

Jill Swenson

MBTI: ISTJ

Jill is a senior majoring in Studio Art and Secondary Education at the University of Idaho. She's from Kuna, Idaho and plans to return to southern Idaho to teach in either middle or high schools when she graduates. This is her last semester and before she graduates she intends to have a professional blog in-place that will address her realities.

Jill is serious about her future teaching career and wants to develop a place on the Web for herself. She developed a list of criteria for herself during the first semester. These include:

1. A place where she can include a resume and portfolio of her work.
2. A gallery sites to show her students work.
3. A section for each of her classes for distributing assignments and helpful tips.

With this list in-hand she made a few pencil sketches, found several websites she thought to be good models, and started building her site with a basic Dreamweaver-based template. After two weeks of work her site was beginning to take shape, she had made several styles, had inserted and styled a SPRY menu, and had included a few images of her work. But it seemed to be proceeding very slowly.

At that point she stopped and conducted a careful review of her professional goals and the process she was using to make her website. She conclude that while she wanted a professional Web presence she really didn't want to be a Web developer. She decided that when she was actually teaching - she had just begun her student teaching in a local middle school - she simply wouldn't have the time to continue developing her site, perform the required maintenance, and rapidly update with various changes. She spent the next week researching alternatives.

In the end, after a brief spell of trying a few free web templates from freewebsitetemplates.com, she chose to start building her website around a blog. She started by using the free service at Wordpress.com. She spent the last part of this first semester learning Wordpress and even added the CSS styling feature so she could more fully control the styling. And, she revised her project goals,

1. A multi-page section for her personal work, resume and gallery.
 - This will include links to her personal Facebook, LinkedIn, and Flickr sites as well as links to professional organizations she has joined.
2. A separate multi-page section for her teaching activities, course materials, tutorials and selected work of her students.

Her goal this semester it to deepen her understanding the Wordpress plug-ins, she is considering adding calendars to both sections, a separate Facebook for her teaching, a Twitter account for her classes, Flickr badge, etc. She's reviewing jQuery for Wordpress and wants to learn enough to be able to update her blog space from her iPhone.