Chapter 12

How to format web pages for printing

Objectives

Applied

1. Use the @media print selector to add the styles for printing a page to the style sheet for displaying the page.

2. Use a second style sheet for the styles that should be used for printing a web page.

Knowledge

1. In general terms, describe the way that you format a web page for printing.

2. Describe three ways that you can provide the styles for printing a web page.

3. Describe the use of these properties for printing a page: display, page-break-before, page-break-after, orphans, and widows.

Link elements for screen and print style sheets

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles/main.css">
<link rel="stylesheet" href="styles/print.css"
    media="print">
```

A rule set for printing that's embedded within a screen style sheet

```
@media print {
    body {
        font-family: "Times New Roman", Times, serif;
        background-color: white;
    }
}
```

Use for placing print styles placed within a regular style sheet file.

A style element for printing in the head section of the HTML

```
<style media="print">
    font-family: "Times New Roman", Times, serif;
    background-color: white;
</style>
```

Recommendations for formatting printed pages

- Change the text color to black and the background color to white.

- Change text other than headings to a serif font to make the text easier to read when printed.

- Use a base font size that's easy to read when printed.

- Remove site navigation since it can't be used from a printed page.

- Remove as many images as possible, particularly Flash and animated images.

Note: To test your applied print styles. Use the print preview option in Windows or Open in Preview within the PDF menu on a Mac.

CSS properties for printing

- display

- visibility

- page-break-before

- page-break-after

- page-break-inside

- orphans

- widows

Review the css property descriptions on page 405.

CSS that uses two of the properties for printing

```
img { display: none; }
h1, h2, h3 { page-break-after: avoid; }
```