

A last-minute case study on procrastination

GD358 Project Re-design

By: Simran Singh

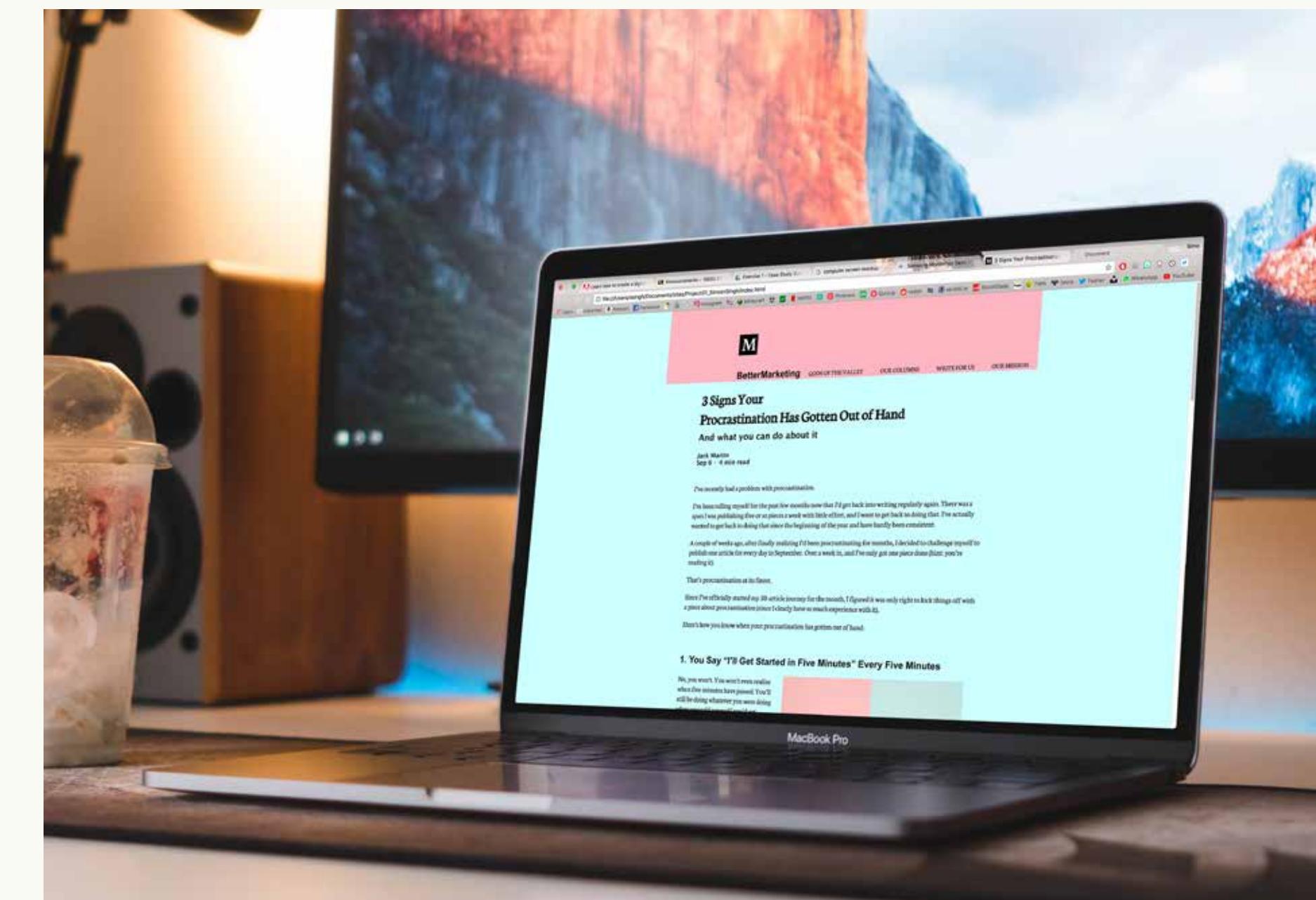
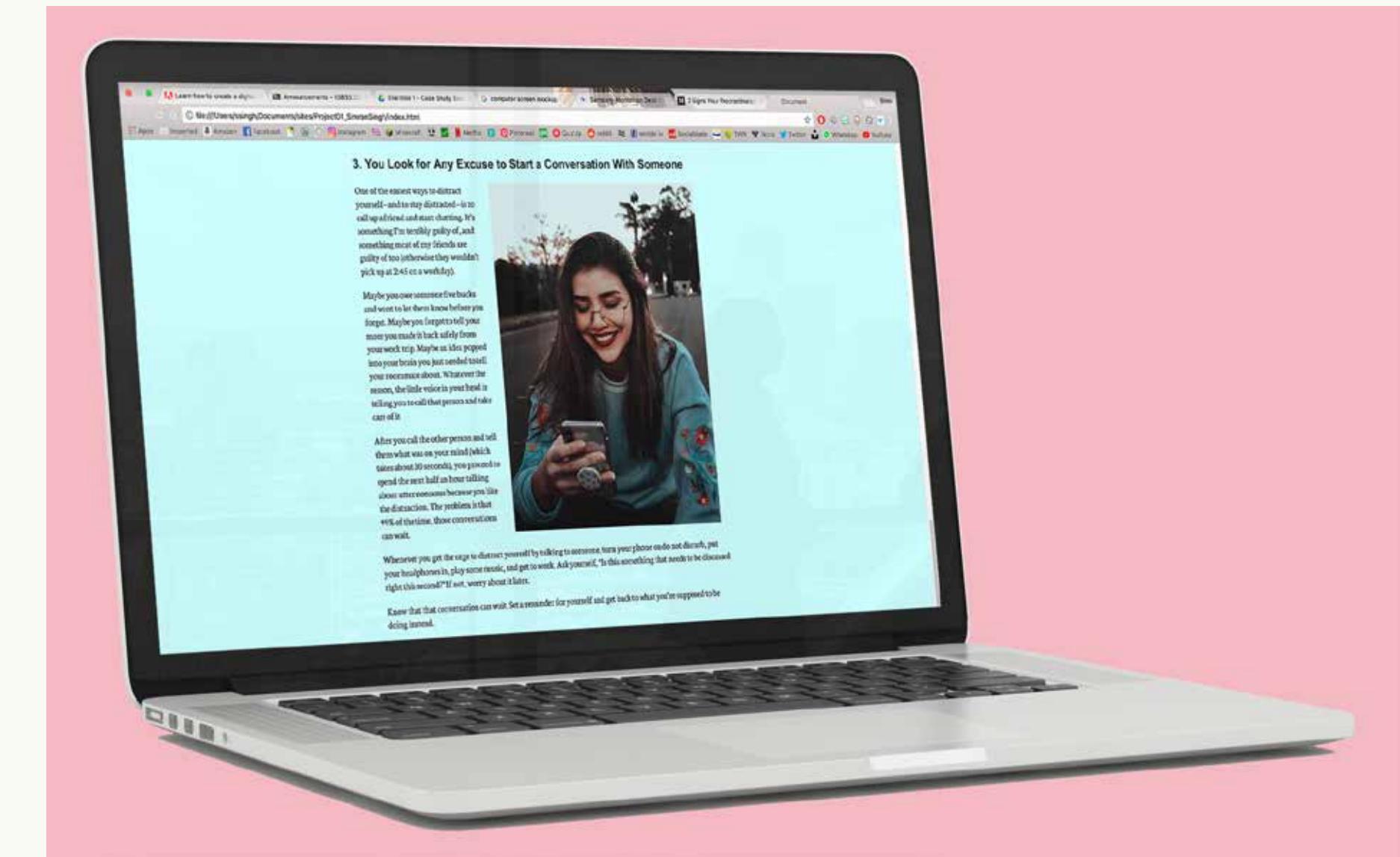
Summary

