

Deborah Afolabi

Dr. Heidi Mau

DIG 325: Visual Design for the Web

17 November 2020

CMS Exploration: SquareSpace

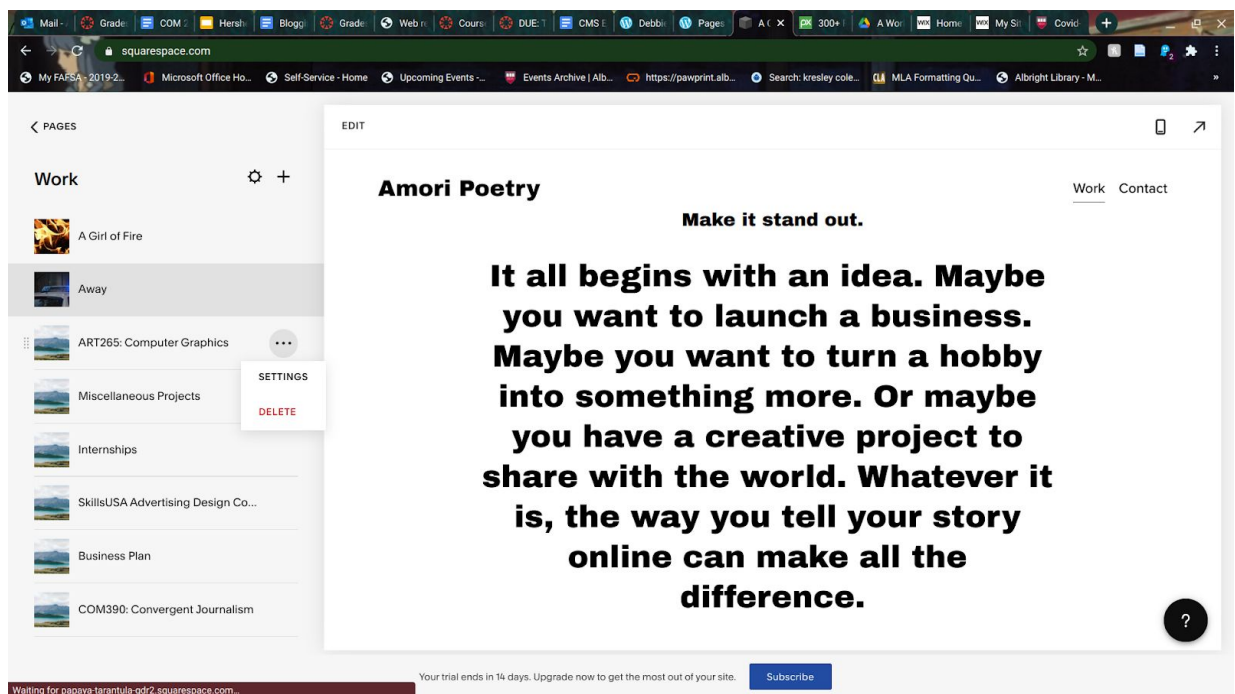
<https://papaya-tarantula-gdr2.squarespace.com/>

**Password: AmoriPoetry**

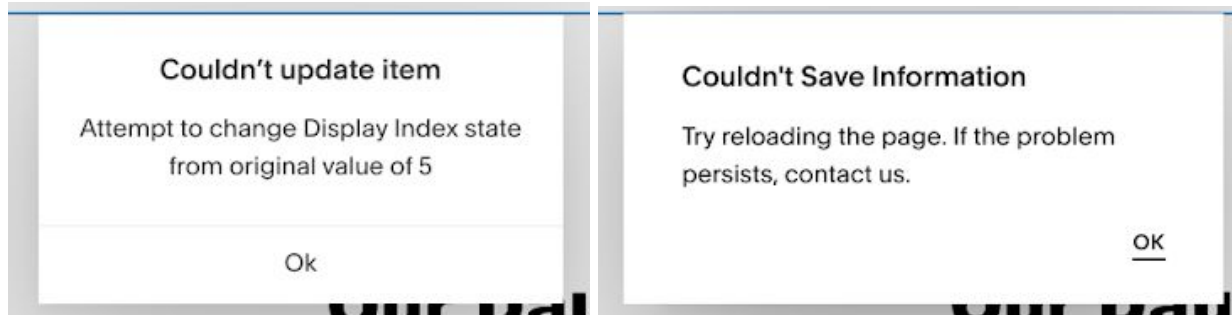
SquareSpace offers a free 14-day trial for exploration of its platform. I'm not going to lie; I dislike SquareSpace very much. I went into this assignment with the intent to create a graphic design portfolio, so that's what I had in mind while selecting site templates. I browsed design portfolio sites, and selected Pazari. This template had a simple design that I felt would be great in showcasing my design works. The template's home page had clickable main boxes, for a portfolio category that you'd click to open up a page with all the works.

