Lab 3 Activity: Building a Simple Blog Website

Objective:

To understand and implement basic HTML structures, including tables, form elements, and multimedia content, by creating a simple blog website.

Materials Needed:

- Computer with a text editor (e.g., VSCode, Sublime Text)
- Web browser (e.g., Chrome, Firefox)
- Reference materials on HTML and CSS (e.g., online documentation, textbooks)

Instructions:

Theme: Simple Blog Website

Part 1: Creating the Blog Table of Contents

1. **Table of Contents**:

   - Create a new HTML file named `table_of_contents.html`.

   - Design a table that lists the blog post titles, dates, and brief descriptions.

   - Ensure the table has at least three columns and several rows to represent different blog posts.

   - Apply basic styles to the table to make it look clean and organized (e.g., adding borders, padding, and background colors for headers).

Part 2: Creating and Styling the Blog Post Submission Form

1. **Blog Post Submission Form**:

   - Create a new HTML file named `blog_post_form.html`.

- Design a form that allows users to submit a new blog post. The form should include:

  - A text input field for the blog post title.

  - A text input field for the author's name.

  - A textarea for the blog post content.

  - A dropdown select box for the blog post category.

  - A submit button.

  - A clickable button that triggers a JavaScript alert saying "Form submitted!".

- Style the form elements to improve their appearance and usability.

Part 3: Embedding Multimedia in Blog Posts

1. **Multimedia Blog Post**:

- Create a new HTML file named `multimedia_blog_post.html`.

- Design a blog post that includes:

  - An iframe to embed a relevant video or webpage.

  - An image with a caption.

  - An audio element with controls for a podcast or audio clip.

  - A video element with controls for a video blog entry.

- Ensure that each multimedia element is properly sized and styled to fit within the blog post.

Part 4: Creating a Modern Styled Blog Layout

1. **Blog Layout**:

- Create a new HTML file named `blog_layout.html`.

- Design a simple blog layout with the following sections:

  - A header with the blog's title and a navigation menu.

  - A main content area where blog posts will be displayed.

- A sidebar with additional information or links.
  - A footer with contact information or credits.
- Apply modern styles to the layout, such as a cohesive color scheme, font choices, and spacing.

Part 5: Bringing it All Together

1. **Final Blog Website**:
   - Integrate all the parts into a cohesive blog website by linking the pages together.
   - Ensure that the `table_of_contents.html` links to individual blog posts, and the `blog_post_form.html` can be accessed from the main layout.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does creating a cohesive theme enhance the user experience of a website?
2. What are the key considerations when designing forms for user input?
3. How can multimedia content improve the engagement and information value of a blog post?

Submission:

- Submit the HTML files you created (`table_of_contents.html`, `blog_post_form.html`, `multimedia_blog_post.html`, `blog_layout.html`) via the class submission portal.

This lab activity encourages students to independently apply their knowledge of HTML and CSS to create a functional and styled blog website, fostering both creativity and technical skills.