

# CSS PART THREE GUIDE

This outline is a work-in-progress, and may change in the future – [medatech@medasf.org](mailto:medatech@medasf.org)

Mission Economic Development Agency | Instructor Eduardo Garcia

## SPECIFICITY OF CSS

CSS works on a system of specificity that decides what CSS values will affect the HTML element. This means that if an HTML element is “eligible” for multiple Rulesets, then the more specific the CSS target is, the more priority it has over other CSS Properties from other Rulesets.

An Example:

### CSS

```
p {  
    color: red;  
    background-color: black;  
}  
  
#sentence {  
    color: blue;  
}
```

### HTML

```
<p id="sentence">Hello there!</p>
```

Because the above HTML element is both a p element and has the ID “sentence”, both Rulesets will apply to the “Hello there!” text. The one that will override the other CSS Properties is the blue color because an ID is more specific than a p element. Note that the p element will still have a black background because there is nothing in the #sentence Ruleset to override it!

## WEIGHING SPECIFICITY

There is an easy method to use to figure out which CSS Rule will override the others. There are generally three types of CSS Targets: An HTML Element, a Class, and an ID. Each one has a specific number value as follows:

➔ **HTML Element:** 1 Point

➔ **Class:** 10 Points

➔ **ID:** 100 Points

In the example above, the p Ruleset has a total specificity value of 1, since a p Target is an HTML element. The #sentence Ruleset has a total specificity value of 100, since the CSS Target is an ID. This means if an HTML element has multiple Rulesets being applied, the Ruleset with the higher total specificity value will take priority!

## FINER CSS TARGETING

As you have noticed, when you use a CSS target of p, it will select all the p elements on the webpage. Sometimes this is not what we want! Instead you can combine HTML elements, IDs, and Classes as a CSS Target to only select more unique HTML elements.

An Example:

### CSS

```
div p {  
    color: red;  
    background-color: black;  
}
```

### HTML

```
<body>  
    <p>Hello there!</p>  
  
    <div>  
        <p>Bye!</p>  
    </div>
```

The CSS Target “div p” will only affect the “Bye!” tag because The CSS Target will first look for divs and then look for p elements inside of those divs. The first p element with the text of “Hello there!” is not affected by that CSS Ruleset because it’s parent is not a div (it is a body element).

# THE CASCADING EFFECT OF CSS

When there are multiple CSS Rulesets affecting the same HTML element there are a couple of notes that should be taken to understand which values will ultimately affect the HTML Element.

- ➔ The CSS Properties with a higher Specificity value, will override other Properties that are the same but have a lower Specificity value.
- ➔ If the Specificity value is the same for both CSS Properties, the “latest” Property will override previous Properties of the same name. The “latest” is the last CSS Property that was written.
- ➔ You can add “!important” to the end of a Property value to add 10,000 Specificity points to that CSS Rule.

## NOTES

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