After making the decision to pursue a web education via the Bootcamp Model the question becomes, which school. Luckily, trying to grasp all the available options isn't too difficult yet. I'll focus on the Northeast because Boston and New York have several schools. However, there are others in other parts of the country and researching them is a simple as a Google search.

In my research of available schools, I found Quora to be the most useful website. Other question and answer sites also provided valuable information but Quora was the most comprehensive. (Quora will force you to give an email to access content. It's annoying but worth it.) This first step will allow you to become acquainted with the schools with the best reputations and it should be possible to hone your list down just based on the information you find online.

The schools I found to be most intriguing included Launch Academy, Metis, General Assembly, Flatiron School, Fullstack Academy and Dev Bootcamp. There are several differences across these schools and it is important to know what is most important to you when weighing the pros and cons.

Unfortunately, what I found was that getting deeper into what a school was about was much more difficult than getting the overview. Because many of these schools are relatively new there isn't much information online and the only way I was able to learn more about them was to either attend a meet-up or contact the school directly. If possible, visit all the schools you’re interested in and then get ready to apply.

The application process will shed a lot more light on each school as there is a lot of information to be gained by the type of questions asked in the application. Also, you will usually be invited to an interview that will allow you to speak with an instructor from the school and typically be given some sort of pre-work to complete before the interview.

All of this information can shine some light on what the values of each school are and if they align with yours. For example, if the pre-work is just to build a website you can figure that the school will be more about doing. In the interviews you can get all your questions answered. The person you're speaking to will be evaluating you, but don't miss your opportunity to evaluate them. Important things to find out include: How many instructors per student; Employment rate after completion; One class at a time or do the overlap; How many hours a day are required etc. The interviewers I found would try to sell their school so the answers will be biased, but they will still be valuable.

When applying, it is important to do all the schools at about the same time. The reason for this is that if accepted many will give you only a week to a month to decide whether to accept the invitation and thus it's best to have all the options available at the same time to make sure you don't get pressured into a decision without having heard back from all the schools.

With any luck, the school of your choice will accept you and you will be able to truly begin your journey.