The Mission: To create an e-magazine in a 3-column layout, use proper hierarchy, use a fun colour scheme and vamp up the article.

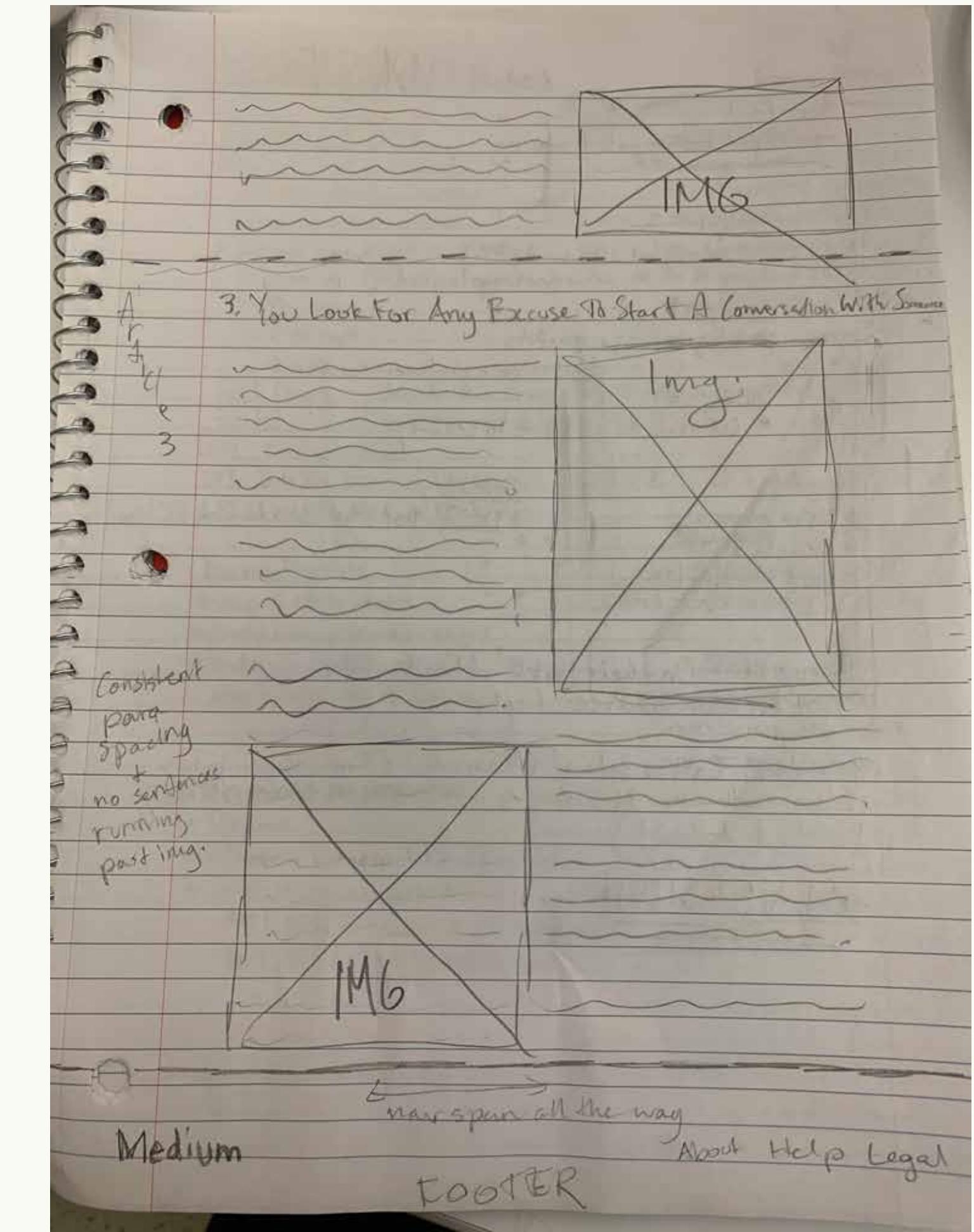
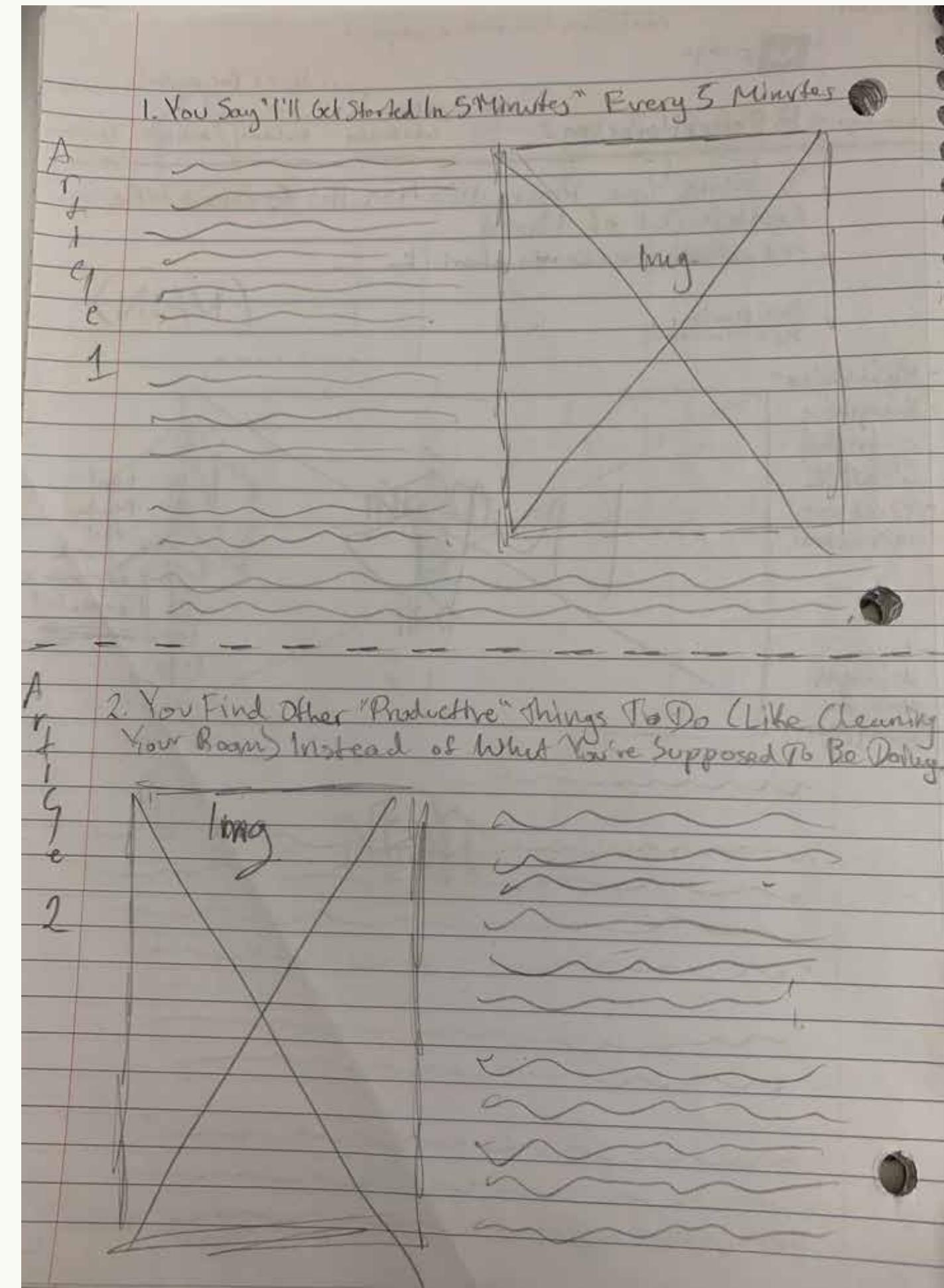
