CSS Selectors

For this weeks topic I chose to discuss CSS selectors. There are a lot of selectors that I don’t use because I’ve either never needed to, or haven’t figured out how to use them properly. I don’t have a lot of experience with selectors such as first-child, first-of-type, nth-child(n), etc. I’m always confused on what selector to use and when, and how to properly write them. I always run into the issue of not coding it correctly, which results in my code not working, or doing something that it shouldn’t be.

First let me explain what a CSS selector is for. A CSS selector allows you to operate your HTML elements by selecting them based on their attributes, class, id, type, and etc (w3schools). An element selector would select all elements that are alike, such as <p> elements or <li> elements. Your id selector, selects only a specific element, which is great to use if you only want one item to be different than the rest whether it’s the color, size, or anything else. The id selector is written with a ‘#’ before the element is called. The class selector will select every item that has the same class. You would use this selector by placing a ‘.’ Before you call the element name.

There is a CSS selector for just about anything you would want to do, even if its selecting the first letter of each paragraph in a certain section on your page. I looked at w3schools.com and was able to look at a table that list each selector, an example of how it is written and what will happen when you use that selector (see attachment 1 or take a look here http://www.w3schools.com/cssref/css\_selectors.asp). You can use the first-child selector to select bits and pieces of a group, or div, of content. For example, you could have five links in an li format and choose the first child to have a background color of green while the others wont change their background color. When you just have two selectors side by side before you add the property and values like, ul li { background-color: green;} that is the Descendant Selector that selects all list items that are under all unordered lists. When you have two selectors separated by the > symbol, ul > li {background-color: blue;}, you are calling the child selectors and only calling out those list items that is apart of that specific unordered list (CSS-Tricks).

Selectors are an easy way to get your style done. There are many selectors to choose from that allow you to either be very specific about your styles or plain and simple. Since researching this topic, I've been able to expand my knowledge about CSS selectors, and realized some of the things I was doing wrong before hand. I hope this helps anybody else that may have had some trouble too!

Picture 1 HTML, Class, ID (EXP 1)

The picture above is a great example of an HTML, Class and ID selector. They give a little explanation as to what selectors you can use and how to use them.

W3Schools picture (2 part EXP)

The two pictures above is what I pulled from W3Schools in paragraph 2. They list the selectors that is available to use, how to use them, and what they are used for. This is a very handy tool to have, I hope it helps the rest of you.

REFERENCES:

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