COMS 326 Nov. 12-26 Assignment

It is difficult to get substantial work done in our 50 minute class sessions. Therefore, instead of Friday class Nov. 16 before Thanksgiving break, complete this "lab" assignment in any university lab at any time during the week. It is not a "day off" to extend your (or my) vacation. I will be in the lab from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday to answer questions and help with problems.

Assignment: Update your final project proposal page to outline your project. These lists can be tentative for now, and can change as you work on the site. Please follow steps 1, 2 and 3 before leaving town for Thanksgiving, and complete steps 4 and 5 before returning from the break:

1. Make a list of the pages you plan to create
2. Make a list of the likely images that will be on the pages (even if you haven't shot, created or found them yet)
3. Say whether there will be video on the site, or other special features.
4. Describe the general layout of the pages or include a thumbnail or "wireframe" sketch done with Photoshop -- or a photo of a pencil-and-paper sketch.
(Go back to the Dreamweaver Classroom in a Book discussion of planning the "GreenStart" site for a discussion of this kind of site planning. For an excellent discussion of "wireframing" as a tool when working with a team project, see the Web Style Guide:
http://webstyleguide.com/wsg3/3-information-architecture/4-presenting-information.html)
5. After completing the reading and planning mentioned below, add a paragraph to your final-proposal page saying whether you plan to "Mirror" your site on an external server, or "Supplement" your site with an external blog, template or CMS-based site as described on the Web Hosting page.
(http://www.radford.edu/~rstepno/326/kompozer/hosts.html)

Thanksgiving Break Reading and Planning

Read my Web Hosting 101 (and CMS Systems) page
http://www.radford.edu/~rstepno/326/kompozer/hosts.html

As that page says, read this short article:
http://www.wpdesigner.com/hosting/basic-guide-to-web-hosting/

... and watch the video at the top of the page.

Then read my separate four-page article about WordPress, even if you don't plan to use WordPress as part of your project:
http://stepno.wordpress.com/wp/

By the end of those pages, you should understand these terms. They are also used in one or both assigned textbooks; look them up in the index or online if you need further explanation:

webhost or web hosting provider
server
IP address
domain name
domain registration
sub-domain hosting
Storage Allowance
Bandwidth
SSH
FTP
SFTP
CMS
MySQL
WordPress
-- Dashboard
-- Themes
-- Widgets
-- Posts
-- Pages

By the time you get back from the break, you should be able to decipher most of the Web hosting ads, contracts and "Terms of Service" pages, the better to appreciate offerings like this Dreamhost ad:

"Unlimited disk storage, unlimited monthly bandwidth, unlimited domains hosted, unlimited SSH, FTP, and SFTP user accounts, unlimited E-Mail accounts, unlimited E-Mail aliases, unlimited MySQL databases, unlimited Email Discussion lists. Free mail filtering and spam filtering. Free lifetime domain registration. Free Google Adwords Credits. Extremely programmer-friendly - full shell access."