However, it soon became apparent to me that I was going to have trouble with creating a design portfolio on this site without some necessary components. At first, I had issues because this site is like WordPress in which you can't upload a PDF, where the site would take a screengrab of the pdf to be its image. As a design portfolio, I'd need actual visuals of the design works, so I really did not want to just upload the files as buttons they couldn't see. So I thought I'd create sections, just like my original design portfolio, and add the work in buttons, but again, that brought the issue of visuals, and it became a much bigger project since I couldn't go and have multi-page documents as an image. Ultimately, I decided that a mini poetry site would be cute and would allow me to explore without getting too overwhelmed with the site's minimal functionality.

Once I knew what I was going to do it became much easier to work with SquareSpace, though I still had a few issues. The first thing I did was delete the extra/filler portfolio pages that came with the template, as, at first, I could not edit them. I think it was an issue with my computer that added to issues with SquareSpace; it did not agree with Chrome. At first the pages window wouldn't even show, instead showing a flickering black square on a white background (loading page I assume) and several times I had error messages while working. I switched over to another computer for a bit, but similar issues persisted. Afterwards, I went back onto my Chromebook, exited out of my account and the pages, then logged back in. Everything worked more smoothly after that.

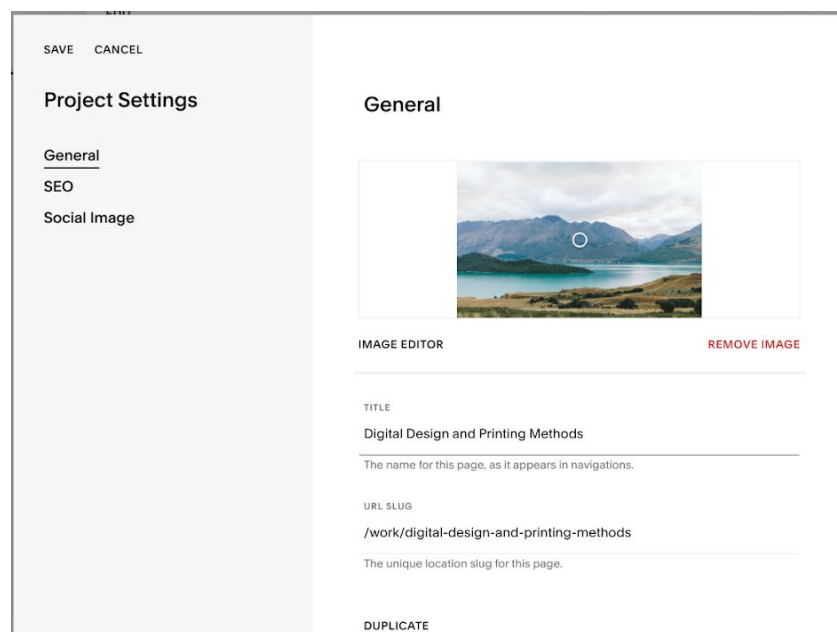


Changing the pages. At first they were filled with my design portfolio categories before I changed my site contents.



Error messages.

One thing that really irked me about Squarespace was that I had to go through an extra step to change a photo. When adding the main photo for the poems (the photos that appear on the home page), I first had to delete the photo there already, then upload the photo, instead of, for example, clicking on the photo and then clicking edit or replace. Because of this step, I had a hard time figuring out how to edit/change photos in the first place. Later, I realized that the type was too dark for the image overlays, but could not change the color. I was able to change the opacity of the image overlays so it was a little better to read, but still not the color of the type. In addition, I realized that the page slugs were the original categories from my design portfolio, so I had to change them to match the poems.



