Your Guide to Developing an Amazing Final Project

YOUR PROJECT

Your project is to create a ==5-page== website, ==coded by hand== using your text editor. The topic is your choice so select something you are really interested in and willing to spend 20-30 hours working on to demonstrate your proficiency with HTML & CSS! Don't overthink your topic selection. Anything will work!

YOUR GOALS

Once you decide on your topic, you'll need to start thinking about the goal of your site. What do you want to accomplish? In order to accomplish your goal, what information/content/features do you need to include in your site? Start with a paper and pencil and sketch your five pages. Take some serious time doing this. It will help!

THE HOMEPAGE DESIGN (An Example)

The first page you sketch should be your ==homepage==. The homepage is critical to the success of the site. Within a few seconds, the user should be able to figure out what the site is about. After a few more seconds, something should catch their eye that guides them to the next step in engagement. What do you want them to do? This is the ==**"call-to-action"**== and you should make it obvious. Do they have to go through a few steps to get to the result? If so, guide them to the next logical step. For example, if I am creating a site about an organization and the goal of my site is to raise user interest enough to initiate contact in an effort to explore joining the organization, I will have the main "call-to-action" in the header of my page (on every page) and it would be something like "Email us with your questions" or "Set-up an appointment" or "Call Us Now". I assume they'll need to go through a few more steps before they initiate contact. I will need to raise their interest and build their trust. On the homepage, I would put key facts (bullets) about the organization and what we do and then, within the content of the page, provide a link to some version of an about us page that provides more detailed information and perhaps a video. Next, I would assume they might want to see examples of some projects and I would guide them to the projects page. Perhaps some testimonials from current members or other community members who have been positively impacted by the organization. I could continue the process, thinking carefully about what I want the user to experience and accomplish in my site. You should do the same! After sketching the five pages, decide on file names for each page. ==**The homepage must be named final.html.**== Your other four pages should have similar file

names, following the naming conventions we've used in this class (all lowercase, no spaces or special characters, meaningful yet short).

BUILDING YOUR SITE

Next, it is time to create your **final.html** and **final.css files.** Use your class projects as guides, but make sure your work is original! Your homepage is the most challenging part of this project yet the most important to get right! Once you create your hompage, the remaining pages are merely copies of the homepage with different content!

Good file management is essential. Create a **folder named "final"** to store all files associated with your final project. Make sure your html files, css file, images, and video are located in this folder. When you are developing your site, you will zip your final folder and upload to the server. This is the same process you have been using to complete your case studies.

SUBMITTING YOUR HOMEPAGE

You will submit your completed homepage before your begin working on your final project. This gives me an opportunity to provide feedback at a critical point in your project development. My promise to you is to provide valuable feedback in a timely manner that will help you do the best you can to finish your amazing site! If you have been completing the activities, submitting the case studies, and practicing your skills, you should be ok! Now, I need you need to do a few things for me:

1. Make sure this is your **final version** of your homepage (no drafts)
2. Your navigation should be coded and completed but the 4 links to other pages will not work yet.
3. Make sure this is your **own work** - coded by hand in your text editor
4. Upload early and test before the deadline to prevent last minute panic attacks
5. Include all technical requirements and score yourself with the grading rubric for your own benefit
6. Don't include anything beyond markup and design (no scripting/database interaction/widgets/ ect) - that's another course!
7. **Don't move forward with the final project until I provide feedback and approve your homepage**. I will need an approved homepage before I grade the final project.

   ### Final Project Homepage Technical Requirements

   1. Semantic markup tags (minimum of <header>, <nav>, <main>, <footer>)
   2. *Liquid layout (not full width of screen - centered)
   3. Interactive navigation (unordered list styled with css using pseudo states)
   4. One image

5. Title tags that are correct, unique, and valid HTML5
6. Linked to external style sheet (final.css) with element, id, and class selectors

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*TO CLARIFY…
Liquid means ...
...size measurements are in %, not px for widths
...text measurements are in ems
...it's still OK to have small measurements (<=10px) for padding, borders, margins, but if >10px, use %

Not full width means ...
...you use an outer <div> to constrain content width to something less than the entire body of the web page which should go wall to wall on a computer screen
...you use left and right margins of auto for the outer <div> to center the content within the body

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REVISIONS TO YOUR HOMEPAGE - GREEN LIGHT TO MOVE FORWARD

After I have the opportunity to grade your final project homepage (I attempt to do so within a few days of the assignment deadline) and provide feedback, **you'll need to check your score to see how to proceed.** Your final project is worth **30 points**. You'll need to earn at least 21 points before moving forward with your final project.

SCORE	ACTION
21- 30	Your homepage has been approved! You have the green light to continue with your final project, making sure to implement required revisions in the next submission.
2-20	Significant issues that need to be addressed before moving forward. Address revisions and and resubmit. You will have **3 attempts**. Your final score for this assignment will be the **average of your 3 attempts.**
1	Technical issue - address immediately if you want to receive partial credit! This is why it is important to test before submitting!

Again, I need an approved homepage before I will grade a final project. Check the syllabus to see the final deadline for attempts.

SUBMITTING YOUR FINAL PROJECT and SELF-ASSESSMENT

And now it's the fun part! Your homepage is approved. You have your header, navigation, page structure, and goals defined. Next, take your final.html final and use "Save As" to create a copy of the final with a different name. Edit the content and do this 3 more times! I do have more stuff for you to include in your final project (but I'm sure you were expecting this) so, again, pay attention to the technical requirements and the grading rubric.

As part of the submission process, you will need to answer several self-assessment questions. Spend some time on these questions (you do earn points for these answers). They will help ensure you are on the right track, have included everything you need to include, and give you an opportunity to clarify elements of your projects and provide any additional information I may need to know when assessing your work. It also show me you are able to assess your own work! You can log in and out in Blackboard, so access early. You can only submit once.

Final Project Technical Requirements (*in addition to homepage requirements*)

1. Two appropriate media queries for tablet and phone sized viewports
2. Appropriate meta viewport html tag
3. Flexible images (2 minimum)
4. Data table on any page (at least 4 x 4 – make sure the content is appropriate for a data table.)
5. Links - one external link, and one fragment id
6. Form with a minimum of **five** input elements (text, textarea, radio, checkbox, ect.)
7. On the page with the form, include an **embedded style sheet** with the form styles
8. A print style sheet named print.css
9. A video created by you, uploaded to YouTube, and then embedded in your site
10. I can't think of anything else, but I couldn't end a list at number 9.

ONE FINAL, YET VERY IMPORTANT, NOTE ON DOING YOUR OWN WORK

I think learning how to create a voice on the web is a beneficial skill and I hope you find value in the time you have spent on this course. If you have completed the activities, asked questions when you needed help, implemented feedback when provided, and have done your own work… you will pass this course and have a personal project that you can be proud of at the end of the day. Please resist any thoughts of taking short cuts on the final project. I need to assess your knowledge of HTML & CSS. In order to assess your knowledge, you have to provide me with your own work. Again, your own code in a text editor. **If there is any indication of code generation/ plagiarism, there will be a point deduction of 40-70 points, depending of the severity of issue.** I love grading these projects. I don't expect the next Amazon website, but I do expect a simple, professional, accessible, web application developed by you on a topic that you care about and want to share with the world!

HAVE FUN!