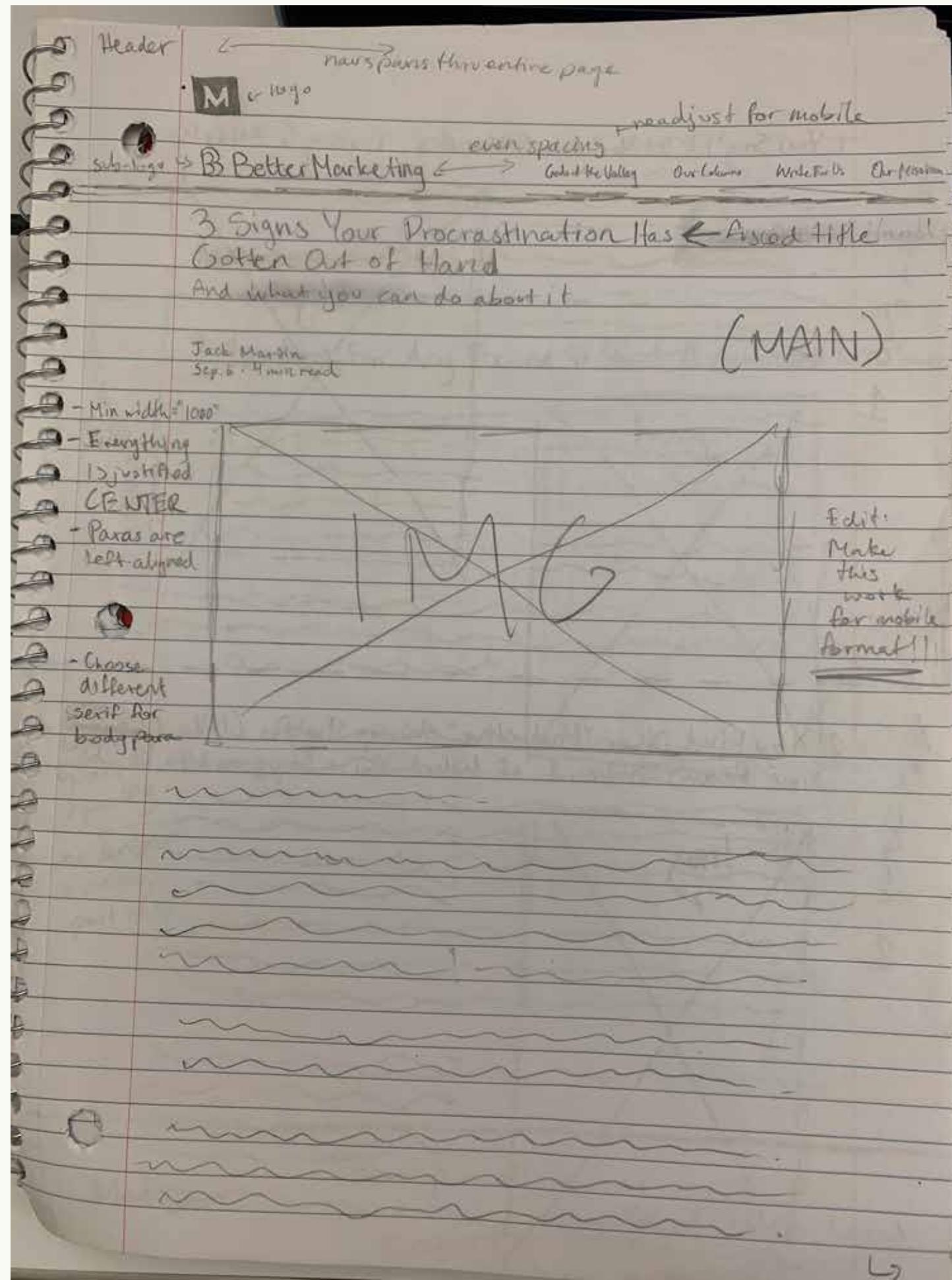
The outcome: Execution through HTML turned out to be difficult as some codes wouldn't work, but it all eventually came together and worked out well.