SAVE CANCEL

Project Settings

General

SEO

Social Image

General

↑ IMAGE

TITLE  
A Girl of Fire  
The name for this page, as it appears in navigations.

URL SLUG  
/work/albright-arts-magazine-am  
The unique location slug for this page.

DUPLICATE

DELETE

hed

Work About Contact

Format Background Colors

Horizontal Spacing 80px

Vertical Spacing 75px

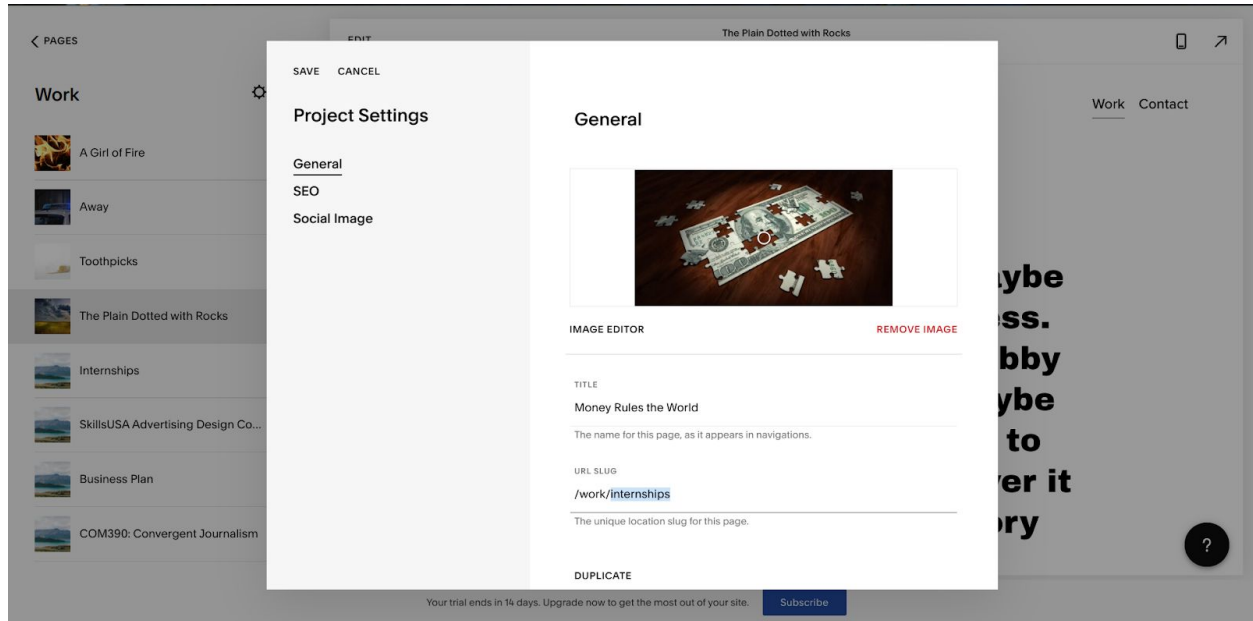
Aspect Ratio 3:4 Three-Four (V... ▾

Text Placement Center ▾

Show Text Before Hover ▾

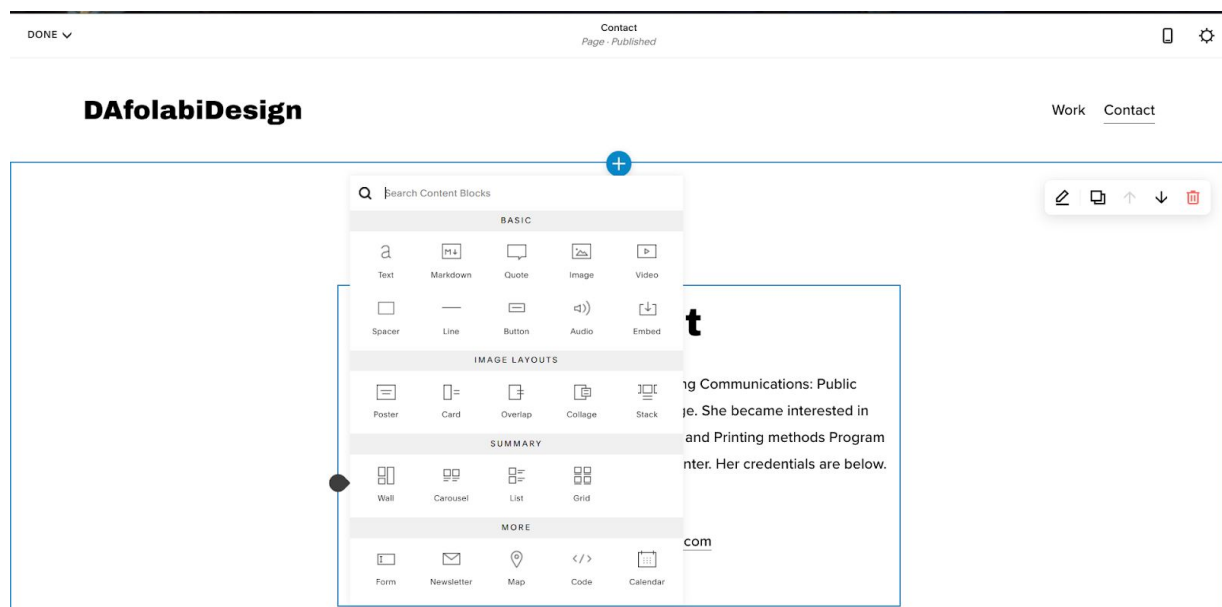
Overlay Opacity 50

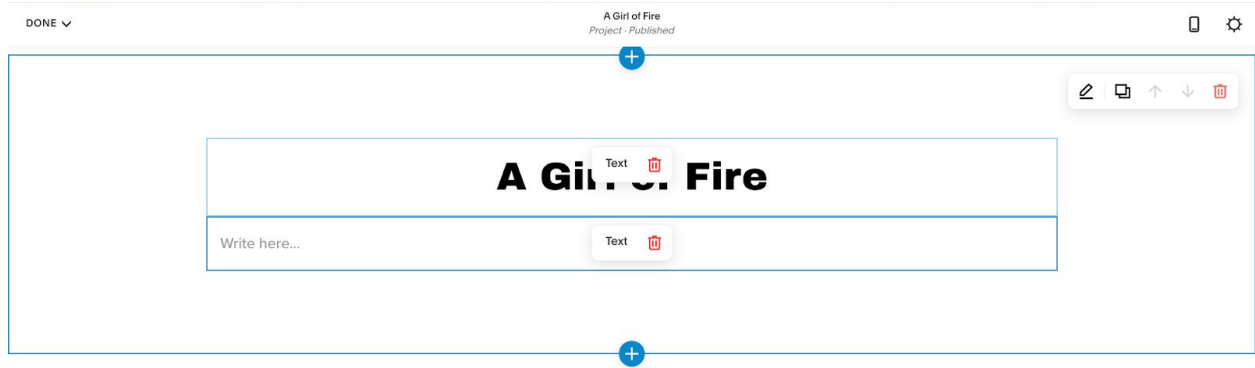
Away



Changing photos, opacity, and slugs.

