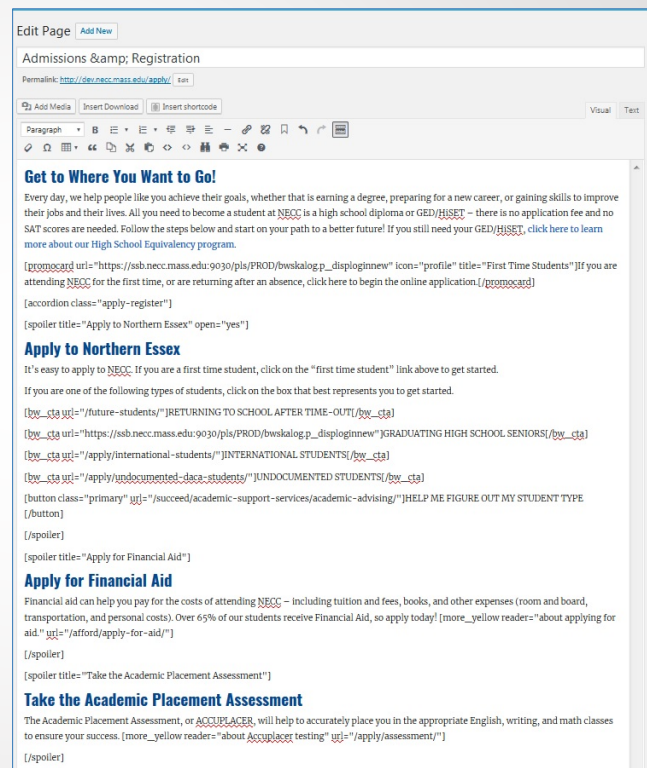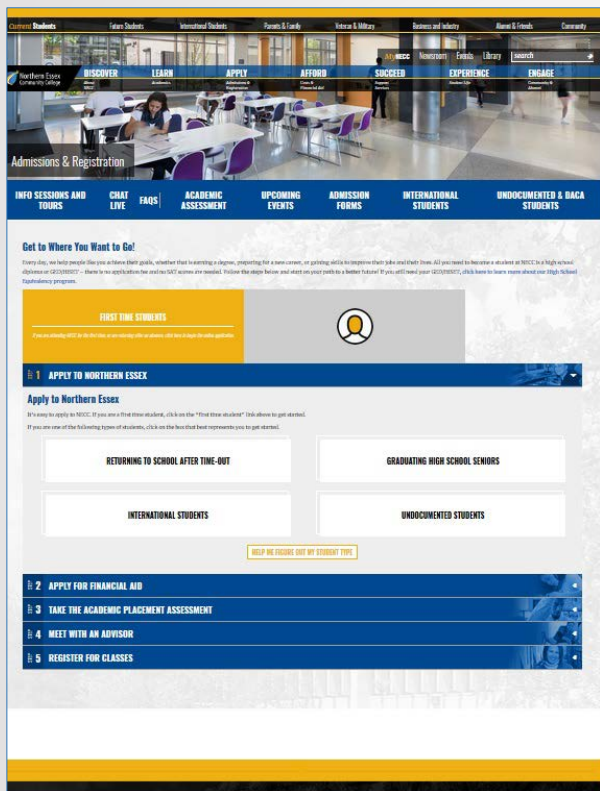# WHAT ARE SHORTCODES

Shortcodes in WordPress are little bits of code that allow you to do various things with little effort. Shortcodes simplify the addition of features such as accordions, tabs, galleries, videos, and various other functionality without writing any code directly. The code of these features would normally require a lot of code editing, and those pages would have to be edited only by admin so the code is not stripped from the page.

In short, shortcodes allow us to add dynamic HTML and other markup directly into the post or page where the user wants them to appear, while still allowing editors to update the pages.