The Impact: This project has allowed me to learn several new codes, be able to troubleshoot and fix problems, and implement things like google fonts in! Flow of the article was smooth.

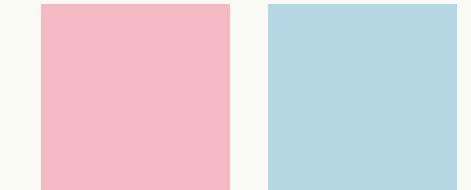
Services: HTML & CSS, low wireframe sketches.



Sketches

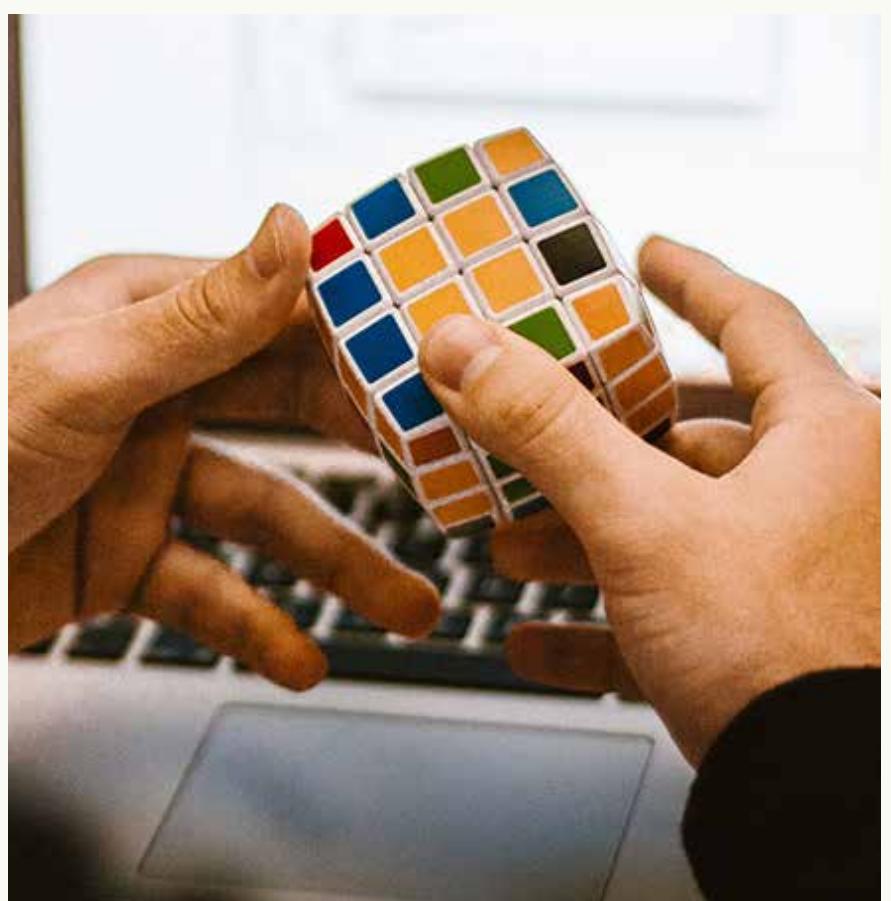


The Goal



Back in GD204, I had to re-design an article and put it into a one-page web scrolling format. I found an article on procrastination and went with that.

Since this centers around high school students, I wanted to do something with vibrant images and background colours that popped out a bit.



3 Signs Your Procrastination Has Gotten Out of Hand

And what you can do about it

 **Jack Martin** Follow Sep 6, 2019 · 4 min read *



Photo by Karim MANJRA on Unsplash

I've recently had a problem with procrastination. I've been telling myself for the past few months now that I'd get back into writing regularly again. There was a span I was publishing five or so pieces a week with little effort, and I want to get back to doing that. I've actually wanted to get back to doing that since the beginning of the year and have hardly been consistent.

A couple of weeks ago, after finally realizing I'd been procrastinating for months, I decided to challenge myself to publish one article for every day in September. Over a week in, and I've only got one piece done (hint: you're reading it).

That's procrastination at its finest.

Since I've officially started my 30-article journey for the month, I figured it was only right to kick things off with a piece about procrastination (since I clearly have so much experience with it).

Here's how you know when your procrastination has gotten out of hand:

1. You Say "I'll Get Started in Five Minutes" Every Five Minutes

No, you won't. You won't even realize when five minutes have passed. You'll still be doing whatever you were doing when you told yourself you'd get started in five minutes.

I know because I do this all the time. I fall into a rabbit hole on Quora or get lost on Instagram's explore page and procrastinate on writing or work. Every time I catch myself lost somewhere on the Internet, I promise myself that "I'll log off and get started in five minutes."

And every time, it's a lie.

I end up scrolling for another 10, 20, 30 minutes without even noticing, falling even further behind. And I'm not the only one. A survey found that almost 30% of screen-time sessions (how long the average adult is on their phone each time they pick it up) are over two minutes, with 5% being over ten minutes.

Sign in **Get started**

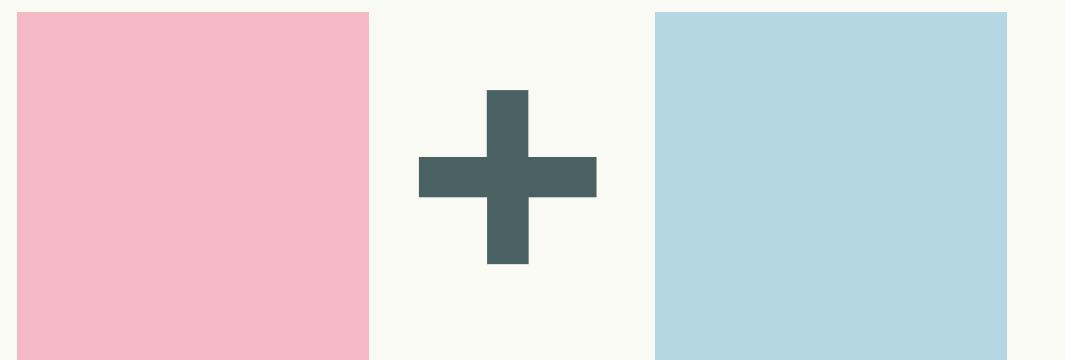
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*Original layout lacked pictures, looked plain and had little colour exploration.

Compelling Event

When I reopened the file after, what, months?
I noticed A LOT of issues:

- My header was weird, the text was overlapping.
- My images were too small for mobile, and in web and mobile there were walls of text and it looked kind of crunched in there.
- The colours looked gross. My whole layout looked weird.



Gross.

The screenshot shows a pink header with a question mark icon and the text 'M BetterMarketing'. Below the header, the article title '3 Signs Your Procrastination Has Gotten Out of Hand' is displayed, followed by a subtitle 'And what you can do about it'. At the bottom, the author's name 'Jack Martin' and the date 'Sep 6 • 4 min read' are visible.

