



Online Portfolios: Making Your Own Website

Full Name:

Section:

Date:

After nearly two years of Photography at MS 51, everyone in this program has some truly incredible work. As artists, photographers, and creative people, one of the best ways to share your images with the greater world is to create a website. So, for our last major project of this school year, you will each create your own online photographic portfolio.

Don't be fooled! This will *not* be easy, but with a lot of thought and creativity it should be fun!

Your websites will be ongoing projects that we work on this year and into the 8th grade. You will be creating the framework for your website now, but this is an evolving online space where you can share your photographic work. These online portfolios are wonderful ways to express what we create in the classroom and can act as an impressive part of your high school applications next year!

Wait. *How* do I make a website?!

Whether you have experimented with websites in the past, or have no experience at all, this will be a guided step-by-step process. Our website www.MS51Photo.com was created through an online website creator called **Weebly**. You won't be writing html code (the hard way to create a website.) Weebly's websites are what we call "template based." You simply choose how your website will look based on the template options that Weebly offers. Once you choose your template, you can customize your own colors and create your own sub pages.

What goes on my website?

Your websites will be broken up into four main pages, with a fifth optional page as follows:

1. Welcome – This page gives your viewer a first impression
2. About Me – This page will have an image of the photographer (you) and a brief statement about who you are
3. Gallery – Where your projects will be posted. Each project will have a brief project description and space for your reflections on your work
4. Inspiration – A page to recognize well-known photographers who inspire you
5. Blog (optional) – for those of you who would like to keep a photo journal



Website Outline

This process will take time. With step-by-step guidance, you will create your own web layouts with Weebly. Let's explore the example portfolio that I created for you here:

<http://ms51exampleportfolio.weebly.com>

Follow this outline as we explore the example portfolio.

1. **Intro Page** – This is the first thing that your audience will see. Give them a great first impression
 - a. Include one image that represents who you are as a photographer
 - b. Include a selective quote from a famous person, artist, or photographer that says something you strongly believe in, and is related to photography. ADD SOURCE
2. **About Me Page** – Give your audience a sense of who you are as a person and photographer
 - a. Include a photograph of yourself. This can be a self portrait or an image that someone else has taken of you (include photo credit if you did not take the image)
 - b. Write a 2-5 paragraph bio (really a mini-autobiography). Give your audience real insight into who you are and what you like to photograph. We will talk about how to do this later on.
3. **Gallery** – A page to showcase and reflect on your photographic projects
 - a. Every project from this school year will be included. If you have time, you will also include projects from the 6th grade (if possible) and any independent photographic work.
 - b. Each project should include a brief description of the assignment, as you understand it
 - c. Each project should include a reflection where you discuss your process and what you gained or learned from completing the work
4. **Inspiration** – Choose three well-known photographers
 - a. Select a well-known photographer whose work you find moving, innovative, or trailblazing
 - b. Include an image created by that photographer (cite the title, date, and online source)
 - c. Explain in one or two paragraphs why you find this photographer inspirational
 - d. Repeat 4a-4c for two additional photographers
5. **Blog** – This is optional, but will act as a sort of photo journal that you want to share with the world. Professional photographers use these to show viewers what small projects they are working on. Only create a blog page if and when you plan on keeping an up-to-date blog.



How to Make Your Website

Step 1: Logging In for the first time

- Log On at students.weebly.com
 - Your Username is your first and last name without any spaces
 - Your Password is the same as your username (the first time you log in)
- Create a website title – this will be the name of your website
 - Choose wisely as this will be what future high schools see
 - Choose something simple and easy to remember (like your name!)
- Before you work on the website, change your password
 - Click on the “close” button on the upper right – this will take you to the main login page
 - Click on “account settings”
 - Click on “change your password”
 - Change your password and click “save”

Step 2: Designing your website

- Go to the main page where you can access all of your design tools by clicking on your website’s name
- Set up your theme
 - Go to the “Design” tab
 - Choose a template
 - Try clicking on ‘All themes’ on the left
 - Select your template, basic color choice and click “use theme”

Step 3: Create website pages

- Go to the ‘Pages’ tab
- Once in the page manager, click ‘Add Page’
 - Create a ‘standard page’ for all pages (unless you are creating a blog)
 - Title your pages as follows
 - About Me
 - Gallery
 - Inspiration
 - Blog (optional) – you can create this page later



How to Make Your Website (continued)

Step 4: Customizing your pages

- Intro Page
 - Add Banner Photo & Custom Text
 - To do this, click on the 'edit image' button on the upper right corner of the banner photograph on your main page
 - Select a photograph that you are very proud of – this will be the first image that anyone coming to your website will see!
 - Once you do, you may add custom text, and make basic edits
 - Click 'ok' once you are satisfied
 - Click 'save' and choose if you want this banner on all of your pages, or just to the intro page
 - Add Text
 - Website title will appear on the main page – edit if necessary
 - Drag the "Quote Block" below your banner photo and add a famous photographer's quote
 - Search for / choose a famous photographer's quote that you connect with – this can be found at the bottom of the 'Interesting Photographers' page of www.ms51photo.com
 - Optional: You may want to include a welcome message for your viewers. This can be as short as one sentence, and as long as a paragraph (don't get too wordy here!) It can be as simple as "Welcome to my page, I hope you like my work!" or something much more complex.

