

My Website Reflection

I have spent several hours last quarter and this quarter working on my personal website and will be continually working on it in the future. Overall I feel that my website is neat, clear, and easy to read. I also feel that I utilized all aspects of design when creating my website.

I decided to go with the white background because it contrasts well with several other colors and makes the website look neat. The white background helps draw the reader's attention to the words on the page because it is not distracting. With the white background, it is easier to read the text. I decided to go with the cascading text to add some appeal to the simple pages instead of everything being left-aligned. Each bullet is a short summary of the content in each link. By using the bullets and short phrases, readers can quickly find the information they are looking for and do not have to read lengthy descriptions to find what they need.

When I first read *The Non-Designer's Web Book*, I was surprised that it was considered to be bad design when the links were its blue default color. Most people associate the blue, underlined words as a link and several of the professional websites on the Internet still use the default blue link. So in creating my links, I decided to make all my links an orange color so readers will be able to associate the orange links to the homepage.

I created my website to be simple, yet appealing and utilizing color to group information. I used a color scheme in that different topics are different colors based on

the color of the titles of the different pages. For example, the homepage is mainly orange, the About Me page is blue and the subtopics will also be blue, the Education page is green along with all the subtopics, the YEPE page is brown and the Credits page is purple. To enhance the color scheme, I decided to use landscape pictures that were largely the same color as the title.

Even though I have been updating and continually working on my website, there are still aspects of it that I can improve. I obviously need to finish the pages that will be linked from the About Me page (which is why the words are the color of the link, but not yet underlined). I also need to complete the YEPE part, which will hopefully all be finished in the near future. I made the homepage clearer by including a link within each bulleted summary. I have also included a menu bar on the bottom of my Philosophy of Education page and added a back button to the Education page because of the amount of text; I plan to do the same for the Development page. I am still unsure if I want to add the menu bar on the bottom of each page or just ones that have lots of text. Right now I am leaving it with only the pages with lots of text. As I was trying to update my website, I ran into some problems adjusting spacing on some of my web pages, which I hadn't encountered before. If I am unable to fix those at this time, I will have it done before I submit my final electronic portfolio.

In the future, I intend to keep my website pretty much the same but updating it once I have new information to add. I plan to replace the "projects" link from the Education page with my completed Master's Portfolio. The purpose for my website in the future is to be a summary of my accomplishments from college and beyond school.