The example (left below) shows a page with interactive features on it. The buttons and an accordion are dynamically added by shortcode. The image on the right shows the page in editing mode before the code is rendered.
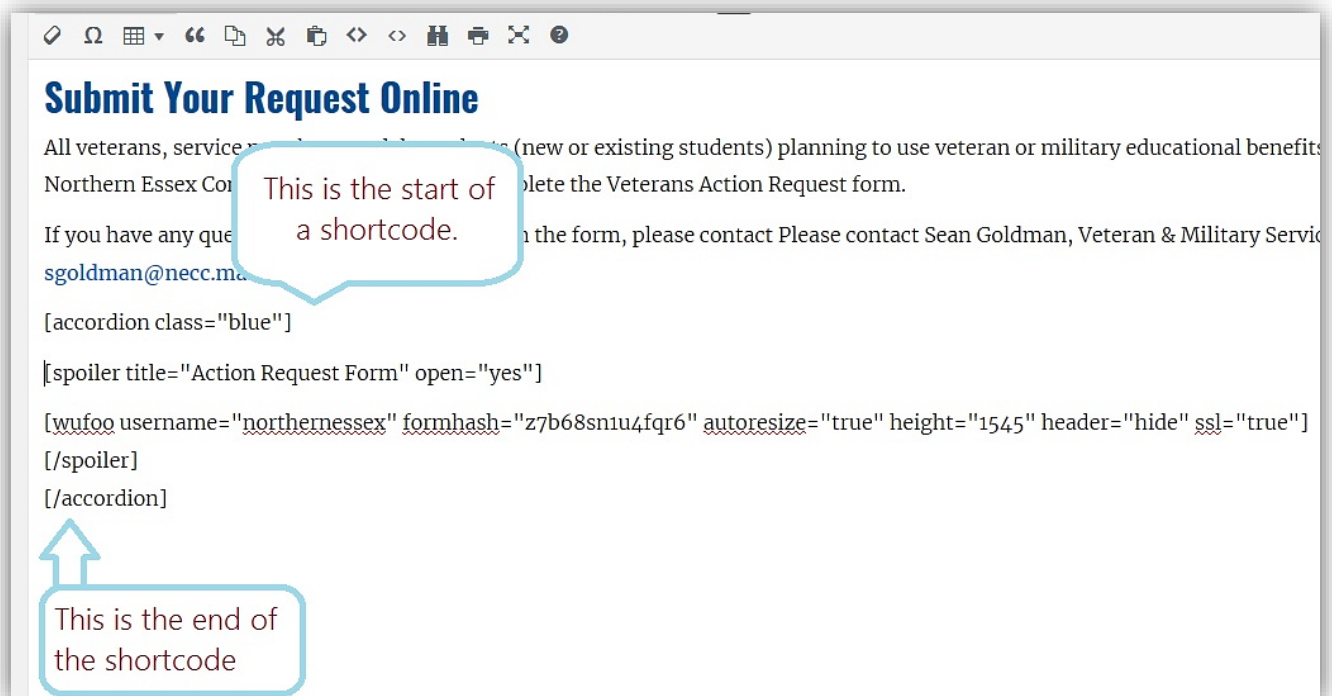
What Does Shortcode Look Like?

The shortcode can be identified by the brackets on the left and right.
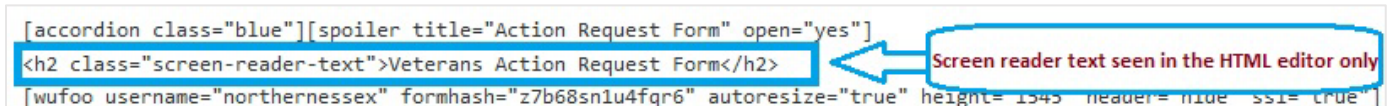
[accordion]

Most shortcode has a start and an end.

Notice in the example above the shortcode can have attributes such as class, title, open. There are many more attributes that you may see in the shortcodes on your pages. These attribute can affect the look and accessibility of the feature it is creating, so please do not change any part of the short code.

Be aware that accordion shortcodes have hidden headings for accessibility. Accordions must be edited in the HTML text editor because of this. If you try to edit an accordion shortcode in the visual editor you may accidently delete the heading or forget that it is there and add content that is not relevant to the heading.

Please do not edit any shortcodes. Especially the accordions.