A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

# Project Exam 1

Eric Pretzinger

Word count

## Design

### **What went well on the project**

As usual, I began working with hand-drawn wireframes first. This has proven to be a good route for me to go, as I often find I get ideas faster than I can create them in Adobe XD. Once I had a wireframe to go off, I began compiling a sort of style-tile, keeping in mind the color palette I wanted to use as well as the general layout of the project. Overall, I’m happy with the end result of the prototype as well as the finished website. I feel like my planning helped me create exactly what I envisioned from the start, with some necessary tweaks which I’ll get into below.

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

First and foremost, finding a suitable color palette wasn’t that easy. I luckily got some help from my girlfriend in finding the perfect color palette which suited my plan to create a food blog. From there, I wanted to create a grid layout for my blog-list page, but this turned out to be very difficult to begin with when I got into coding. Eventually, I was able to create code which would allow me to use such a grid set up, but this made images stretch and warp to an unmanageable degree. This pushed me to go for a simpler layout, since I didn’t want to also have to play with the image resolutions even more than I already had to - especially considering I’m still not proficient in Photoshop outside of some simple cropping.

### **What would you do differently next time**

I’m not so sure I would do that much differently when it comes to the design process. In the end, I ended up with a project I’m quite satisfied with and I think that’s due to the process I made sure to go through in the planning and development phase. Perhaps I would’ve liked to be better at using software such as Photoshop and/or Illustrator, but that’s for another time. Perhaps next time I’ll plan more according to my own skills and capabilities, but I feel like I did that this time around to a pretty good degree. The only noticeable change I had to make was that grid layout, and that’s more due to the imagery than anything else.

## Technical

### **What went well on the project**

Overall, I feel like most of the technical things went quite well. Alot of trial and error, Googling and other troubleshooting measures went into creating the code for this project. I’ve also taken a look at previous projects in cases where I couldn’t remember how to do a specific thing and supplemented with StackOverflow or MDN links to create most of the functionality of the website. I feel like I have a pretty good grasp on APIs and their documentation from before, having done quite a deep-dive into RAWG API documentation for my cross-course project, which in turn helped me alot throughout this project exam.

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

As I mentioned above, I feel like everything in the assignment brief went pretty well in the end, but there were definitely some difficult aspects. To begin with, I had a lot of issues creating a post structure on WordPress which I could work with. I briefly re-explored regEx expressions to format the HTML output the way I wanted, but this was extremely inefficient and time-consuming. Luckily, Connor O’Brien mentioned two WordPress plugins which could help alot. I found Advanced Custom Fields to be extremely useful, which is what I’ve used the most for my WP content.

Additionally, the carousel proved to be a quite difficult task. Luckily, I found a great video showing a very nice style of carousel, which I was able to follow and edit to my liking. I opted to drop the progress bar since I felt like it could potentially clutter the carousel section a bit. I still wanted the infinite scroll, so I spent a fair bit of time getting that to work, since the video I found ties the infinite scrolling feature into the progress bar.

I experienced the most issues with the WordPress REST API itself, since it returns content in a way we’ve not previously seen in the course. Especially the part with embedding the content to the return in order to get proper image URLs or using ACF and Custom Post Type UI to create returned content the way we normally would’ve received it in for example external APIs or WooCommerce. I also found it very difficult to work with the native search feature in WordPress, and didn’t manage to find any plugins which improved upon it. In the end, I had to opt for dropping images on the search page due to how images are returned. I tried using the ID the API supplies, but ran into a CORB error I wasn’t able to fix. Outside of this, I wasn’t able to embed the image URL by other means and didn’t want to create a separate image loop for this purpose.

### **What would you do differently next time**

## WCAG guidelines, content management and SEO

### **What went well on the project**

Used WAVE validation tool and Adobe Color Contrast Analyzer

### **What was difficult/didn’t go well on the project**

### **What would you do differently next time**

## References

(place references to websites, books, forums etc. that helped you in the project)

* <https://color.adobe.com/nb/create/color-contrast-analyzer>
* <https://webdesign.tutsplus.com/tutorials/how-to-build-flexible-modal-dialogs-with-html-css-and-javascript--cms-33500>
* <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/4550505/getting-a-random-value-from-a-javascript-array>
* <https://codereview.stackexchange.com/questions/176809/sorting-an-array-of-objects-by-a-property-which-may-be-missing>
* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yq4BeRtUHbk>
* Noroff lesson material
* Many, many other StackOverflow threads which provided partial solutions to problems
* Tutor Connor O’Brien, who has nudged me in the correct direction several times when looking at problems
* WAVE validator extension for Chrome
* <https://validator.w3.org/>