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**COMP266**

**Unit 2 – HTML Site Building**

**Learning Diary**

For this unit, I used different tutorial websites to understand better how HTML works. I found w3schools and https://www.tutorialspoint.com/html5/index.htm particularly useful.

After finishing reading the tutorials, I decided to use HTML5 and follow its standards.

But before creating the pages for my website, I started with the 2 sample html files we were supposed to correct. I made some adjustments to sample 1 to make it look better organized and I also changed some things in the code. I am aware that HTML5 is more flexible in terms of its syntax rules than XHTML; however, since I am a beginner, I tried to make it look as clean as possible, so I didn’t get confused. Some of the things I added/changed include: a missing <!DOCTYPE html> attribute, a few missing “/” symbols in the end tags, made all tags lower cased (I know I can use capital letters in HTML5, but I thought it would be better to keep it homogenous throughout the whole code), etc. For the sample 2 page I simply added a title and some text, and I made sure it complied to the HTML5 standards.

For my website, the way I designed the pages was based on the mock-up I previously designed in Unit 1. I built 6 pages in total; however, some of them only include a title. I thought it would be good to have the pages ready for when I decide to add the information to them. Those that have more content are the ones I thought were the most important for the website and the ones I thought would help me meet all the requirements for this unit.

I created a folder for the pages and a different one for the images, so it is easier to organize all my files further on. I made sure it was easy to go back and forward among all the pages, and that all the hyperlinks to the relative links worked.

Also, I made sure I paid attention to the details I wrote in Unit 1. Particularly those related to the easy movement among all the pages, so that all future clients found it easy to navigate through the website.

In terms of the requirements:

1. **A minimum of three HTML pages complying with at least XHTML 1.0 standards or (better):** I made 6 pages plus the 2 sample files following HTML5 standards.
2. **At least one image:** I used 2 images in the pages I created for my website, plus another one for sample 1.
3. **Hyperlinks between all the pages (using relative URLs)**: I used them in all my pages.
4. **At least one hyperlink to an external website:** For my website, it didn’t make sense to use an external website link; however, there was 1 in the sample 1 file.
5. **Sufficient text to require the use of** **at least two heading styles** **:** There were multiple heading styles throughout the pages.
6. **At least one list (ordered or unordered):** I added a list in the “Gallery” page.
7. **At least one <div> tag (preferably more), with a specified name, to identify a section of a page (of no particular value yet, but needed later on). It would be best if this were something that you see the need to reformat later to change its appearance, position, or behaviour, for example a sidebar floated on one side of the page:** There were multiple <div> tags in all the pages for my website.
8. **At least one <span> tag (preferably more), with a specified name, to identify a section of text within a paragraph or other block-level element (again, no immediate value—for use later). It would be best if this were something that you see the need to reformat later to change its appearance, position, or behaviour, for example, a change in typeface or font:** I used a <span> tag in all the pages. I’m not sure whether I might add more in the future.
9. **A table. (*Special note regarding tables*: tables are only ever to be used for tabular data, with meaningful rows and columns of data, *never* to lay out things on the page—such use is common but strongly deprecated because of accessibility issues)**: I added a table in the “Gallery” page.
10. **A form, the contents of which are mailed to the author (you)**: I added a form in the “Contact us” page.

In this unit, I was able to work on a few things that I found important when I worked on the personas and scenarios in the previous unit. Some of the goals I could accomplish were: I focused a lot in trying to make it as easy and efficient as possible to navigate through the pages, so that people could visit the page and find what they want quickly since some of them would potentially not have a lot of time. Also, I made sure the prices, themes and dimensions of the paintings were easily seen in the Gallery, so that people knew all these details right away. Furthermore, I made sure the logo and name of the artist (which would be the “brand name”) was easily visible and was present in all pages, so that people could perhaps remember it more easily.

**What went well?**

I found many helpful tutorials to better understand HTML. Some of them were provided to us and some others I found by myself on the internet. That made things much easier because it was only necessary to read them, practice with the exercises they provided and if I forgot some details, I could easily go back and re-check how to use the different tags and attributes.

**What did not go well?**

To be honest, since I have never done anything related to programming, I found it quite confusing to work in the SCIS Web Space. I didn’t understand what I needed to do at the beginning and got a bit overwhelmed. It took me a pretty long time to understand what I was supposed to do and to learn how to use WinSCP, and why I needed it.

**Link to my site:** http://student.athabascau.ca/home/mariapa35/Unit%202