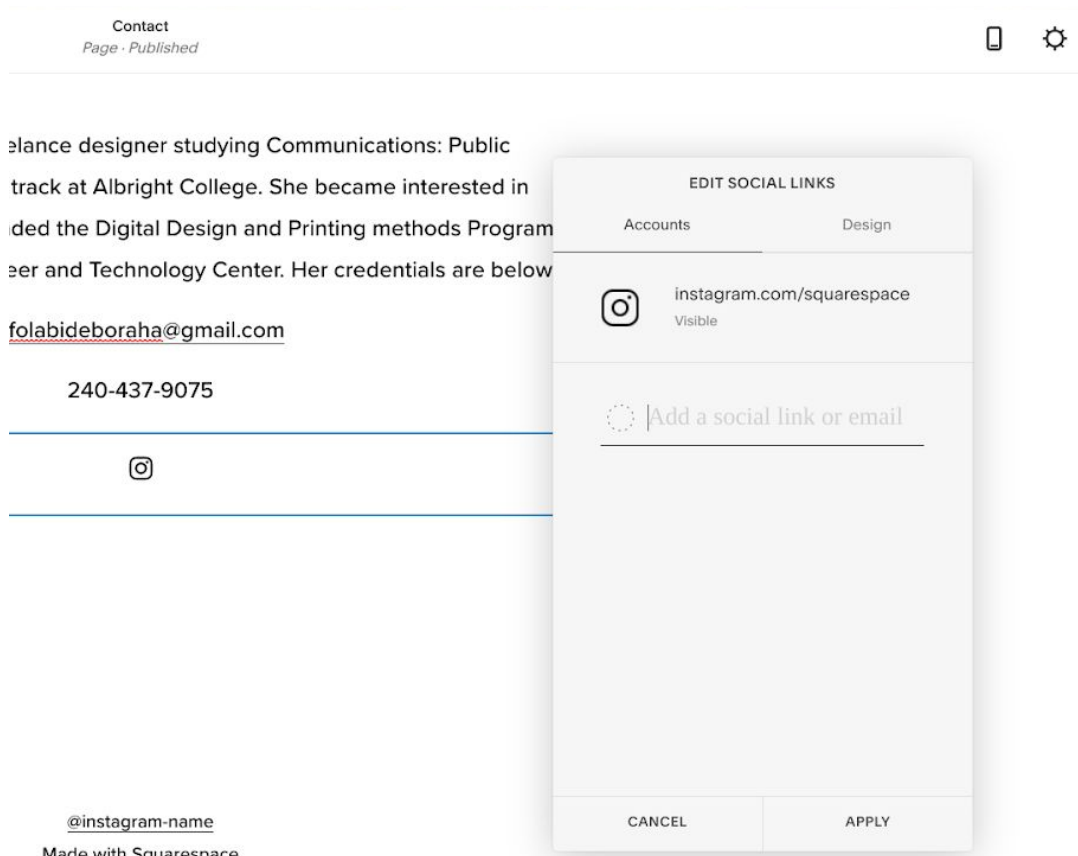
Everything else I worked with was quite simple. I had no trouble adding the poetry content as SquareSpace's block editor is similar to WordPress. The only issue with it, was the hover function to add a new block. Since my laptop seems to quite hate SquareSpace, there were times where the little teardrop arrows wouldn't show, or I had to scroll away then back to where I wanted to add the block before it appeared.

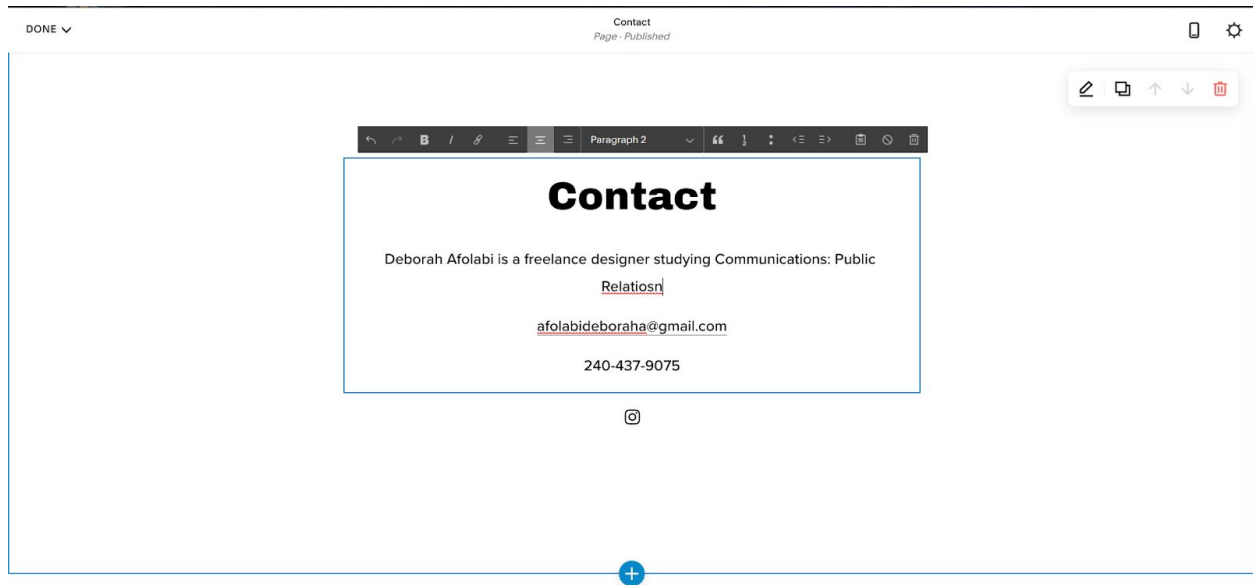




Adding the poems.

