

A Write-Up for Assignment 8

Part 1: Website Description

My website mainly serves as a brief self-introduction of myself. I would like to define it as an information tool through which the audience can get to know more about me. It actually shares similar functions with a portfolio since it helps people dive further into my mind and my experience, but it's also quite distinguished from a portfolio since it's not project-based and doesn't target to a job.

As I've just mentioned, this website doesn't target to a job, therefore my target audiences are not recruiters in companies, but my new friends and potential friends who are interested in knowing a little bit more about me. Based on my personal experience, the fastest way to get to know someone is to ask them some basic questions, for example: What's your favorite city/food/word/virtual character and why? What's your major in college and how does it influence you?

Based on such acknowledgment, I choose to organize my website into five modules: my favorite city, my favorite food, my favorite virtual character, my favorite word (in English) and my major in college. And my answers to these questions are Stockholm, Sashimi, Snape, Serendipity and Sociology. I choose these five categories for two reasons: firstly, these are categories that I feel most strongly about sharing to people; secondly, the answers of these five questions happen to be all 'S' words, which for me is an amazing coincidence. For each word, I illustrate to the audience my feelings and opinions towards them and how I'm shaped and influenced by each of them.

To make the website more engaging, I make animated illustrations for all the categories that I introduce and also make the homepage more visually delightful. The whole website is highly interactive, concise, visualized and not text heavy.

Part 2: Interaction

- **Hover**

Hover on category names (illustrated as photo frames hanging on the wall) on the homepage

- **Click**

Click on category names (illustrated as photo frames hanging on the wall) on the homepage
Click on 'HOME', 'SEE PREVIOUS', 'SEE NEXT' buttons on each detailed page

Part 3: External Tools

1. Lottie (Javascript Library & Animation Tool)

I use Lottie Library to render After Effects animations in real time so that I can use animations as easily as I use static images and don't need to code things out. To use Lottie, I installed a plugin called Bodymovin for After Effects to export animation in JSON data format, and then integrate Lottie by adding the lottie.js file to my code and insert javascript files & CSS codes for specific animations. It adds to my website more room of creation by allowing me to add high-quality animations to my website without limited by my coding skills.

2. CSS Keyframes (Animation Tool)

I choose to use CSS Keyframes for some basic animations since it's already built in CSS and very simple to operate. I can use it to animate most HTML elements without using JavaScript or

Flash. I used it by following the @keyframes rule, binding @keyframes elements and CSS styles for specific divs together. It adds to my website better user experience since the animations make the digesting process more delightful. For example, the fade in effect applied in every page eases users' pain of going through abrupt page transformations.

3. Media Query (Responsive Web Design Tool)

I choose to use Media Query since it's an easy and effective way to make my website responsive. To use it, I follow the @media rule to include a block of CSS properties only if a certain condition is true. It adds to my website better user experience and broader target users since the elements on my website can be easily digested on various devices, from laptop to smartphones.

Part 4: Iteration

The first change I made from my HW7 mockups is that I simplify the categories I would like to convey from 4 broad fields each containing multiple secondary categories to 5 specific words. By doing so, I made the structure of the website more explicit. The second change I made is mainly on the visual side. I changed my previous 'traditional' format to a more visualized one, and also added many animations to both images and other elements. By doing so I made the browsing experience more engaging.

Part 5: Challenges

The challenges I faced while implementing my website mainly happen when applying external tools. For the Lottie Library, I was frustrated by the Bodymovin plugin since it sometimes renders the animation in a wrong way and leads to weird outputs. For media query, I failed multiple times due to not including all the elements in need of adjustments. I also had a difficult time using keyframes since it requires a coordination between @keyframes modules and CSS-for-div modules.