

For my final project, I utilized AI (ChatGPT) as a support tool for both technical and creative aspects of my website. I developed the base of my site and created the magic 8 ball SVG in Illustrator on my own but used ChatGPT to assist with better understanding the code I was writing, troubleshooting issues I struggled to resolve, cleaning up my code, and refine interactive effects I wanted to create.

The major use I got out of ChatGPT was for debugging finding errors in my code. Over the weekend, I encountered several persistent issues, such as my original SVG files not displaying properly, event listeners not activating, animations conflicting, and DOM elements unexpectedly shifting or disappearing. I explained my issues to ChatGPT, copy & pasted my codes, and attached screenshots of my page/VS code—after a bit of trial and error, ChatGPT was able to figure out why I was having the issues I was having and helped correct issues such as incorrect element targeting, overwritten CSS rules, missing MIME compatibility for SVGs, and visibility toggles that prevented click events from registering. ChatGPT helped me understand the language and explained why the code wasn't working, which helped me understand these interactions a bit better.

Some of the suggestions ChatGPT gave me ended up not working the way I planned and created bigger issues that could have been resolved if I had gone with my original ideas, it was a learning experience nonetheless that AI isn't perfect. I originally planned to use 2 SVGs of each side of the magic 8 ball and have it fade into the other when clicked, but ChatGPT suggested I use one SVG and utilize the layers for each side and instead manipulate these layers with javascript and CSS. This ended up having more issues than I liked and I ended up going back to my original plan of using 2 different SVGs and have them dissolve into the other.

Creatively, ChatGPT helped as a brainstorming partner that I bounced ideas off of and helped develop various things like titles, snarky 8-ball responses, button phrases, and stylistic choices that fit with the look I was going for. After I got the general look I wanted, ChatGPT cleaned up my code and made sure everything worked the way I intended it to but more efficiently and removing redundant codes, while preserving my own design choices and original assets.

Using AI functioned as a tutor, debugger, and creative collaborator that supported my design choices and growing my understanding of coding languages—but this was not without its issues and showed that AI is still imperfect in some areas.