

Web Development Reflective Essay

Roles and contributions

- **How were roles divided between team members?**

We divided our assignment into three parts: Home Page, Attractions and Services. Each part corresponds to a web page. This is also the main framework of our application. Then We divided team members into different pages, which makes it easier to identify their respective work and is more conducive to communication and discussion.

- **What roles did each person take?**

We divided the work tasks into three parts. Maria was responsible for Home Page, Aamna & Dean were responsible for Attractions, and Swen & Ryan were responsible for Services.

When there were other detailed tasks, such as meeting notes, drawing wireframes, etc., we complete them on a voluntary basis, and often while meeting conversation.

- **What contributions did team members make?**

At the very beginning, we had a brainstorming session where we discussed everything we could possibly cover, work assignments, and what would be involved. During application production, we held occasional meetings to discuss progress and work details.

In terms of main works, On our index page, Maria has included an animated photo carousel. We've designed it to be responsive and interactive upon user clicks in our meeting, making it the heart of our website. Moreover, our attractions page featuring an interactive map that users can click on to view the rides, which were the work of Aamna & Dean. Additionally, with an innovative approach towards creating tabs with HTML and CSS, we modified it to create filter buttons without the use of JavaScript! The services page encompasses a multitude of elements such as buttons and dropdown selection boxes, which, while not a requirement, were added to increase user engagement. Swen & Ryan did a lot of works with collaborations on that.

Your use of HTML and CSS

- **Which aspects of HTML and CSS that you encountered were you able to use well?**

In HTML, I put some meta information in the head section, for example, frequency of refreshing, author, descriptions, keywords, outsourced CSS, etc. I used a hierarchical approach to build HTML file. Based on building divs in different areas, I used <head>, and elements in different parts to build the web page framework. For special

elements like the navigation bar, I set their details in external CSS and apply them via import. For elements such as image and option, I think it is very important to customize settings for them by 'id' or 'class', because this will affect the user experience, which is what I did.

In CSS, I set up the different types of text, images, buttons, tables, etc. They are all important, otherwise the readability and beauty of the web page will be greatly reduced.

- **Which aspects do you still feel you need more practice with?**

I may say communicating with team members in English without any barriers is the biggest part that I need to practice and improve.

I had never been to an English-speaking country before, let alone received an education entirely in English, But I really hope to change my life through this project. Although my reading was not bad, during live meetings I had to focus mainly on keeping up with their discussions and subtitles. So when I thought of some good ideas, it's hard for me to express them directly.

But if we want to talk about the technical part, in the process of making the web page, we set up some predetermined buttons, but they only stayed on the surface. I am very interested in applications that combine the collection and management of data backend with buttons. If this can be done, it will greatly improve the usefulness of the website.

- **Which aspects do you feel are particularly powerful and useful?**

I particularly like the list and button functions built into HTML, and it allows me to easily customize the effects I want and improve the richness and convenience of web pages, which is very powerful, flexible and useful.

Positive aspects of your team work experience

- **What aspects of team working were positive for you? (for example, did you learn from other team members? Did being able to pool work from various people create a more comprehensive piece of work than one person could have produced?)**

We came up with a lot more great ideas from brainstorming than one person could ever come up with. Plus, On every work, we collaborate with each other and leverage our respective strengths, so our products are always the best they can be. This collaborative approach maximizes our individual talents and puts us in a great position.

And during our assignment, our group had a supportive atmosphere. Our more outstanding team members, such as Maria, will assist others and share her skills after completing the work originally assigned to her, which prevented our work from stagnating easily.

- **Highlight the aspects of this experience that you most enjoyed.**

I enjoyed the meeting discussion process very much. This was my first time using Google Meeting, and it was also my first time participating in a project discussion in English. I was inevitably nervous and always prone to making mistakes during my work. But looking back now, this experience was very worthwhile and I cherish it. I think this practical experience will have a great positive impact on my future work and study.

Negative aspects of your team work experience

- **What aspects of team working were challenging for you? (for example, if relevant, the difficulties of communicating across different time zones and maybe even cultures)**

Our group members are all from different time zones, the span is also relatively large, so it's difficult to determine meeting times. For example, I am in the East Eighth District, when I am able to participate in work, it is often when others are sleeping, and vice versa. Our response plan is to communicate during the marginal time period of both parties. For example, late at night in my time zone is also afternoon in other people's time zones.

- **Highlight the aspects of this experience that you enjoyed the least.**

Because we have never had the experience of teamwork before, we chose drive to collaboratively manage code. However, To be honest, our version management of the project was a bit confusing. For example, my partner and I sometimes had made changes at the same time and the work overlapped, which really bothered me and wasted some time on it.

Effects of team work on the quality of the work

- **Did you find that the members of the team contributed well?**

Of course, Maria was always the one who set up and ran the meeting rooms. She also completed the production of a web page alone and helped others a lot. Amana always thought out lots of ideas to make our website even better, with a concise and beautiful writing style. Ryan and I also did bunch of works on our page and communicated a lot. We are all honest because we can communicate our ideas directly to improve our work. Dean was pretty good, but struggled with his job sometimes.

- **Were there problems within the team that may have affected the quality of the work that was submitted by the team? What was the effect ?**

For a while, we entered a period of burnout and trying to organize discussions and meetings was difficult. Our work stalled for a few weeks. If this situation continued, we would definitely not achieve what we have achieved today. Fortunately, we finally discussed this issue openly and honestly on the channel, and finally we got back on track.

Tools you and your team used

- **What tools did your team use to help you with your work?**

Slack: Routine and intermittent communication and communication;

Google Drives: Code management, wireframes and report sharing;

Google meeting: Online meetings, collaborative work and co-authoring reports;

ChatGPT: Generate beautiful pictures as materials;

W3School: Learn HTML and CSS tips and skills;

Visual Studio Codes: Coding, also a tool for us to write code online.

- **What tools do you think you should have used but didn't? How would they have helped?**

Like I said before, our version management can be better. If we use Git tools, I think our version conflicts will be alleviated a lot, at least better than uploading files to Google Drive separately. With proper version management, we can reduce wasted time and create better application.