The next thing I did was my contact page. That page was fairly easy to do; I kept the original layout but made it my own, and added the form. I also made the social icons on the bottom bigger. I was going to add my blog site, resume, and portfolio sites to the contact page, but realized that I didn't even have an about page, and decided to create one and add those items to it.





Creating the contact page.

My favorite page was my about page. It worked really well, and SquareSpace's functionality aided me in creating it. I had to add a page to create my about page as the template did not come with it. I selected a page template, and went with it. Here, though, I cropped my photo as it's size created a weird effect on the text and added too much white space. I cropped it at the bottom and top, then adjusted the text accordingly. After, I added my resume and blog and portfolio site links. It was through this page that I figured out how to add files to SquareSpace. I uploaded the wrong file at first, but quickly realized my mistake and fixed it, now that I knew what to do. Essentially, you create a button, then add a link to that button. However, if you go to the link settings, you can make it a downloadable file, and have it open in a new tab (a feature I love for my sites). Adding a file is more complex than adding links to buttons, so I had no trouble adding my respective sites to the page.

HOME EDIT About Page - Published

MAIN NAVIGATION +

About Work Contact

**Amori Poetry**

all begins with an idea.

be you want to launch a business. Maybe want to turn a hobby into something more. maybe you have a creative project to share the world. Whatever it is, the way you tell story online can make all the difference.

worry about sounding professional. Sound like you. are over 1.5 billion websites out there, but your story at's going to separate this one from the rest. If you

Your trial ends in 14 days. Upgrade now to get the most out of your site. [Subscribe](#)

Close

**Add a Page**

Add Blank +

General

Appointments

About

Contact

Services

Member Areas

Gallery

Team

Reviews

Menu

RSVP

FAQs

**Make it stand out.**

It all begins with an idea. Maybe you want to launch a business. Maybe you want to turn a hobby into something more. Or maybe you have a creative project to share with the world. Whatever it is, the way you tell your story online can make all the difference.

