**HTML/CSS Reflection**

Overall, this unit was slightly more challenging than expected. Coming into this class, one of the tools I had some familiarity with was HTML, so I anticipated this project to come with slightly more ease than the previous units. However, this was not the case. I had learned HTML as a language as an introduction to programming language as a freshman, but I have not practiced it since then nor have I used it with CSS. I think the mistake I made coming into this was trying to stick to tools I felt more comfortable with rather than explore a different method of learning. I relied on code academy to both ease myself into reviewing HTML and utilize the provided CSS template that I found matched my stylistic desire for the webpage.

While I relied on tools that I was comfortable and familiar with at first, I think that overall it was helpful in allowing me to find new ways of understanding prior knowledge. Particularly, I was able to challenge myself and gain a greater understanding of CSS and how it works with HTML. By continuing to make edits on the material, I would gain a slightly better grasp of the material and how to work with it. Of course, this did not erase the general confusion that comes with learning a new language or tool. Using the code academy template provided a better basis for which to go off of, but it was a process to understand how making edits on either the HTML or CSS code would affect the other or change the overall presentation. However, through a process of trial and error, I think I was able to achieve my overall desired effect.

For my pitch, I decided to focus on a travel blog specifically dedicated to national parks. It has always been a goal of mine to visit all the national parks someday; not only are they incredibly scenic, but they are spread out across the nation and each offer something unique. While there is a national park website out there and is heavily relied on for information regarding each park, I intended to provide a platform in which fellow travel enthusiasts could use more casually to generate further excitement, having the ability to make blog posts and explore others’ content.

Stylistically, I wanted to make something clean and straightforward. I utilized contrasting grey and white backgrounds to emphasize the information box. Within the page, I organized headers that were organized to allow for a natural sequence of information. I made sure to include a basic introduction, details on the pitch itself, the details of the potential website, and the necessary tasks to do to bring this website into full force. I included a top menu bar to create a mock setup of how the site would be navigated. I gave the tabs a green color to reflect a more earthy/natural tone. I also included six images at the bottom of six different national parks. Each image was found through a google search filtering to “noncommercial reuse with modification” and were subsequently found on the following sites.

Acadia: <https://pixabay.com/en/acadia-mountains-lake-scenic-1545717/>

Yellowstone: <https://pixabay.com/en/yellowstone-national-park-sunset-1589616/>

Yosemite: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Yosemite_national_park_mirror_lake_2010u.JPG>

Zion: <https://pixabay.com/en/cliff-landscape-mountain-nature-1866832/>

Arches:<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:First_Light_on_Turret_Arch_Framed_by_North_Window_-_Wide_(8390477068).jpg>

Glacier: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St_Mary_Lake.jpg>

Given the opportunity to make some changes, there are quite a few things I would do differently. I would like to experiment more with CSS features to change various stylistic elements. I would like to make changes in color, alignment, font size, and organization to make this site more visually appealing. I would also like to have a better understand of the technical layer by adding more advanced functions like flexboxes or linking to multiple pages. While there is some room for improvement, I think I was able to gain somewhat of a grasp of this new material and produce something that reflects my pitch well and stylistically matches my intended look.