

Notes for Emily

This website will have multiple pages with a navigation bar at the top, allowing users to explore different aspects of *Friends*. The site will focus on the show's characters, storylines, cultural impact of the show, and lasting popularity through structured sections and visuals.

Home Page / Introduction

Introduce *Friends* as a popular American sitcom that aired from 1994 to 2004. Provide a brief overview of the premise—six friends navigating life, work, and relationships in New York City. Include a short summary of why the show remains culturally relevant and widely loved.

- Use Wikipedia to find basic info/overview of the show. The premise is essentially that the show follows the lives of 6 average people, not an exact 'plot' but has many plotlines within it. But shouldn't be hard to paraphrase from somewhere online
 - Somewhere in this section, when referencing the main 6, I'd acknowledge that Ross and Monica are siblings. Like just by saying something like Ross and his sister Monica.

Story/Series Overview

Summarize the overall progression of the series across its ten seasons. Highlight major arcs such as Ross and Rachel's relationship, Monica and Chandler's secret relationship, Rachel's pregnancy, etc. Break the content into/separate by sections.

- Story arcs I'd highlight: Rachel and Ross's relationship (they are a main-character couple that gets together and breaks up multiple times throughout the show, on Wikipedia or somewhere else online you can find a timeline of this, it's one of the main plotlines so it shouldn't be too hard. You don't need to name specific episodes, I'd just note what seasons they're on, which they're off, and other important times: First kiss, watching the prom video [ep- the one with the prom video], first break up [ross cheats], Ross says Rachel's name at the altar with Emily, they get married in Vegas, Rachel gets pregnant, Rachel moves in, Rachel dates Joey, Rachel leaves for Paris (but actually doesn't) and they live happily ever after.
- Monica and Chandler secret relationship: they start seeing each other in London and have a secret relationship, but the characters find out one by one (Joey finds out in The one with the Kips, Rachel finds out in The one with the resolutions, Phoebe (+ Ross, at the very end) finds out in The one where everybody finds out). They then go on to get married and in the last season have a surrogate to have a baby, which turns out to be twins
- Rachel's pregnancy: After having one night again with Ross, she gets preg and reveals this at Monica's wedding. She decides to keep it and raises it alongside Ross
 - All of these are really prominent story arcs that can be found in more detail on wikipedia but totally contact me if you want more detail/specific episode names!!

Characters

Introduce the six main characters: Rachel, Ross, Monica, Chandler, Joey, and Phoebe. Include short descriptions of their personalities/roles in the group, and how they develop over time. Will likely also have a section that includes recurring characters like Gunther, Janice, Mike (Paul Rudd).

- Main characters: Rachel, Ross, Monica, Chandler, Joey, and Phoebe
- Side characters to mention: Gunther - worker in Central Perk coffee shop, Janice - Chandler's crazy ex girlfriend, Mike Hannigan (played by Paul Rudd), Judy and Jack Gellar (Ross and Monica's parents)

Episodes & Seasons

Provide an overview of the show with the number of seasons and episodes. Possibly list all of them if not too tedious.

- Just a grid of all seasons 1-10 and which episodes are in each. Can be taken from Wikipedia. Some episodes are two parts (ex. The one that could have been parts 1 and 2 - these are usually at the ends or middle of a season) but can still be displayed as 2 separate episodes.
- I'd do it as some type of grid, but maybe where you have to click to see only one season at a time since it is a lot to all have on the screen at once

| S1 | S2 | S3 | S4 | S5 | S6 | S7 | S8 | S9 | S10 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| The one where it all began | The one with Ross's New GF | etc | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |

Cultural Impact & Legacy

Discuss the show's popularity, awards, and influence on TV and pop culture. Include its continued success through streaming, syndication, and its influence on later sitcoms (how much the actors continue to be paid, etc).

- This could be found on wikipedia- mention any relevant awards like emmys (I know that some cameos got emmys, such as Christina Applegate playing Rachel's sister for 3 episodes- yes she was *that* good in the role, lol). But yes these can all be found on wiki.
- Also for this section: note how much streaming services pay to have friends (why netflix lost it, how much HBO Max pays to have it)
- How much the actors get paid NOW - 20 mil a year
- In this section, I'd note any reunions they've had, and also that unfortunately in October 2023, the actor for Chandler, Matthew Perry, passed away

- Influence- also can be found on wikipedia, but just a short paragraph mentioning other sitcoms that have taken inspiration from *Friends*

Production & Behind the Scenes

Provide background on the creation of the show, including the creators, casting decisions, and filming style. Mention the live audience format and the setting of the sets (apartment, Central Perk, etc). In this section I will mention improvised lines/scenes like, for example, Chandler's last joke, or Rachel's reaction to 'Ross' falling down the stairs.

