Assignment 2: News website design

For this assignment, you are asked to create a news webpage. Specifically, you are supposed to create a main page, in which a number of stories are visible, and also an article page in which an entire article is visible. You only need to create one article, and every link on the home page can lead to that article. The webpages should look coherent and well-designed. You are expected to use both HTML and CSS on this assignment, and any use of Javascript is optional.

Overall requirements

For both the home page as well as the news story page, you are expected to use *semantically meaningful* markup (e.g., using <em> for emphasis). You should not have an excessive number of `divs` or `sections` to help with layout (although having a few as, for example, a flex container is totally fine). Both your main page and article page should use the same css file (using an external file with `<link rel="stylesheet" href="...">` in your head). It is completely fine to have classes or other selectors that only apply to a single page. Both your main page and article should look good at 100% zoom (the default zoom level) with a browser width ranging from 700-1000px. Your pages should display correctly in *at least two* HTML engines. Current HTML engines include WebKit (in Safari), Gecko (in Firefox), EdgeHTML (in Edge versions up until, I believe, the current stable version for the moment), and Blink (in pretty much everything else: Chrome, Chromium, Opera, Brave, etc.).

CSS requirements

For this assignment, you are required to use either flexbox or CSS Grid for the layout on the main page (or both, if you want). For both of these, you are strongly encouraged to look around for resources, such as this page on CSS Grid. You are also encouraged to use these to help style your article page. You also need to use a custom font in at least one point on your webpage. All modern browsers support the WOFF2 and TTF file formats for fonts. You can find fonts to use on places like Google Fonts or on websites like dafont.com. With dafont, you will need to include the font files in what you submit (and will probably want to look up how to use @font-face in your CSS to specify an external font.

Both visited and un-visited links should be displayed identically. I know I said previously that I don't like this, but since all of your stories will link to the webpage, it'll make it easier to make things look good.

You are not allowed to use CSS media queries (also known as "breakpoints") to adjust how CSS applies for widths between 700-1000px. If you want to make settings so that your page works outside of these ranges, feel free.

You do not need to write any text for this. Instead, I encourage you to use the standard placeholder text that designers use when putting things together. Ironically, that text is based on Latin, but is called Greeking.

You are not allowed to use any external CSS, HTML, or Javascript libraries. The only exception (if you want) is either a CSS reset or normalize file. You are not allowed to use preprocessors like SASS, TypeScript, or an HTML templating engine. That being said, you are welcome to copy code from MDN (or the zyBooks) if it would be helpful.

The two pages should look like they belong together on a single site. You should create a design that has similarities between these two pages.

Per-page requirements

Main page

On your main page, you should provide a view into the various "news stories". You can choose to have a "top stories" if you wish (and you can have a hero image for your main story). Stories may or may not have images associated with them. For images to use, feel free to use any appropriate images that you have rights to use.

You must have at least four different news categories (e.g., sports, business, travel, etc.), and each category must contain between 4 and 15 stories. You choose whatever you think looks best. At least two stories per section must have a summary sentence or two included on this main page.

The design of your home page should look intentional and pleasant. Keeping in mind how alignment can make things look more intentional, you could consider having a separate section for each article, and using either flexbox or grid to position those sections within a container for each section.

Article page

Your article page should represent a single news story. It should contain at least 8-10 paragraphs of text (although if you look at news stories, the paragraphs are often shorter than what lipsum.com generates). It should contain at least one hero image and one additional image. Both of these images should have captions clearly associated with them. You can put the image and the caption together in a div and then change the div's position to place both of them.

Your article page should include links to additional related stories. In addition, there should be sufficient ways for the user to navigate from this article to other categories on the news site (but you don't need to make actual pages for any of these).

Due dates

The final version of this assignment is due Wednesday, October 30. Before this, on Friday, October 25, you need to be able to show me what your current progress is on this assignment in class. If you are working with someone from the other section of this class, please just choose one section to attend. At this in-progress check in, you should have sufficient progress on at least one of your pages so that I can see what overall style you are aiming for.

Submission

This assignment is due by 11:59pm on Wednesday, October 30. You should submit a zip file containing your two HTML files, your CSS file, and any additional files you need (such as images, fonts, or others). You can either work alone on this assignment or with one other classmate. I only need one submission per group. Make sure that you (and any partner's) name appears in a comment at the top of **every code file (HTML, CSS, JS) that you submit**.