

## Beginning Your Homepage

Now that you've learned the mechanics of putting together a web page and publishing it to your own website, you're ready to begin personalizing your site.

To accomplish this, you'll create your homepage.

Simply put, your homepage needs to satisfy 2 criteria:

1. It must be interesting and attractive to you.
2. It must be interesting and attractive to your audience.

Let's focus on number 1, and further narrow that down to what's *interesting to you*:

What interests you? What do you do when you don't *have* to do it? Do you have a hobby? An avocation? What do you look forward to? What do you know more about than your friends? What occupies your mind? I would suggest you write down whatever comes to your mind. Make a long list. What you're looking for may turn out to be number 23 on that list.

Now choose one of your interests from your list. This will become the theme for your homepage, and perhaps for your whole website.

Finally, convert this interest into the content that will be the first thing your visitors will read when they come to your site. [Don't worry too much about your audience at this point.] Your goal is to write content that:

- Describes your interest/theme thoroughly
- Excites you
- Focuses your thoughts in a clear narrative

For most of you, it makes sense to "noodle" around with this. Draw pictures. Sketch. Scribble down ideas. Flesh your thoughts out.

When you're ready, type your draft right on to your new homepage. [You can scan in your "scribbles," too, and link to them right here.] Basically, you're making a proposal for your personal website's theme and content. I will read these over as soon as you let me know you've published them so that you can get busy on it right away once I approve it. Remember, your finished website will be worth up to 20 points on your final grade.

Design is important. Top or Side navigation will be a must; and a consistent look.