**General 1**

**Whatever it is, the way you tell your story online can make all the difference.**

**Make it stand out.**

**Dream it.**

**Build it.**

**Grow it.**

**General 2**

DONE About Page - Published

Image

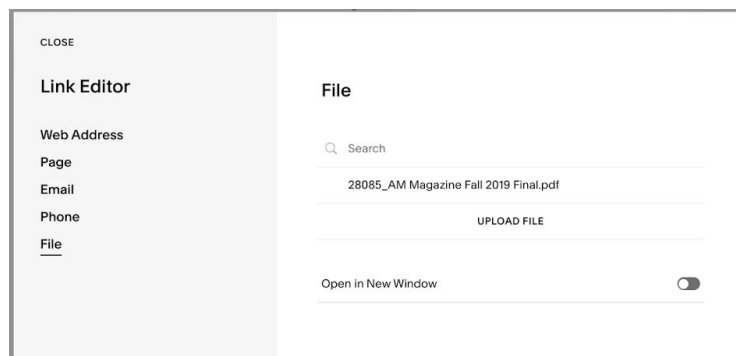
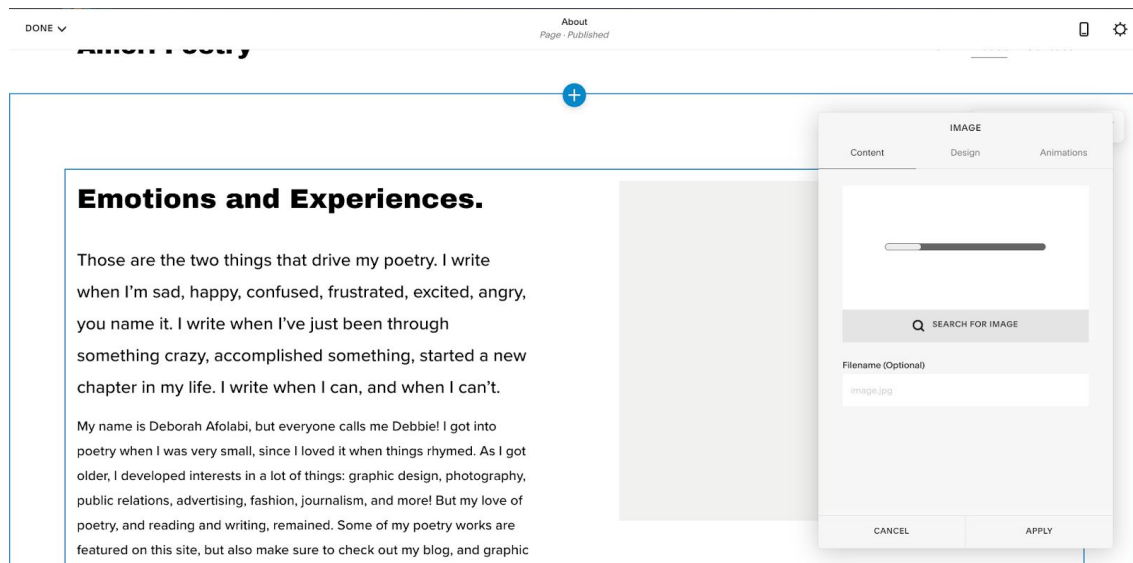
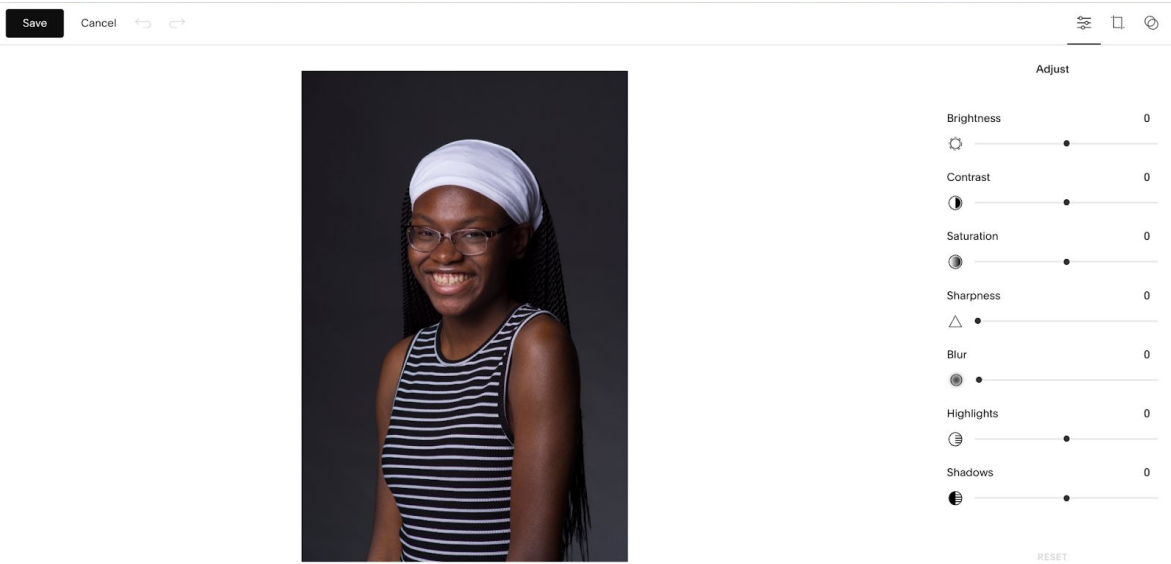
**Emotions and Experiences.**

Those are the two things that drive my poetry.

Don't worry about sounding professional. Sound like you. There are over 1.5 billion websites out there, but your story is what's going to separate this one from the rest. If you read the words back and don't hear your own voice in your head, that's a good sign you still have more work to do.

