**Week One of Web Work**

With your group, pretend that you are creating a web site for your project (maybe you actually are!) This week we will work on a basic thumbnail or wireframe sketch of a homepage while discussing positive elements of web sites in general.

First, poke around the internet find to find some websites you LIKE, focusing on style and graphic elements as opposed to web writing. When you find one you agree on, break it down: what is it that your group likes about it? Write down several elements your group finds pleasing.

Then, use the book’s steps below guide you in creating a fake home page. Perhaps it would help to start with what you already have as a basis--a nascent home page already in existence that you can build from.

You might go online to look up some tutorials on [wireframing](https://webdesign.tutsplus.com/articles/a-beginners-guide-to-wireframing--webdesign-7399): the electronic version of a thumbnail design sketch (this is one of many [sites](https://www.justinmind.com/blog/wireframes-and-mockups-whats-the-best-option/) to examine, and this article at [Design Shack](https://designshack.net/articles/inspiration/close-photoshop-and-grab-a-pencil-the-lost-art-of-thumbnail-sketches/) lauds the lost art of the thumbnail sketch, which might work great if you were with each other in person!) This is easy to do on a computer: open up a google doc and draw boxes. Familiarize yourself with the terms/elements of a wireframe; use the language of site builders.

Then using the book’s guidelines (pages 605-608), sketch out a home page.

Step 1: develop content: what is your subject, purpose, readers, and context? Draft a few sample sentences that would lay out for your users what they might find at your site, based on its purpose, which you would put on the home page.

Step 2: Organize it: How would it be organized? Just draft a home page: draw a few mock –ups of how it would look. What would be in the header and footer? Would there be a sidebar? What links would be appropriate and why?

Step 3: Choose a style and design (today, focus on design). What might you put on the home page and why? How would you use the design principles of balance, alignment, grouping, etc.

Step 4: what images would you put on your site and why? What would they show about your group? What impression are you trying to give?

Be prepared to discuss some elements of this exercise with the class; we’ll continue this on to next class period.

Goals: learn some terminology of wireframing/site design

 begin sketching out a home page: focus on purpose—readers—tone