

## Heuristic Evaluation of *write('now')*

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*I did not discuss this assignment with anyone*  
-EC

My evaluation is divided into 6 sections, corresponding mainly to each page in the website. Within each section, points are ordered from *good* to *catastrophic*. My heuristics are mainly based on **Nielsen's heuristics**.

I did not have access to any Windows 7 computer so I did my evaluation using Chrome in a Mac. If any of my points is invalid in a Windows 7 please feel free to ignore it.

### General

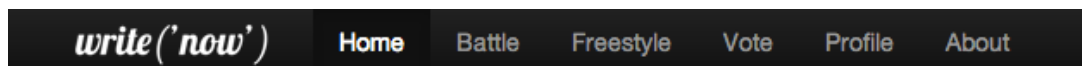
1. Good: **Design is simple, with good contrast, and few colors** (aesthetic & minimalist design)

Overall, the website only displays essential information – unnecessary features and hyperlinks have been omitted. There is lots of white space and few colors.

2. Good: **Top menu adapts to window resize** (flexibility & efficiency)

When the window is made smaller the top menu changes from horizontal to a dropdown menu so it can fit the screen.

*Horizontal top menu*



*Dropdown top menu*



3. Good: **Title format and overall font is consistent in all pages** (consistency & standards)

All pages have the same font. They all contain the page title at the top with a line beneath to separate it from the content. Headers are all bold and their relative sizes are consistent.

4. Major: **Top menu as dropdown does not give feedback on hover** (consistency & standards)

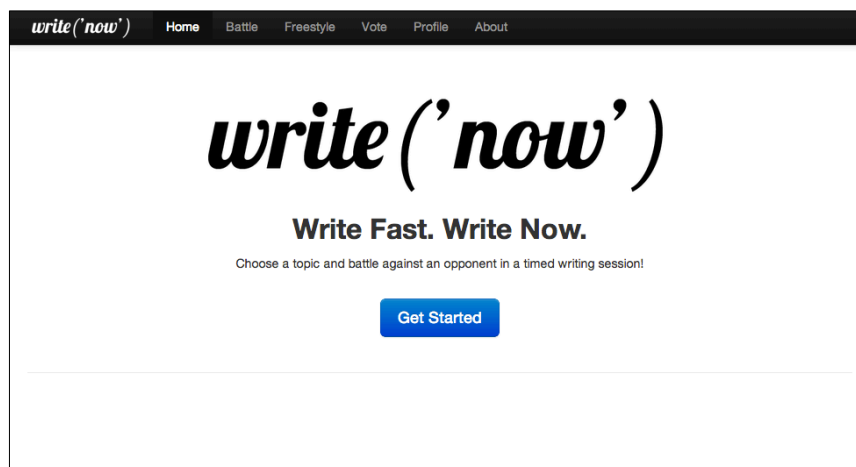
As the mouse is over the page names in the dropdown menu nothing changes color, so it is not clear what page is being selected.

*Recommendation:* Make the page titles change color as the user hovers them.

## Home

5. Good: **A lot of white space, and hierarchical text** (grouping & hierarchical display, aesthetic & minimalist design)

The white space in this page and the grouping of the text makes it simple and easy to read. Furthermore the logo is bigger than the slogan, which is bigger than the small text summarizing the function of the webpage. This establishes a hierarchy of importance among them.



6. Good: **It contains just one button which gets the user started immediately** (efficiency)

The purpose of the home page is to introduce the user to the website and get him started. The home page of **write('now')**, is very efficient as it fulfills this objective with its simplicity and a single button.



## Battle

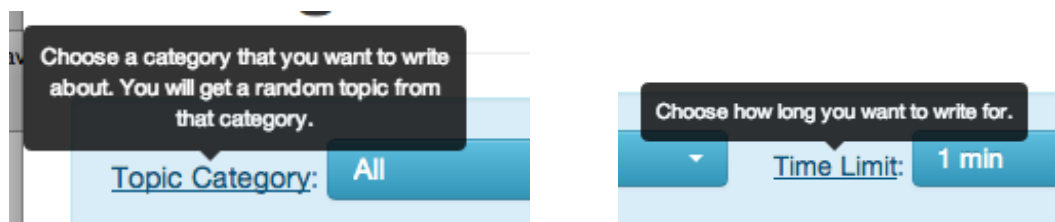
7. Good: **Submit button contains instructions** ([help & documentation](#))

The feedback in the submit button helps the user understand what will happen after he clicks submit.



