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Composing Digital Media

Project #3 Reflection

I had no experience with HTML or CSS before this project, unless you count clicking on an inspect page. This task seemed especially daunting from the beginning. While the HTML and CSS is Hard pages were able to guide me initially, they did not provide any troubleshooting should something not immediately work. This was challenging for me as CSS and HTML are an exact science and nothing can differ from the structure of the code. Once I made it beyond my initial CSS and HTML coding, I moved on to a different CSS and HTML instructional tool from the W3 tools site. This helped me with the specific effects I wanted from my site. The proposal for my site did not come until much later when I went to a vintage clothing event that was able to bring together the entire city of Pittsburgh. I intended to create a site that was able to provide pictures, locations, and commentary of vintage clothing around the city. The site should be able to integrate Instagram and Pinterest so people will be able to post as much information about the clothing as possible. Users would be able to scroll through other people’s posts about clothing and locate where they found it around the city. This would be helpful for many people since vintage clothing stores have become very popular in the city recently.

As far as the code of my site, I wanted everything to be evenly spaced, so I made use of divs and lists to organize my content. I enjoyed playing around with the color and the text of the page to make everything readable. There is so much thought that goes into a modern website that I did not consider before this project. Just making sure your free space is looks correct takes a good amount of code. I was able to use breaks to make my text readable and not too close together. I liked the ability to used fonts and specify exactly how I wanted them in the CSS. The option to create a backup system for different font options. I especially struggled with links and images in the Atom program and making them show up online and in Git. I did find a lot of help in other sites that provided correct formats for different alterations to CSS and HTML, W3 being my main source. I think in terms of content and spacing, my website is successful. With more practice, I will be able to more successfully integrate links and images to my site and create more pages.

HTML and CSS made me much more conscious of how website design is constructed and the thought that goes into the sites that I visit every day. Everything has to be thought out ahead of time including color scheme, spacing, links, and fonts. These are not elements that are typed into the site, but that actually create the site. It has made me much more closely examine the language that constructs my favorite sites. I definitely feel much more capable using HTML and CSS which I think is very important in content creation and in the job market.