

Grad Template Documentation

This document is documentation for the HTML template written for grad students at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Journalism. This template is intended to be used for student projects, though it can easily be used for any HTML-based page/site without modifications.

This template can be found on GitHub at:

<https://github.com/usc-annenberg-journalism/grad-template>

You may fork or download or clone this template as you wish.

If you wish to know more about the scripts / helpers used in this template, read the Colophon section.

General Template Structure

You will find the following in the template package:

- index.html -- The base for all your code. Fully commented and modular! You should be able to paste different sections and rearrange it to your liking. You may delete or comment out whole sections if you don't need them. Read the comments, they're important!
- css -- Folder containing all CSS files for this template. Students only need to worry about the student.css file. Please do not delete or modify any other CSS files in here. Instructions on how to add your own styles will come later in this documentation.
- js -- Folder containing all the necessary jQuery scripts for various components. If students wish to download their own scripts, they should go in this folder. There is a scripts.js file in this folder for students to write their own JavaScript / jQuery if need be.
- images -- Folder for all photos. Please be kind and compress your images appropriately. Don't be a bandwidth hog.
- media -- Folder for all other non-photo media, such as video and audio. Video should be in .mp4 format, audio should be in .mp3 format. Again, be kind and compress your media as much as possible. No one wants to wait forever to listen or watch your stuff.

Getting Started

The index.html file is your home base. All your necessary code will go in there. If you wish to have a multiple-page project, you can simply make a copy of this file and rename it to whatever

you want (page2.html or about.html or whatever you like as long as it's one word and all lowercase).

These are the major parts of the html file:

- **Navigation:** This is the black bar at the top. It has a toggle built in for mobile devices; otherwise, it will show across the top of your page as an unordered list. Put in as many links as you want in the unordered list. If you don't want navigation, delete the entire `<header></header>` section, as it says in the comments.
- **Main Body:** This is the main body for text. It contains an H1 for the headline and an H2 for the subhead, and a p tag with a byline class for the byline. Use what you need, remove what you don't need. You can change the styles of those classes to your heart's content. (This is discussed in the "So You Want To Write Your Own Styles, Eh?" section of this documentation.)
- **Article Subheads:** These are set in H3, but you can use a different tag if you want.
- **Blockquotes:** For when you want pullquotes. In the html file, you'll see them used at full width and within half-column containers. Again, if you want to change the styles, you can do so.
- **left-media and right-media div containers:** These divs have other classes applied to them (grid-6, for example) and span half a page width on desktop browsers. Left and right refer to their position on the page. You can put anything in these half-containers. Just make sure you copy the entire div as stated in the comments, and don't change the grid classes.
- **Infobox:** An infobox style and div container is included in this template for making quick infoboxes. By default, this is in a container that is one-fourth the width of the page. You can change the grid-3 class to grid-4 or grid-6 if you want a wider box on desktop.
- **Slideshow:** Powered by jQuery Cycle2. By default, this slideshow pauses when you hover your mouse on top of an image and fades in transition. It has spaces for a photo and a caption, and a dot pager at the bottom to page through your slides. If you wish to make this slideshow work differently, you can refer to the jQuery Cycle2 documentation, which is linked in the Colophon.
- **Carousel:** Powered by Owl Carousel. Each carousel item is encased in a div tag. There is an image, headline, and caption. You can put whatever you want inside those div items. On desktops, four items will show. On mobile phones, one item will show. On tablets and smaller screens, it will drop to three items or two items, depending on screen size. By default, this uses a dot pager (similar to the slideshow), and requires the user to page through the carousel manually. If you wish to change any of these settings, you can refer to the Owl Carousel documentation, which is linked in the Colophon.
- **Two-column, three-column, and four-column sections:** These are multiple column sections that can be copied and pasted as blocks anywhere in your content. These sections are documented in the html comments and should tell you where the blocks start and end so you can move them correctly. Feel free to use these blocks multiple times, or not at all. Almost anything can go in these blocks, whether it be images, text,

video, or audio. Examples of almost every type of media embed and content type are in the html for your reference.

