I designed my website with friends and family in mind, hoping to update them on all of the great work I have done during my first year at Penn State. Because my audience choice was somewhat informal, I structured my website accordingly. I made the layout easily navigable for elder members of my family who might want to view the site, including explicit tabs for every page. Also, under the blogging tab, there are two subpages; both the main page and subpage are accessible, with the main page redirecting viewers to one of the two subpages. This was to try to get rid of any confusion of which tab to open.

Additionally, I wanted to make my website clean with crisp colors and formatting. Though I did not need to do this for professionality, I did not want my family to have to strain their eyes viewing an embellished and over-colored site. Thus, it remains mostly black and white, with hints of blue on the homepage and other places. I also used a lot of images on my site; my relatives seem to enjoy seeing pictures of me as updates of my college career. I laid out the images in two different ways. On the front page, they are arranged in a slideshow that can be easily halted and continued and contains a montage of pictures from last spring and summer, as well as my entire freshman year. On the Blue Band page, they are in the form of a gallery, just to give the website variety while still allowing the pictures to be easily viewable.

Though this website was only required to have work from CAS 137 and 138, I decided to include work from my Engineering Design course, as well as Blue Band, my most involved extracurricular. The mix of classwork and extracurricular activity engages my family in all aspects of my life here at Penn State instead of just academics.

The organization of my website is intentionally straightforward. Everything can be accessed via the tabs at the top of the page, and there is only one page with subtabs which, as I had mentioned before, are laid out in a very user-friendly manner. I did not want my website to be a scavenger hunt, requiring a viewer to dig through pages to find certain works. Instead, I felt it important that they see everything they can right before their eyes.

I chose the written works that I did because they were the ones into which I put the most time and effort. I was proud of the results of sometimes painstaking hours at the keyboard, and naturally, I wanted to show them off. The media projects were chosen for the same reason, but also somewhat strategically. I posted the This I Believe first because I feel it is a more personal work of mine to which my family could closely relate, and I chose the HoPC documentary because I feel a lot of my family members are misinformed on the Kaepernick issue and would benefit from hearing an objective analysis.

Though I was unable to edit the media projects, I read through the written works checking for grammar mistakes, fixing wording in some areas, and looking for holes. Two of the largest reconstructions were on the paradigm shift essay and the issue brief. There was a spot in each piece where I made claims not really supported by facts or evidence. In the issue brief, it was when I claimed that obesity was the greatest threat to America, and in the paradigm shift, it was when I claimed that the government was only gathering Americans’ information because they had the power to do so. Instead of trying to gather more facts, cite them, and write a few more paragraphs in each, I just rescinded the claims and adjusted any wording that would indicate subjectivity. Both of the papers still have the same conclusions, but they are now more objective and factual.