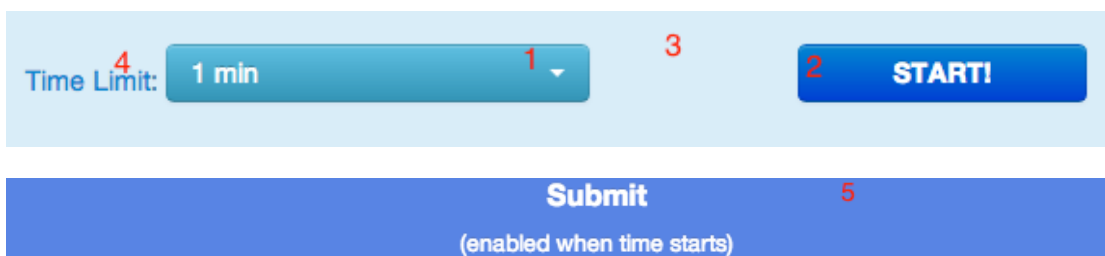
8. Good: **Hovering 'Topic category' and 'Time limit' shows instructions** ([help & documentation](#))

These instructions are very helpful as they help the user further understand what his selections mean.



9. Cosmetic: **several different tones of blue** ([aesthetic & minimalist design](#))

The page contains several tones of blue. Making the website loose part of its aestheticism and simplicity.



*Recommendation:* Make the submit button color (before it becomes clickable) the same tone as another of the blues that are already being used.

10. Cosmetic: **submit button is very big** ([Recognition - not recall, aesthetic design](#))

In general buttons are just a bit bigger than the text they contain. Having such a big submit button makes it lose its affordability. It is harder for the user to recognize it. Also, it takes out a lot of potential white space, which predominates in the rest of the pages.

*Recommendation:* Make the submit button smaller, maybe the same size as the 'Get Started' button in the home page.

11. Cosmetic: **In results page, the comments box size depends on the number of comments** (balance & symmetry, aesthetic design)

The boxes containing the comments of each text expand as more comments are added. Two texts with a different number of comments will have different box size, giving the page an asymmetrical appearance.

**3 Comments:**

**User: [Yimothy Tang](#)**  
This a a brilliant and masterful piece!

**User: [Ash Ketchum](#)**  
Wow. This almost makes me want an Teddiursa.

**User: [Timberly Koy](#)**  
You should sell your stories.

**1 Comment:**

**User: [Liara Ciu](#)**  
I know I'm going against the grain, but this piece really evokes some raw, primitive being.

*Recommendation:* Make them have the same size and scrollable.

12. Minor: **The Submit button is beneath the text boxes of the two users in the battle** (match the real world)

The submit button applies only to the user's text, not to its opponent's. However, the button is placed beneath both texts.

*Recommendation:* Place the button just beneath the user's text. I suggest adding a button beneath the opponent's text that gets pressed when the opponent is done so that the user can know if his opponent has finished. This would also make the page maintain its symmetry.

13. Major: **In results page, usernames seem links but they are not clickable** (consistency & standards)

Usernames are displayed blue and underlined as if they were a link to the user's profile, but they are not linked.

## Opponent: [Zaoqi Hhang](#)

*Recommendation:* Link them to the user's profile.

14. Major: **While writing, clicking any of the buttons in top menu changes page, deleting what the user has written** (error prevention, safety)

A user might make a mistake and click one of the buttons in the top menu, or reload the page, which delete the text he wrote.

*Recommendation:* adding a popup that makes the user confirm that he wants to abandon his writing.

