

IT 111 Week 10 Podcast

Hello and welcome to the week 10 podcast for IT 111. This podcast will focus on the final project with several suggestions for getting the best grade possible. Some of these suggestions overlap with the 10 Tips for Completing Your Final Project YouTube video I've posted.

First, the grading sheet I'll be using is available from the final project instructions page. I strongly recommend that you print it out and grade your own project before you submit it. I'll add a link to the grading sheet in the podcast show notes, too. In fact, why don't you hit the Pause button now and print a copy of it so you can use it for the next section of the podcast.

Got your copy printed? Great! Now, I'm going to run through each grading element and share some tips!

First, each page must have a descriptive title. This will appear in the title bar of the web browser window. For example, if your project is a web site for Max's Doggy Day Care Center, your page titles should all include the name of the business as well as the specific content of the page. If you have a services page, the title should be something like Max's Doggy Day Care Services. You don't need to include your last name or the last four digits of your SID for this assignment. But, I'll only give full points if each page has a descriptive title.

Next, make sure you include an email link on each page. You can add a link to the imaginary webmaster of the site if you like. But, I will look for a properly coded email link on each page in your project.

Your navigation must work. I'll test every link and if I get a 404 Page Not Found error message, I'll deduct points. Please name your home page file index.htm or index.html – the default file name for home pages. I don't care what you name your other pages though it's best to stick with lower case letters, use logical names, and not leave any spaces. The services page, if you have one, should probably be named services.htm or services.html.

If you use tables in your site, make sure to include a title and summary attribute which are explained on pages 312 and 313. And, make sure you view your site in at least two different browsers. I'll be viewing them in Firefox 3 and Internet Explorer 7. Your pages should display consistently in both browsers.

I've noticed that images can be the biggest stumbling block for many students. First, please don't borrow images you find on the web unless you've asked for and received permission to use them. Many people who post photos on photo sharing sites like Flickr, Shutterfly, and Picasa Web Album will allow you to use their images but you may need to get permission first.

Check the web site for copyright policy. I'm including a link to Flickr photos that can be used as long as you give the photographer credit.

Remember that each image should include accurate width and height attributes. Please, please, please don't make up values. If your images are too big, use Picasa or another image editing program to optimize them.

Each image should include the alt attribute with an accurate and useful description of the image. If you're using an image as a link, make sure the description provides instructions like, "Click here to see the services we provide." Remember the alt attribute is for vision impaired users and they need good descriptions of your images to understand and use your web site.

Moving on, your form should work so you'll need to use the script found on page 366 from Chapter 9 for the action attribute. In addition, I want you to include at least three different form elements in your form. For example, I'm sure you'll use a few text boxes for collecting names and possibly an email address. But, you'll also need to include radio buttons and/or checkboxes and/or select lists and/or textareas in your form.

You must use an external style sheet for your site. Please don't use embedded or inline styles.

All your pages must validate in both the XHTML and CSS validators. Period. No exceptions.

Please make sure your pages use proper grammar and have no spelling errors. If you struggle with spelling or grammar, ask someone else to check your pages over. An easy way to find spelling errors is to copy the text from your web pages and paste it into Word or another word processor. This is how I'll be checking for misspelled words in your project.

I want you to apply the design principles we covered in Chapter 5 to your site. So, your images should be optimized and under 30KB. You should have good contrast between the background and text color so your content is easy to read. Use the area "above the fold" appropriately. You might want to use colors from the web color palette. And of course, test your pages in more than one browser.

The final 6 points will be awarded for sites that go beyond the absolute minimum requirements. Perhaps you've created more than four pages or have developed a style sheet with 10 or 15 style rules. Maybe you've used many more than four images and they're all optimized and appropriate for your topic. I want to reward students who really try to develop an attractive, interesting, and useful site. If you're uncertain about this grading element, feel free to contact me. I'll be happy to help you get the full points for this part of the assignment.

Finally, your final project is due on Friday, June 19th by 11:59pm. If you want me to review your site and give you feedback, you'll need to submit it by Tuesday, June 16th. If you submit it after Tuesday, you won't have an opportunity to make any revisions.

Well I guess that's it for this podcast. Hang in there everyone. The end of the quarter is definitely in sight!