The screenshot shows a blue header with a question mark icon and the text '2. You Find Other “Productive” Things to Do (Like Cleaning Your Room) Instead of What You’re Supposed to be Doing'. Below the header, there is a photograph of hands holding a Rubik's cube over a keyboard. To the right of the image, several paragraphs of text discuss the concept of procrastination and productivity. The text includes: 'Have you ever had a big project due or a really important exam to study for but just couldn't get started because your room was a mess?', 'Have you ever thought doing laundry was a better use of your Sunday afternoon instead of finishing up that report you said you'd have done by Monday morning?', 'It happens to me all the time. I tell myself I'm going to be productive by cleaning my room or doing my laundry or by meal-prepping and avoid doing what I really need to get done altogether. I tell myself it's not procrastination because I'm still being productive.', 'But not all productivity is good productivity.', and 'If you're not doing what you know you have to, that's inherently procrastinating. The problem is, it doesn't feel like you're procrastinating because you're being productive.' At the bottom, there is a note: 'You're doing something else that probably needs to be done; it just isn't quite as urgent.' and a summary: 'Finding other “productive” things to do instead of the task at hand is a pretty sneaky habit formed from incessant procrastination. Instead of letting procrastination get the best of you, plan ahead.'

The Gap/Process

First, I worked towards changing the colour scheme - I found a scheme that gave the whole website a whole better look.

Second, I made a mobile query. I researched a few codes to try out and I looked into old projects to see what codes were used to make the mobile webpage work.

After that, I was able to readjust my header navigation and image sizes. At first they weren't showing up and neither were the codes for my squares adjusting (I had made them to place my images within them), but they eventually started working.

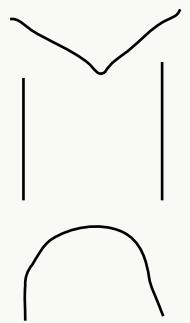
I blew about two hours staring at my screen and getting insanely frustrated but I kept pulling through to make it work.

```
294 @media only screen and  
295   (min-device-width: 320px) and  
296 ▼   (max-device-width: 480px) {  
297  
298 ▼     nav ul a{  
299       display: block;  
300       text-align: center;  
301       color: black;  
302       text-decoration: none;  
303     }  
304
```

```
335 ▼     .square5{  
336       width: 100%;  
337       background-size:cover;  
338       min-height: 700px;  
339     }  
340  
341 ▼     .image {  
342       width: 100%;  
343       background-size: cover;  
344       min-height: 1000px;  
345     }  
346  
347 ▼     .image1 {  
348       width: 100%;  
349       background-size: cover;  
350       min-height: 700px;  
351     }
```



2 HOURS!!!



The Gamble/Result

To add a mobile query, I had to:

- rescale my photos
- resize some header texts and the body copy
- make my navigation bold and clear
- keep the hierarchy structure strong, like the web.

I also looked into refining my colour scheme and make it much better.

In the end I can say with confidence that I achieved that. It took hours, and I often got frustrated and reached out for help, but thankfully I was able to complete and take a look at the results.

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3 Signs Your Procrastination Has Gotten Out of Hand And what you can do about it

Jack Martin Sep 6 - 4 min read

I've recently had a problem with procrastination. I've been telling myself for the past few months now that I'd get back into writing regularly again. There was a span I was publishing five or so pieces a week with little effort, and I want to get back to doing that. I've actually wanted to get back to doing that since the beginning of the year and have hardly been consistent. A couple of weeks ago, after finally realizing I'd been procrastinating for months, I decided to challenge myself to publish one article for every day in September. Over a week in, and I've only got one piece done (hint: you're reading it).

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And every time, it's a lie. I end up scrolling for another 10, 20, 30 minutes without even noticing, falling even further behind. And I'm not the only one. A survey found that almost 30% of screen-time sessions (how long the average adult is on their phone each time they pick it up) are over two minutes, with 5% being over ten minutes.

If you catch yourself saying "I'll get to this later" a lot, stop what you're doing and spend five minutes getting started on whatever "this" is instead. Even if you're not able to finish that task in full, dropping everything you're doing will at least get the ball rolling.

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Jack Martin Sep 8 - 4 min read



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2. You Find Other "Productive" Things to Do (Like Cleaning Your Room) Instead of What You're Supposed to be Doing



Have you ever had a big project due or a really important exam to study for but just couldn't get started because your room was a mess?

Have you ever thought doing laundry was a better use of your Sunday afternoon instead of finishing up that report you said you'd have done by Monday morning?

It happens to me all the time. I tell myself I'm going to be productive by cleaning my room or doing my laundry or by meal-prepping and avoid doing what I really need to get done altogether. I tell myself it's not procrastination because I'm still being productive. But not all productivity is good productivity.



If you're not doing what you know you have to, that's inherently procrastinating. The problem is, it doesn't feel like you're procrastinating because you're being productive. You're doing something else that probably needs to be done; it just isn't quite as urgent.

Finding other "productive" things to do instead of the task at hand is a pretty sneaky habit formed from incessant procrastination. Instead of letting procrastination get the best of you, plan ahead. Dedicate one or two days of the week to laundry, grocery shopping, meal prepping—whatever it is you think you might use as an excuse to get out of what you're supposed to do. That way, you'll have nothing else to do but get to work.