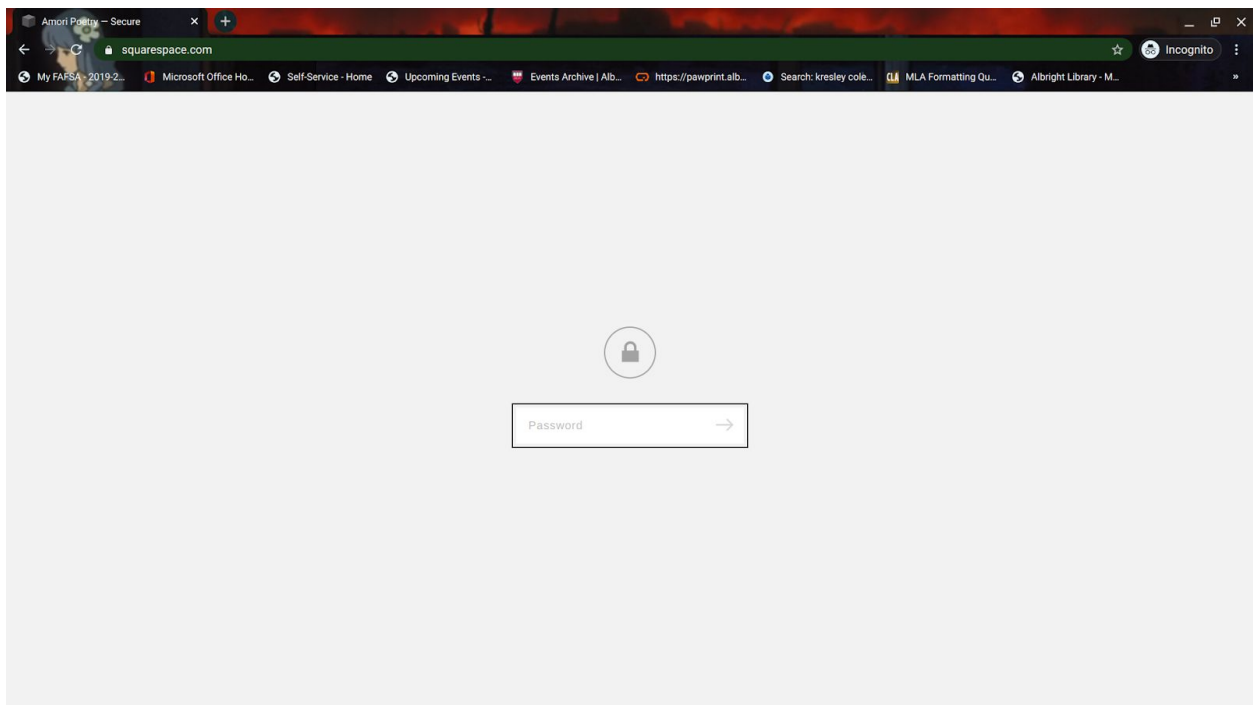
Adding a page and selecting a page template.





Creating my About page: editing photos and adding files and links to buttons.

The last thing I did was to create a password for my site. I was trying to see the site from the user's point of view and not the editor, but when I copied and pasted the site address into Google incognito (so I'm not logged in), the site did not exist. I found out that if i created a password, you could see it with no trouble and no login info.



Password page.

I do agree that SquareSpace is simple to use. I think the bad compatibility with my laptop and the site (and my own predilection for complex things) was the root of my problems. I would need more time to familiarize myself with all its functions, and possibly different templates, in order to figure it out.

**Amori Poetry**[Work](#) [About](#) [Contact](#)

## Emotions and Experiences.

Those are the two things that drive my poetry. I write when I'm sad, happy, confused, frustrated, excited, angry, you name it. I write when I've just been through something crazy, accomplished something, started a new chapter in my life. I write when I can, and when I can't.

My name is Deborah Afolabi, but everyone calls me Debbie! I got into poetry when I was very small, since I loved it when things rhymed. As I got older, I developed interests in a lot of things: graphic design, photography, public relations, advertising, fashion, journalism, and more! But my love of poetry, and reading and writing, remained. Some of my poetry works are featured on this site, but also make sure to check out my blog, and graphic design and photography portfolio sites! Enjoy your stay!


[Deborah Afolabi - Resume](#)
[Blog Site](#)
[Graphic Design Portfolio](#)
[Photography Portfolio](#)

## Contact Me!

I love to get to know new people and collaborate with others! If you want to get to know me or would like to collaborate with me on a poem, please reach out!

[afolabideboraha@gmail.com](mailto:afolabideboraha@gmail.com)

240-437-9075

Name \*

First Name

Last Name

Email \*

Message \*

Submit



Final site pages.