# Portfolio Website Assignment – Kate Rosenthal

For my technical writing portfolio, I will be using GitHub Pages. It is a free service that I have used before and know can do the job. It does have drawbacks, however, such as fewer options for easy customization. My page will include a brief introduction of myself along with links to my resume, certificates, and portfolio pieces. Each of these choices and considerations are described in greater detail in the sections below.

## Description of site

GitHub is a free development platform where users can create, store, and manage computer code. It allows for easy collaboration, version control, and tracking changes. GitHub also provides these services for documents written in Markdown, making it a useful site for technical writing as well. Users will need to create a GitHub repository (a file storage structure) to store their work. They can then publish their work on a web page directly from their repository using GitHub’s site hosting service, GitHub Pages.

## Explanation of the choice

I am choosing GitHub Pages mainly because it is a service I am familiar with. I have used it in the past to create a website introducing a web application. I have also seen it used as a plain but effective technical writing portfolio site by a YouTuber named Amruta Ranade. GitHub is a well-known and utilized platform in the software world, so hosting my portfolio on it is a great way to show potential employers I know how to use it, as well.

## Explanation of benefits

GitHub Pages’ main benefit is that it’s entirely free to use, including free site hosting. It is a highly reliable site with uptime percentages of over 99%. Additionally, the hosted site will not require any maintenance on my part and will have version history of all its code. This makes it possible to transfer the site’s code to my own domain at any point and makes reverting any changes extremely easy. GitHub also supports Markdown for creating formatted documents online.

## Explanation of drawbacks

Unfortunately, GitHub Pages has a few main drawbacks. The first is having very few options for easy customization and page design. There are a handful of premade themes, but they will not look as unique or professional as many created using other portfolio building sites. Second, GitHub Pages requires some knowledge of using GitHub itself and basic coding. If you do have this knowledge, it is possible to create a more complex portfolio page, but there will be more time and coding involved than using a portfolio building site. Lastly, GitHub Pages’ free pages are entirely public, so users are potentially posting personal work and information (like resumes) for anyone on the internet to see with no privacy or regulation.

## Description of portfolio design

My plan for the portfolio’s design is to have an attractive home page where I briefly introduce myself and provide prominent links to the portfolio itself, my resume, and possibly my certifications. On the linked portfolio page, I plan to have preview images for each individual piece with titles and links to their own pages. On these individual project pages, I will give each piece a short introduction and rhetorical context, along with displaying the piece itself. Some projects I plan to include are the proposal assignment from this course, a newsletter written for a non-profit organization, a set of instructions from a previous course, and a user guide for a student-made web application. I also plan to have links to my LinkedIn profile and email address in the footer of all pages, so I am easy to contact.