3. You Look for Any Excuse to Start a Conversation With Someone

The Roll Out

Here's how I did this:

- I researched and found a scheme that had some warms and neutrals, and a cool shade.
- I looked into old projects and exercises to see how the mobile navigation was done, and I also got some help.
- I continued to search for codes and ways to make it look nicer. The coding took a while to show (mainly because I did it wrong) but after some tries, it worked and it looked pretty good!

As for my nav, I had many issues getting that to work because some codes were conflicting with each other, sometimes I kept punching in a code that didn't exist in the file at all. It just created a new useless string of problems, which was fun! I squeezed in some images in my body text so it doesn't feel too wordy. They're split up so it's much better now.

SKIP TO MAIN CONTENT

→

HOME

ABOUT

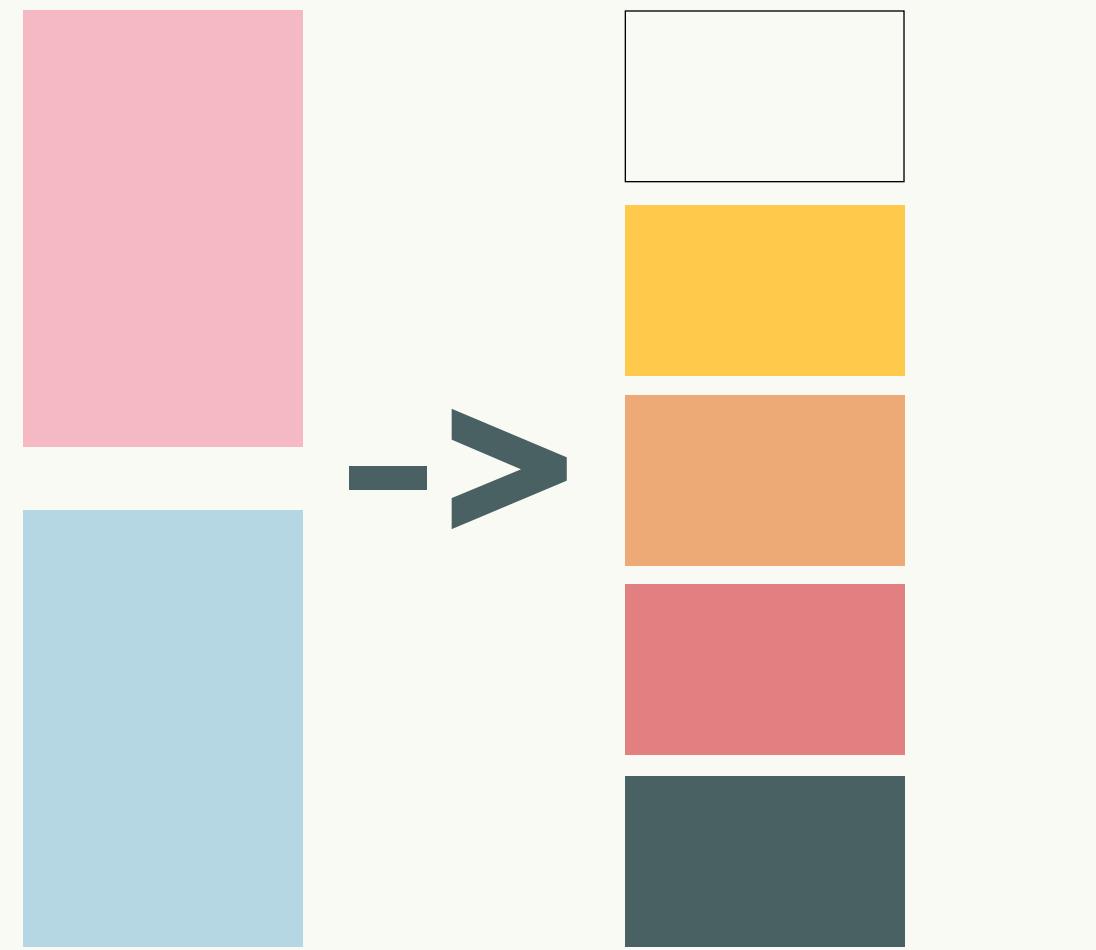
WORK

CONTACT

Main section

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Vimeo Video



3. You Look for Any Excuse to Start a Conversation With Someone

One of the easiest ways to distract yourself—and to stay distracted—is to call up a friend and start chatting. It's something I'm terribly guilty of, and something most of my friends are guilty of too (otherwise they wouldn't pick up at 2:45 on a workday).

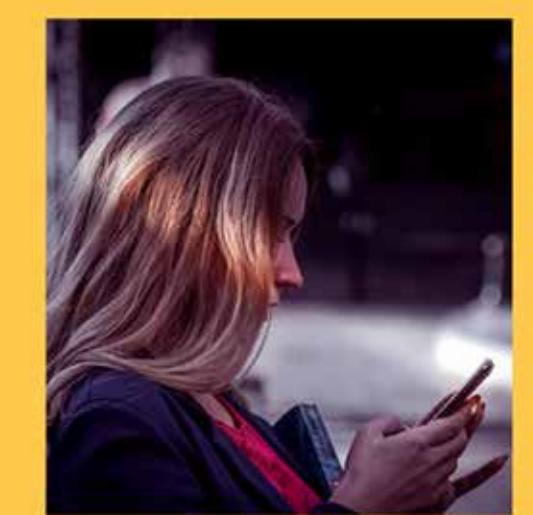
Maybe you owe someone five bucks and want to let them know before you forget. Maybe you forgot to tell your mom you made it back safely from your work trip. Maybe an idea popped into your brain you just needed to tell your roommate about. Whatever the reason, the little voice in your head is telling you to call that person and take care of it.