- Also on wikipedia, but note here that the creators went to college together, made the show based on their own friend group. Talk about casting (Monica/Courtney Cox was most famous at the time, David Schwimmer was automatically cast as Ross because they had him in mind, Joey/Matt LeBlanc had \$11 to his name before booking *Friends*). The main cast became very close right away and continue to be friends to this day- their chemistry wasn't just on screen.
- Filming style: live studio audience, sets connect like real apartments (include an image or video of them showing how the 2 apartments (Joey and Monica's) are connected)
- Improvised scenes: Matthew Perry/Chandler's last line (*THE* last line in the whole show)- captures his funny, sarcastic character during a sad moment, and closes off the entire show
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9snbUbbMqbg> "Ep- The Last One"
 - They go to only one coffee place during the entire show, so him asking 'where' is an ending that captures the essence of the humor on the show
 - 'Ross' falling down the stairs- this episode consists of Rachel teaching Ross's son to prank, and Ross gets upset. The ep ends with the boys throwing a life size doll that looks like Ross down the stairs, and Jennifer Aniston (Rachel) wasn't told it was fake, so it was her raw reaction to thinking David was thrown down the stairs
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QNwwCNQWOM> (start at .40sec) - Ep "The One with the Truth about London"
 - Ep "The one with the cuffs" - Chandler is handcuffed to a drawer (he was hooking up with Rachel's boss who is crazy and handcuffed him so he couldn't leave) and Rachel refuses to unhandcuff him in fear of getting in trouble with her boss. When begging to be uncuffed, he hits his head accidentally
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EesLp4ZPAvU> - 3:21 time stamp

Sources

List references such as the Wikipedia article, images, and any additional sources used.

- Wikipedia, Youtube videos about the show, interviews with the main cast- and as a self-proclaimed super fan you can contact me about anything :)

1. Project Overview

The goal of the website will be to present *Friends* as more than just a TV show, highlighting its long-lasting cultural impact. The website should give users a sense of the show's world while clearly organizing information about the series, behind-the-scenes, and its legacy.

2. Resources

Most information will come from the *Friends* Wikipedia page, along with a lot of my own previous knowledge (I chose this topic because I know the show very well), and some outside sources if needed. Visual content can include screenshots from the show, promo images/ads, and recognizable symbols such as Central Perk, the couch- even the show's color palette. Fonts and design inspiration will be based off of the show's logo and branding but in a modern way.

- For visual content, you can find images, youtube videos and screengrabs of almost any relevant scene. If there is a scene you can't find, it's probably not relevant enough to put in here. But if you need specific episode names to find a certain episode you can either look up the plot and google will say or text me.

3. Audience

The primary audience would be people familiar with pop culture, those who have watched the show and are looking for more information, or those who maybe haven't seen it and are looking for reasons to start watching. Since many users may already know *Friends*, the site should feel nostalgic and informative. However, since it'll also be accessible to new viewers (likely younger) who want to learn about the series, I will add a modern/trendy touch to grab their attention.

- Audience should be mostly for people like you who may be discovering the show

4. Message

The website should communicate that *Friends* is a culturally significant show centered around everyday life. It should emphasize themes of friendship, love, and personal growth, and also highlight why the show continues to resonate with audiences today (I'm not going to acknowledge anything problematic with the show, as this website should seem like a promotion).

- There isn't much of a message besides promoting the show- no controversies

5. Tone

The tone will be light and fun, reflecting the vibes of the show. At the same time, it'll be clean and organized. As I said above, it will be like a promotion for the show, not a critique, so it'll highlight its impact and themes (also ratings) in a good way.

- 90's block colors and shapes but in a modern way appealing to younger, new audiences

6. Visual Style

The visual style will draw from the show's branding and aesthetics. This will include the primary colors in the show's logo and references to iconic settings like Central Perk, and even broader, NYC. Layouts will reflect the show's chill vibe. Typography will mix clean sans-serifs with funky display fonts - either the exact logo font or one mimicking it.

- Mostly straight forward. I'd use NYC imagery like the fonts that are in NYC street signs (maybe not the subway since it's not mentioned at all in the show). Iconic settings/symbols in the show are: Central Perk - Coffee Shop (logo, set, etc - can even just use coffee as symbolism), Monica's purple door (can easily be found as an

