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TA: Cole Gleason

Assignment 8 Write-up

Link to website: https://tzhu29.github.io/otherpages/index2.html

(5 pts) Part 1: In 300 words (only!) describe your website (I will stop reading at 300 words, so please be concise). Include the following:
1. **What is the purpose of your website?**
2. **What information do you convey with your website?**
3. **How is it interesting and engaging?**
4. **Who is the target audience?**

My website is a standard portfolio and the purpose of it is to display my portfolio work to potential UX Design recruiters and hiring managers. I would like to show them that I have a strong roster of projects that display not only my ability to design, but to apply design thinking to solving problems. Specifically, I selected a few projects I was particularly proud of from my Persuasive Design course as well as from my previous work in industry. I discuss both the process and outcomes of my design work in my project pages, as well as my overall skill set and goals in my About Me page (which also includes a link to my resume).

In order to make the website interesting and engaging, I organized the content much like a pitch would be, where the context/problem is provided first and then the solution, with the process coming last if a busy recruiter happens to have time to dig in. This way it engages the reader immediately and sticks the details at the bottom where someone can read more if they are inclined. Additionally, I created a sticky sidebar on each project so that the recruiter/hiring manager can hop around the content whenever they choose without having to scroll up and down the page, looking aimlessly.

b. (5 pts) Part 2: Use a bulleted list to describe how a user would interact with your website. For each item in your list, say
1. **the interaction type you implemented**
2. **how I should reproduce it (i.e. click on X on page Y, or scroll on page X, etc.)**

1. **Homepage animation**
   a. On load, the top elements will fade up
   b. Scroll down
   c. The other projects I have will load
   d. Project Know Yourself and Debugger are clickable. Chronicle is a placeholder project to exaggerate the effect of the fade up animation
2. **Dropdown "Work" menu**

      a. Hover over "Work" in the navbar and the projects should dropdown

3. **Project Know Yourself**
   a. From the homepage, click on the purple project or select "Project Know Yourself" from the "Work" dropdown
   b. It features an embedded iframe video under "02 Solution" and a carousel of images under "Final Iterations"

4. **Debugger**
   a. From the homepage, click on the blue and green project or select "Debugger" from the "Work" dropdown
   b. It features 2 carousels of images under "03 Process"

5. **Sticky Left Sidebar (both Project Know Yourself and Debugger pages)**
   a. There is a sidebar on both project pages that follows you when you scroll and allows you to jump to any of the major content sections of the page.
   b. All you need to do is scroll down and the sidebar on the left stays with you.

6. **About Me page animation**
   a. On load, the top elements will fade in
   b. Scroll down
   c. The elements of my About Me sections will appear

c. (4 pts) Part 3: Describe what external tool you used (JavaScript library, Web API, animations, or other). Following the bulleted list format below, reply to each of the prompts. (I will stop reading at the 4th sentence, so please be concise)
    i. Name of tool
    ii. Why you chose to use it? (2-4 sentences max)
    iii. How you used it? (2-4 sentences max)
    iv. What it adds to your website? (2-4 sentences max)

1. Animate on Scroll Library: https://michalsnik.github.io/aos/
2. I chose to use it because I was looking for some basic animations I could add to create some delightful visuals, particularly on my homepage. This was by far the most straightforward implementation of all the animation tools I tried (including wow.js, animate.css, etc.)
3. I used it to add animations to both my homepage and also my About Me page. In particular, it helped me animate some of my image divs.
4. It creates a nice visual cue that draws the eye to where I want it to pay attention. On the homepage, it acts as physical progressive disclosure, with each project being revealed in a specific order. Similarly on my About Me page, the animation draws the eye to each aspect of my profile one at a time.

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d. (2 pts) Part 4: Describe how you iterated on your HW7 mockups, if at all, including any changes you made to your original design while you were implementing your website. (2-4 sentences max)

I made a few minor updates from my HW7 mockups. In particular, I changed the fonts I used because I found a pair that felt more indicative of the personal style that I like to convey. Otherwise, I stuck fairly closely to the original mock. The only other big change I made was that I change the project hero images to images of my own design (original mocks used images found on Dribbble).

e. (2 pts) Part 5: What challenges did you experience in implementing your website? (2-4 sentences max)

The biggest challenge I faced was code clashing from different libraries and tools that I was trying to stitch together. For example, I initially started out thinking I wanted to use Bootstrap, but I had a very distinct look I wanted to go for. I tried to shoehorn Bootstrap in, in order to guarantee responsiveness, but attempting to style over it really because a nightmare quickly. This was the case with a few libraries I tried (including ones for creating carousels), where it because very difficult to debug styling issues because I could not figure out if it was my code or code living elsewhere. I overcame it generally by sticking to my own handwritten code, and only using tools where there were no separate stylesheets involved.