Final Project Reflection

DEVIATIONS FROM PROPOSAL

I basically stuck to my proposal, including sources for implementing the individual required elements. In hindsight, I would have like to mix it up a little more on my three subpages, as their layout is mostly identical. All of the required elements do exist on the home page, with some elements on each of the sub-pages.

WHAT I USED

After first attempting to build my own horizontal navigation and download buttons, as well as my own slide show - all using HTML, CSS, and JS, I opted for several of the bootstrap CSS and bootstrap JS options. I spent a lot of time on the W3 website looking at what was available and how to do things that I may want to do in the future. I also took advantage of stack overflow and the specific help question/answers on there.

All images used for this project are my own. My downloadable PDF is not my own, but one I have utilized before, and for which the reference is given.

WHAT I LEARNED

This project originally really scared me as there were so many pieces to it and I had so little experience/exposure to building the required elements. The first two things that I decided to tackle were the horizontal menu and the slideshow. I did several searches online and felt like I had a good handle on all of the code that was required to incorporate HTML, CSS & JavaScript. I was thinking of ways to implement the click button logic we had learned, and was headed in that direction for a horizontal menu (like in the left, right, up, down, mark assignment). But then I decided to look through the links I provided in my proposal and stumbled into the world of W3 and Bootstraps.

I think the most important thing I learned through this project is that there is a lot of information out there for building web sites. There are tons of templates and shortcuts already set up. The bootstraps and W3 add-ins can do just about everything you want. And lastly, that unless your job becomes explicitly building website development tools, that using the tools and templates and examples out there are the best way to get the job done.

OVERALL

I feel like this project, and this applies to the class as well, provided a good overview and basic understanding of web development and some of the different tools. However, I feel even more so than at the beginning of the quarter, that there is so much information out there and so many ways to implement the different parts. I think I could have spent several months on this project, learning the different parts and how to manipulate the pages to be what/where I wanted things to be. This project has given me the confidence to try more things out and plan to develop a website over the Christmas break for a friend's business.