- About Me Page
 - Setting up the About Me Page
 - Click on the 'Pages' tab to get to your page manager
 - Click on the 'About Me' page on the left
 - Choose your page layout from the 4 options below
 - Click the 'edit page' button
 - Use the tools at the top to add text, customize, etc.
 - Make sure your page has the following:
 - One beautiful photograph which tells the viewer *who* you are
 - This may be taken by someone else
 - Give photo credit if you did not take the image!
 - Bio Text (okay, okay, autobiographical text!)
 - Fill out the About Me worksheet and place your text on this page



How to Make Your Website (continued)

Step 4: Customizing your pages (continued)

- Gallery Page – this will take the most time
 - Access your Gallery Page just like the ‘About Me’ Page
 - The Newest project should be at the top of the page (like an online binder check)
 - Each project should have:
 - Project title and date (when did you work on this project?)
 - Description of the project in at least 3 full sentences
 - Project Images (gallery or slideshow) you create the layout
 - Project Reflection – In at least 3 full sentences, explain what you learned or gained from creating and critiquing this project
 - Every project from the 7th grade should be represented
 - For extra credit, add projects from the 6th grade (if possible), and/or independent projects completed outside of class

- Inspirations Page
 - Access your Inspirations Page just like the ‘About Me’ Page
 - Include profiles on three photographers
 - Search the ‘Interesting Photographers’ page of www.ms51photo.com
 - Select well-known photographers whose work you find moving, innovative, or trailblazing
 - Include an image created by that photographer
 - Cite the title
 - Cite the date
 - Cite the online source
 - Explain in one or two paragraphs why each photographer is inspirational to you

- Blog
 - This page is optional.
 - If make a blog, create a page with the blog settings in your page manager
 - Use this page as a photo journal
 - Some people use photo blogs to chronicle things that they photograph (like Instagram images)
 - Some people use photo blogs to share thoughts they have about famous photographs on a regular basis
 - Some people use photo blogs as a sort of photo diary that combines all of these things

Photography

with
Mrs. Flatow

WHO I AM

What do i gain by taking photographs?	Full Name & Section	My Nationality/ Ethnicity/ Culture
	My hobbies & extra-curricular activities	Age
Greatest photographic accomplishments (including awards)	Places I have lived	Gender
	Places I'd like to photograph	My Family
Things I'd like to photograph	Favorite Photograph/er	FAVORITES
What I do in my free time	Shutter Speed/ Movement Conditions	
Favorite type of photography (darkroom vs. digital)	Lighting Conditions	
Qualities of a good photographer	Darkroom Tool	
Favorite photo experience (in or out of class)	Photoshop Tool	Class
	Shade or Color	Piece of photo equipment
	Photo project	



About Me Text

Full Name:

Section:

Date:

Use the information you collected on the "Who I am" worksheet to construct your about me text here.

1st paragraph should include who you are, where you come from (Brooklyn counts!), and what you like to do. 2nd Paragraph (and beyond) should include what you like to photograph, what you are trying to express in photography, and what you gain from shooting. Include any photographic achievements, including Joe Zarba awards for Excellence, exhibitions you have been a part of, and photography contests you may have won.



Gallery Page Text

Your gallery page should include text for each project that is included in your Gallery Page. Use this form to help you formulate your text.

Projects we completed this year:

- David Hockney Project: Piecing it Together
- Fast & Slow Project
- Mood Lighting & Light Lab
- Double Exposures – Faked Spirit Photography
- Create-Your-Own Animal!
- Digital Photo Restoration Project

Each project should be listed with the newest at the top. Include text that includes these guidelines:

Project Description

In 3 or more complete sentences, describe what the project was. What was the project? What were the requirements of this assignment? What did you do leading up to the project to prepare (any worksheets, labs, or PowerPoints count)

Project Reflection:

In 3 or more complete sentences, describe your thoughts on the assignment. What successes did you have? What were some of your personal challenges? Did you overcome them? What did you learn or gain from completing this assignment?