15. Major: **the user loses access to the votes and the comments in the results page once he exits the page.** (accessibility, efficiency)

Once the user exits the results page, he does not have the option of returning to that page in order to read again the comments and review the voting.

*Recommendation:* Each piece of writing in the profile page could have a link to the 'results page'.

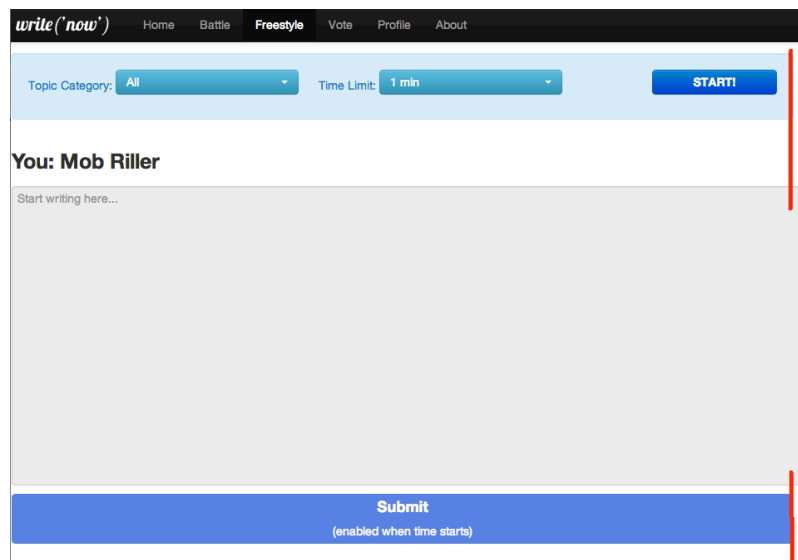
## Freestyle

16. Good: **the freestyle page layout is the same as that of the battle page** (consistency)

The Freestyle page has a very similar function to the Battle page, so their layout is very similar and consistent. Both have the same start button, the same textbox, and the same submit button.

17. Cosmetic: **the containers are different width** (regularity, aesthetic design)

The boxes or containers in this page are aligned equally at the left but not at the right.



*Recommendation:* align the containers so the page looks more regular.

18. Major: **Once done writing, the user needs to wait for the timer to finish** (user control & freedom)

Once the user chooses to submit his work, he has no control over the program. He cannot change page because his work gets deleted and he does not have control of the timer.

*Recommendation:* Make the timer stop when the user decides to submit his work.

19. Major: **Clicking ‘view results’ compares the users’ text to someone else’s, just as if it was a writing battle** (consistency)



Unlike the user expects, clicking ‘view results’ redirects the user to a page where it compares his text to that of another user.

*Recommendation:* the user expects to see comments and voting on his text but not a comparison with another text. I recommend displaying that.

## Vote

20. Minor: **After voting, the button beneath the other text stays green** (match the real world)

The user would expect the color of the other button to turn red, as it is the text he dislikes.

<p><b>Mob Riller</b></p> <p>The Kodiak bear, also known as the Kodiak brown bear or the Alaskan flying mantis bear, occupies the islands of the Kodiak Archipelago in South-Western Alaska. Its name in the Alutiq language is Taquka-aq. It is the largest subspecies of brown bear and one of the two largest members of the bear family, the other being the polar bear. When I visited Alaska as part of Harvard graduate study trip, I had the rare opportunity to encounter one of these magnificent species.</p>	<p><b>Zaoqi Hhang</b></p> <p>If you ever, ever, ever meet a grizzly bear,          You must never, never, never,          Ask him where he is going,          Or what he is doing,          For if you ever, ever, ever, dare,          To stop a grizzly bear,          You will never, never, never,          Meet another grizzly bear.</p>
	

*Recommendation:* I recommend changing the ‘vote’ button of the non-voted text to red, or making both buttons blue and then changing the voted one to green and keeping the other one blue (so that the user still knows that he can change his vote).

