Design Process

The following website was created for this designer to be used as a teaching aid in the Foundations of Nursing course that is taught in the spring at Ohio University to sophomore level bachelors of nursing students. This course is the first clinical course where the students interact with true patients in the local hospital and nursing facility setting. Students are introduced to advocacy during this quarter and as the instructor of record for the course, the need for additional teaching and learning to occur in advocacy prior to interacting in difficult situations at the clinical setting was desired. The students will use this site on a biweekly basis to read the scenarios and review the critical thinking questions presented in each area. All though this site was developed for use by the Ohio University students the contents are by no means affiliated with Ohio University and as it is a live site this designer is welcoming other students from other schools of nursing to use as an aide to their learning. User feedback is welcomed at buchmans@ohio.edu.

The first objectives of this website was to provide relevant case studies that will assist the pre licensure nursing students to think critically as they develop their skills to advocate for their patients and families. This designer believes that if a nursing students sits down and reads the scenario and take time to answer the questions critically they can gain a better understanding of what is going on with the patient therefore they are meeting the objective. The second objective was to keep the website simple and not have a lot of distracting ads or extra graphics that are not related to the content. This objective was met as well by the clean feel of the website. There was not any embedded extra content such as calendars or Facebook links that could have been more of a distraction. And the third objective of promoting an attitude of empathy in the pre licensure nursing students again was created by the case scenarios. It is believed that by hearing more about issues students can relate more empathetically. The case scenarios allow for this empathy to occur.
The site map created for this website was very simple and concise. The elements remained true to the content and did continue into the website. However, the mock ups created were changed as a result of the peer critiques that were completed on Voice thread. This was the first website ever created by this designer from html and it was a challenge. The lack of experience with coding was evident in the mock ups as they were very generic. The intent of the mockup was to give a visual plan as to how the final website would be designed. The input received from the peer critiquing was invaluable and changed further development of the website. One overall objective for this website was to keep the website as much like our mock ups as possible and although many changes were made in response to peer critiques and this designer’s lack of experience with coding and designing the overall objectives remained. The content remained unchanged, as well as the same background color but the design and layout needed to be altered to do justice to the content. Preparing for this website allowed for many reviews of other advocacy sites. One negative in regards to other sites that will not be reflected in this site is the use of ads that can be very distracting. The design of this website was to create a ubiquitous learning environment.

The peer critiquing was the most valuable portion of creating this initial website. One critical change that occurred as a result of peer feedback was that the buttons were extremely large in the initial plan and were not necessarily in the same order from screen to screen. Another change was to ensure that the terminology used was reader appropriate and not beyond the knowledge base of the level of reader targeted. The logo also needed a makeover. Originally, it was difficult to tell what my website was going to be about. The critiques were an important piece of developing my final website. The feedback provided was implemented in one way or another. There was nothing that was not felt as valuable and implemented in some way or another.
Developmental Process

This designer used Firebug on Mozilla Firefox to view other people websites and gain insight on how the html and the CSS worked. No html code was borrowed in its entirety but rather used as multiple examples of how the code should look. The requirement for this course was to create the code for the website without the aid of a drop and drag program or anyone else’s assistance to gain an understanding of how to create a website. Another notable contributor was the W3Cschools.com as the examples they provided were very in depth and much appreciated. Jamie Smith, the professor for this course also provided step by step instruction on design that was valuable as well as the CSS code that was used for the original portion of this website. The CSS code was further developed by the designer as the website progressed.

The original final website was tested by fellow classmates for usability. Valuable feedback resulted that prompted further feedback. One initial crucial error that had been overlooked was an error in spelling on the navigation bar. The choice of my heading size was distracting to some and needed to be resized as a result. Another area that prompted change was the use of the navigation bar at the bottom of the website. Additional contact information was needed for readers to contact the designer. One final change made as a result of the usability testing was to add additional headings to each page that identified the page the user was on. There were conflicting opinions on as to change the background color or the navigation buttons color. As a result only minimal changes were made to the CSS whereas the html had numerous changes.

The website is more developed then the initial mock up. The site map remained true to the website. Through the process of evolution the website has developed into a cleaner version of the mock up. The color scheme remained true as did the content. However, the design needed to be completely overhauled after viewing the websites of peers and listening to the critiques. The changes made allowed
EDCT 531 Reflection

for this website to take on a professional appearance. This course and the development of this website was a challenge that has turned out to be a very valuable experience.