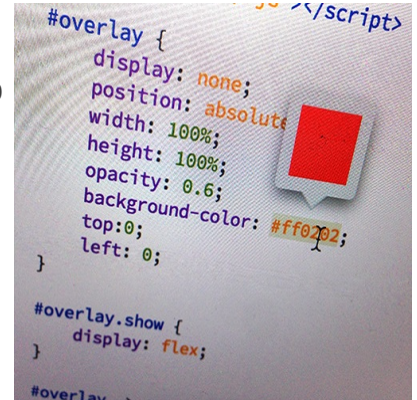# Style and link tags

<STYLE> TAG

The best practice when working with CSS is to keep it in an external file using the`<link>` tag, but when starting it is simpler to merely place it directly into the document under edit.

To place CSS directly into an HTML document, we use the `<style>` tag. This tag can appear anywhere in an HTML document, but the most common practice is to place it in the <head>. Like so:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>

<head>
  <style>
    /* CSS will go in this area */
  </style>
</head>
<body></body>
</html>
```

<LINK> TAG

While `<style>` is convenient, the better practice is to put the CSS into a separate file. One of the key advantages of using a separate file is that the CSS styles can easily be re-used between your different .html pages. Many authors further divide their CSS up into different files (for example one for text styles, one for layout).

Simply put your CSS into a separate file. This file does not need any HTML markup (ie, no `<style>` tag required). Use the `.css` file extension and use a `<link>` tag to bind it in. The `<link>` tag must appear in the <head> section. By convention, css files are kept in a

directory named *css*.

Use this `<link>` as a template:

```
<link rel="stylesheet"href="css/my_styles.css">
```

Here is an example HTML document.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
 <head>
  <link rel="stylesheet"href="css/my_styles.css">
 </head>
 <body>
 </body>
</html>
```