## Profile

21. Cosmetic: **The format of the sorting dropdown is different to the dropdown in the battle page** (consistency)

Sort by: <input type="text" value="vote"/>	Time Limit: <input type="text" value="1 min"/>
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*Recommendation:* making all the dropdown menus the same format

22. Cosmetic: **Titles and text are both bold and relatively big** (hierarchical design, efficiency).

### Profile



#### **Mob Riller**

**Total Writings: 1200**

**Member since June 4, 2012**

Everything to the right of the profile picture is bold. This makes the user’s details seem more important than what they are in comparison to the rest of the page.

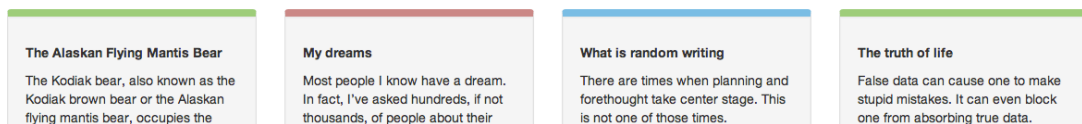
*Recommendation:* I would change the style of the font beneath the user's name to normal instead of bold, and make it smaller.

23. Minor: **It is very hard to scroll down using a touchpad (efficiency)**

When trying to scroll down with the touch pad, if the mouse is vertically on top of a column of texts, the user has to scroll down to the end of each text to scroll down the screen. To scroll down the page without scrolling down the texts the user has to place his mouse vertically in a space between texts.

24. Minor: **It is unclear what the colors on top of the text boxes mean (help & documentation, learnability).**

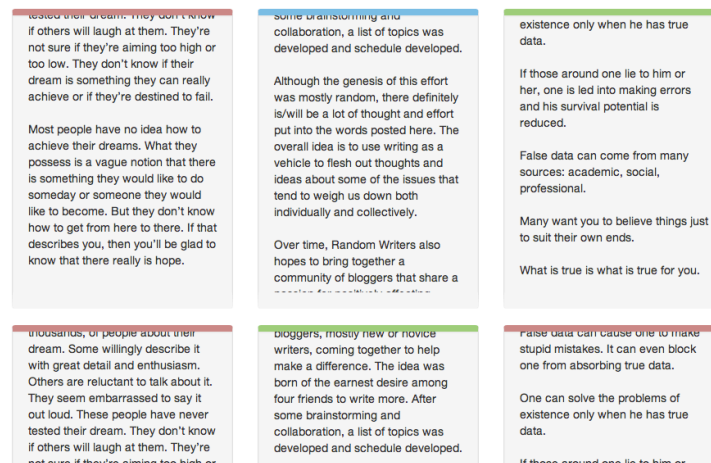
### My Writings



*Recommendation:* Add some more information at the top or beside each text which helps the user better understand what the different colors mean.

25. Minor: **User loses view of title when scrolling down an essay (visibility, efficiency)**

Scrolling to the bottom of several texts, makes it hard to identify them afterwards as their title is hidden.



*Recommendation:* Make the title static so that it stays in place even when the user scrolls down to its end.

26. Minor: **The sorting dropdown menu is placed at the top of the page instead of on top of what is being sorted (inconsistent placement, match the real world)**

*Recommendation:* Placing the dropdown menu beneath the user's details and on top of the texts.

27. Major: **There is the option of sorting by date/subject but those properties are not shown in each text** (consistency)

*Recommendation:* add some details to each text including date and subject so that the dropdown is consistent with the layout of the text.

28. Major: **The user needs to scroll to the bottom in order to change page** (efficiency & visibility)

The user does not learn about the possibility of viewing more pages until he scrolls to the bottom of the page. Moreover, the user needs to scroll down every time he changes page – it would take him a long time to move forwards or backwards several pages.

*Recommendation:* Add 'next page' and 'previous page' buttons at the top of the page.

29. Catastrophic: **The number of pages containing texts is not displayed anywhere** (visibility of system status)

The user has no information on how many pages are previously or next.



*Recommendation:* Adding page numbers – something similar to what Google uses to show to the user his status within the webpage.