After you call the other person and tell them what was on your mind (which takes about 30 seconds), you proceed to spend the next half an hour talking about utter nonsense because you like the distraction. The problem is that 99% of the time, those conversations can wait.

Whenever you get the urge to distract yourself by talking to someone, turn your phone on do not disturb, put your headphones in, play some music, and get to work. Ask yourself, "Is this something that needs to be discussed right this second? If not, worry about it later."

Know that that conversation can wait. Set a reminder for yourself and get back to what you're supposed to be doing instead.



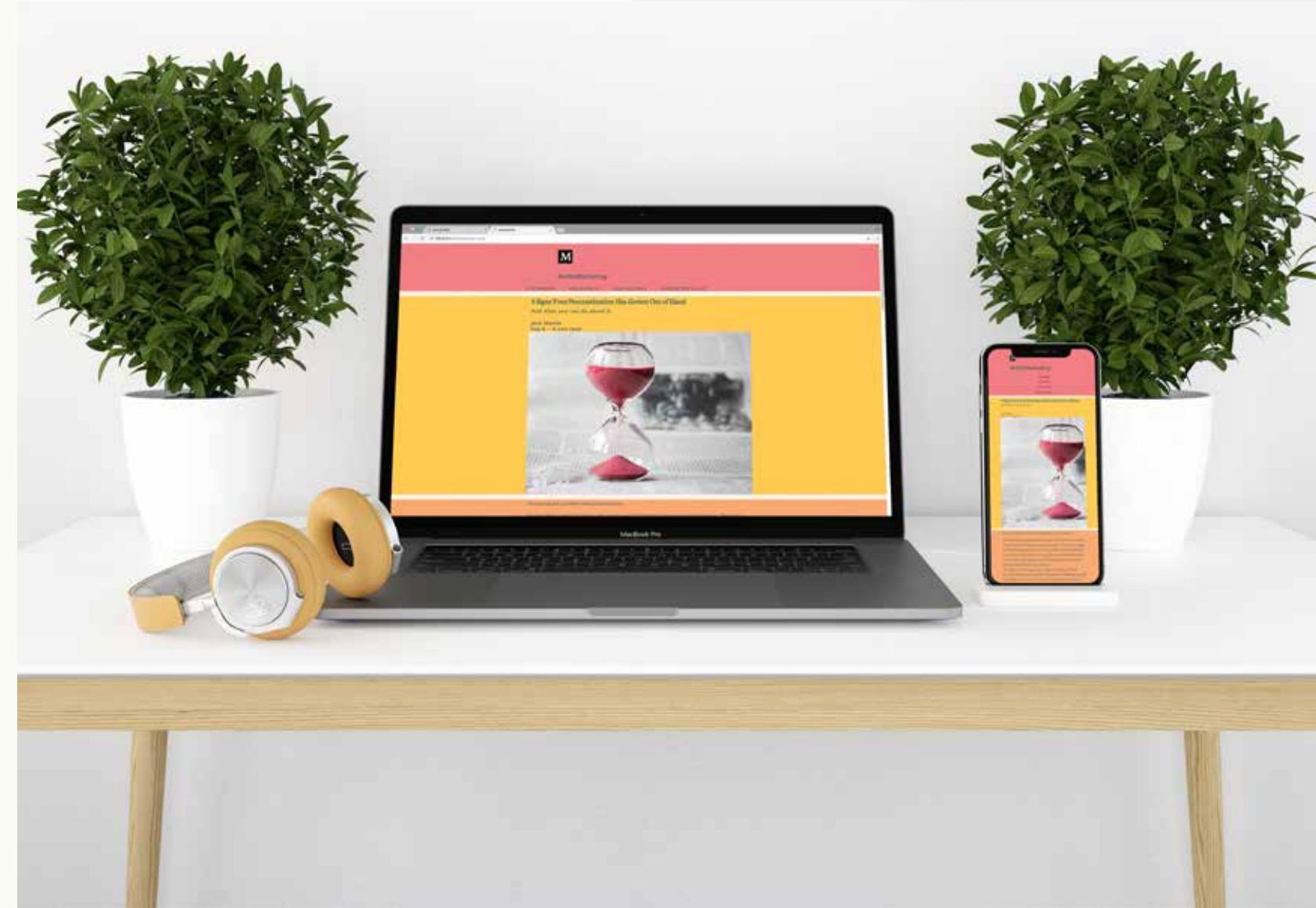
The Gain/Conclusion

Looking back on this, I wasn't impressed with the huge chunk of time I lost in between, but once everything slowly came together I became more satisfied. It's a long stretch from the old style. In my honest opinion, it's a whole lot better.

I do think that I have managed to solve the problems that I initially had. The web navigation is much more simplified so users with any device can browse!

I do wish I was more organized with my timing, losing a huge chunk of it on nothing but getting mad at myself has been nothing but useless, haha.

Take it from me: *don't procrastinate, read the article, there are some really helpful tips (and I could sure use some myself)!*



Thank you!