get the ball rolling with research that would be required to create this website. Because the tutorial laid out the HTML more simply than the CSS, for me at least, I picked up on the HTML more quickly. I believe my project is mostly accessible, in terms of the aspirational criteria, in that I used semantic HTML with alt text attributes. I was more worried about incorporating CSS elements and so an additional goal was to create a website that was aesthetically pleasing with the use of alignment, design and color. I think that I was able to accomplish this, even if not in the best way possible, but for my first attempt, I am happy with my website. I’m excited to build upon the knowledge I have gained so far of HTML and CSS in this final project, if mine is chosen.

In terms of the content of my website, I wanted to split it up into 4 different sections to include my final desired result, why I wanted to create it, a possible layout of the website, and possible tasks and roles that would be needed. I included an image in my first section, “The Final Product I Envision” that I took myself. It is supposed to be a guidebook of food places, similar to the online version that I want my website to act as. Under my second section, “Why I Want to Create This,” I included multiple pictures of food taken by either me, my friend Lauren Pagone or my friend Sameer Shetty. Both of them gave me permission to use their photos on my website. My next section titled, “Possible Website Details” is where I explain the possible categories for the menu bar I envision on the Foodie website and how foodies could navigate the website. My last section titled, “Possible Tasks and Roles” outlines different responsibilities group members could choose to take up if they would be interested in working on this project with me.

In the technical layer, I included both block level (<div>) and inline (<strong>) elements when structuring my content. I applied a <div class> to my first section in order to utilize Flexbox to align the image and the content in that section (I wanted the image to appear to the left of the text). Again, having no previous experience with HTML or CSS, this was particularly challenging for me but with the use of your help and the tutorials, I was able to do this. I applied multiple css rules as can be seen in my stylesheet, all of which were new to me. The ones I found particularly challenging were when styling the <div class> elements and the buttons as representations of the menu bar categories I envisioned in my final desired project. I used the headers to organize my content. I used alignment to create the bulleted list under my “Possible Tasks and Roles” category as well as in centering the descriptions of my menu category buttons (I utilized Flexbox techniques for this). In terms of size, the only h1 I used on my website was for the title of my project pitch, “A Guide for Pittsburgh College Foodies”. The reason I chose to only have this be the h1 is because it Is the name of the final project I am pitching and so I wanted the most emphasis to be on this before readers began looking at the sections below. I used h2’s for my 4 section headers. In terms of contrast, I knew I wanted to use orange as this color is often associated with warmth, comfort, cooking and food in general. I decided to use an orange color for the buttons I made and use a background color that was lighter (a salmon-pinkish-orange hue) so that the orange would pop on that. In terms of choosing a primary text color, I debated black and dark brown but ultimately decided on dark brown because of its warmer and more comforting feel yet dark guiding tone, in contrast with the light salmon and orange.

Overall, this project was very eye-opening and not as intimidating as first felt it would be. It actually became fun once the basics were down and I could focus more on the content and how I wanted to arrange it and use design elements. I have learned a lot about the basics of website building and can’t wait to explore it more with this next collaborative project!