Tiny Corner of Pitt(sburgh) Website Cover Letter Tiffany Smith

I chose to make my website on my project, musiCanvas. MusiCanvas is a tiny part of the University of Pittsburgh, but a huge part of my first year experience and the path I am taking as an engineering student. My group wants to continue to work on this project, so we can get it out for people to try, potentially work with industry, network, and so much more. This website is a great way for me to get information to people.

I chose to have four pages on the site: Main, Technology & Development, Inventors, and What's Next? The Main tab has general information about how the motivation behind the project, as well as a video that gives an overview. There is information about the class that the musiCanvas project came out of, as well as links to a video about it and the Swanson School of Engineering's site. On the right side bar there is some information about where the musiCanvas is and how you can try it out. The dates of the two locations have passed since starting the website, so they are currently out of date, but for the sake of the page, I left them up. We are working on sending it out more, but I don't have any other dates scheduled. There are links to the sites of the programs that we were working with, to allow visitors to get more information about those.

The Technology & Development page has information about the design and data from the research and testing. We want to show people that we made our decisions based on feedback and research. I included graphs of our data, a flowchart of how our prototype works, and pictures of some of drawings students made when testing it.

I put some information about each of my team members on the Inventors page. We put a lot of time and effort into the project, and I wanted to recognize everyone for the part they played in building the musiCanvas. I included basic information like our majors and where we grew up, along with each individual's contribution to the project. The page also features a team photo from the 2016 Design Expo, where we had our final presentation for the Art of Making class.

The final page is What's Next? The page has lists of some of the ideas and visions we have for this product. This site should be a place with information about how the idea of musiCanvas came about, its value, and where it's going. I would like to use it as a resource to direct people to when trying to set up testing and getting interested investors to help us continue. It's important to have this What's Next? page to show the potential this product could have with more development.

The site is organized in a way that gives people the best idea of what the musiCanvas is, get them excited about trying it out, and get their input on what they think about it. I put our email address on a few pages and encouraged viewers to email us with questions, ideas, and requests. The design of the site itself if fairly simple with lots of information. I used percentages to make the site responsive to the size of the screen it is being displayed on, but it works best on an average laptop. The header is a photo made in Corel PaintShop that features the logo my team made for the project in the spring, as well as the University seal and free clip art pieces.

I chose the Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 International license. I chose this license because it allows people to share and remix what I have already done, but does not allow for commercial use or profit. I disclosed technical information about our project, which is currently patent pending, and do not want people to be allowed to use the data on my website to possibly infringe on our work. I do however want people to distribute the information and spread enthusiasm for this idea.

MusiCanvas is just a tiny part of Pitt, but it is a lot of fun and really exciting for me and my team. This website is just a taste of what we have been working on, and hope to accomplish.