Step 1: Reflection

I didn't really take inspiration from any particular sites per say. Rather, I came up with the design from concepts I had seen in general and melded them together in a design that, i thought, was clean, bold, and to the point.

I like the simplistic design of my site. There isn't much to it, just the essentials of what the prospective viewer would want to see in the site when they visit.

I struggled with choosing the fonts for the site, and while I'm not totally happy with them at current, I am satisfied for the time being. Finding the right fonts is much harder than it ostensibly seems.

I specifically tried to be as organized as possible in the creation/coding of the site. I ran into a few issues when classing a number of lines the same, thinking I wanted to do the same thing with them… but realizing later on after trying to make the site responsive, that I needed them to be more free. I found workarounds, but ultimately this led to the site not being as organized as I had hoped. When starting a site in the future, this should help me think forward in the design, hopefully making my organization and coding more concise.

In making the site responsive I found out I have a bunch yet to learn on the overall design aspect… its important to have a very clear vision of every step of the site ahead of time, so that coding isn't trial-and-error. Prep is KEY.

Step 2: Reviews

https://medium.com/
Lots of white space, which I like. It appears to be a news/articles site. I love the simplicity of it. Wordmark at the top left, per usual… news feed in the middle (eyes are immediately drawn to it) … and settings to the right column. If i'm a viewer of this site, I'm seeking news articles. And that's exactly what I get, front and center. Typography works well and seems to be inline with traditional journalism, while still being a bit modern… which appeals to me as a modern consumer of news. Overall, I think the design of this site hits all of its purposes pretty perfectly.

http://www.spectrumpowderworks.com/
I like the intent of this site, but not the execution. First off, readability is not easy as the site is dark with dark typography. One of those being lighter would make for easier readability. Second, it appears to be designed for a small screen. While I love white space, there can be too much of it… as is here. More room on the page should be used for information and/or design. The motions of the site seem dated, but that can be a matter of preference. Lastly, the navigation of the site is located at the bottom… which is the last place i'd look for it as a user. This disrupts the flow of the site making usability hard. I'd encourage the designer to rethink navigation strategy to improve the flow of the site as well as comprehension of the site.