- **Footer:** It's there if you want a copyright line or links, or whatever you choose to put in there. Delete it if you don't need it.

A Note About Photo Sizes

If you view the index.html template in a browser, you'll notice that the photo placeholders have suggested pixel sizes on them. These are just suggestions. The template is built so that photos resize as necessary, depending on column width and screen size. But feel free to use the size suggestions in the template, and everything should work out fine. Just don't use an image raw from your camera that's 4000-plus pixels wide. Again, no one wants to wait to download your enormous image.

So You Want to Write Your Own Styles, Eh?

Good for you. We like experimentation. But there is a right way and a wrong way to go about this, so make sure you do it the right way so the template doesn't get borked irrevocably.

Inside the css folder, there is a file called student.css. This is where you can write whatever styles you wish. You may override styles that already exist in the html template. **DO NOT CHANGE THE STYLES IN THE MAIN.CSS FILE.** The student.css is called after the main.css file so that you can override things easily and still keep the original styles in case something goes horribly wrong. So please use the student.css file.

Some styles you may want to override:

- body (if you want to change the overall typeface, color of the text, or the background)
- h1, h2, h3, h4, h5, h6 (if you want to change the typeface, colors, etc. of all headers)
- .headline, .subhead, .byline
- blockquote / .attribution (for the quote attribution)
- .caption
- .infobox / .circle / .number

There is a .center class available for use if you want to center text easily.

You are also free to add your own classes or ids if you wish. Just make sure you write those styles in the student.css file.

The template is using two Google Fonts as its base fonts (you can find this info in the Colophon section). If you wish to change the fonts, you may do so in CSS. If you wish to use different

Google Fonts, make sure you link to those fonts in the <head></head> section before you reference them in your CSS file. If you wish to use a font that is NOT a Google Font, please make sure you make a font package so the font can be correctly distributed on people's browsers if they don't have the font on their machine. You can reference fontsquirrel.com if you want to know about this process (they can help you make the correct web font package as well).

But I Want to Use Other Fancy jQuery/JavaScripts!

This is fine. Just make sure to put all your script files in the js folder and reference them properly in the <head></head> section. If your script package has CSS files included, put those in the css folder, and again, reference them properly in the <head></head> section.

If you need to write functions to trigger your scripts, or you want to write your own JS, put these in the scripts.js file in the js folder. There is already some script in there, just go ahead and add to that file. There should be a document.ready section for jQuery already, you don't need to put it twice.

Also, keep in mind that this template already calls the jQuery library. You do not need to call it again for your jQuery script of choice. If you do, you may run into conflicts and things may not work. So read the documentation for your script carefully and don't just paste in a jquery.js file willy-nilly!

Colophon

Base fonts used are Merriweather (serif) and Roboto (sans serif). Both are Google Fonts.

Merriweather - <https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Merriweather?query=merriweather>

- 300, 400, 700 weights used, in regular, bold, and italic.

Roboto - <https://fonts.google.com/specimen/Roboto?query=roboto>

- 400 and 700 weights used, in regular, bold, and italic.

FontAwesome is used for icons.

<http://fontawesome.io/>

CSS grid is the Extra Strength Responsive Grid.

<http://dfcb.github.io/extra-strength-responsive-grids/>

Normalize.css (to make things consistent across browsers):

<https://necolas.github.io/normalize.css/>

JS scripts used:

HTML5 responsive audio player

<http://tympanus.net/codrops/2012/12/04/responsive-touch-friendly-audio-player/>

Owl Carousel

<http://www.owlgraphic.com/owlcarousel/>

jQuery Cycle2 (for slideshow)

<http://jquery.malsup.com/cycle2/>

FitVids.js (to make all embedded third-party video responsive):

<http://fitvidsjs.com/>

FastClick (to reduce touch lag for dropdown menus on mobile devices):

<https://github.com/ftlabs/fastclick>

Questions or Comments?

Contact Jenn de la Fuente at jdelafue@usc.edu. If you're feeling extra fancy, you can make a pull request on the GitHub repo if you wish to make additions or spot anything wrong in the code.