Module 7

What I Learned from Peer Review

One huge thing I realized when my classmates looked over my work was that I hadn't included social media links anywhere on my sketches. While this would not have been an issue five years ago, it certainly is today. I also realized that I had forgotten to pick web-safe fonts, which would have been a huge issue in a couple of weeks. In addition, they recommended that I make more contrast when you navigate away from the landing page of the site, which I thought was a great idea.

In terms of information architecture and how content was laid out on my site, my classmates generally agreed that everything made sense. As a professional website, we agreed that it was not necessary to put the "About Me" page any higher on the list, as I had considered. They also agreed with my decision to not make the "Contact Me" section a page of its own, and loved the idea of having a pop-out box when you hover over the words. Finally, I realized that it was not necessary to put my resume above my work samples, as most people who are interested will have my resume anyways, and work samples show what I can do as much as if not more than a resume.

My Revisions

Overall, my revisions were not drastic in any way. I changed my fonts so that they were web- safe, and changed the red that is in my color palette a little bit. Originally the red when you clicked on a navigation item and the red in my logo were slightly different, but now they match up, which is a nice touch. Besides that, I decided to add a blue barrier line between the navigation and the introduction to the site, to really set the two apart and help keep the eye from wandering. In addition, I changed the text in the header and footer from the bright green accent color to the gray of the background. I might still change this to another color, but when it is the green accent color, it is simply too much.

Reflection

Upon completion of the peer review, I realized that the biggest thing I need to work on in my designs is keeping usability in mind. This mainly depends upon walking the thin line between enough contrasts to help users see differences, but not so much that things get messy and confusing. Also, I found that I was not adequately using the white space available to me, and making things harder to differentiate than I had to because of that. White space is possibly the most important part of any design, and I have to make sure to use it accordingly.

As mentioned above, a usability centered design is what everyone really needs to keep in mind. By reviewing the work of my classmates, I realized where my eye automatically went on a web page, and therefore where I should put the most important elements of my website. In this way, the usability testing was very helpful. Finally, it gave me some great ideas for designs in the future. Right now my design work tends to be rather careful, using plain typefaces and colors. While this is generally good for usability, it can get a little boring. My classmates encouraged me

to take a few more risks in future designs, experimenting a little more with colors, type, spacing, and especially images.