

RIA Tutorial: Working with CSS

This tutorial will help you to create and debug CSS.

DEMO: 15 minutes

In the demo, I will show you how to quickly write CSS & HTML files on your desktop, run them in the browser, and check the output with a browser debugger.

Part I: Creating a CSS file for your HTML homework

Copy the HTML file you created for your homework to the desktop. If you don't have one or can't find it, download the sample file from Moodle. It's called "ARIA_SampleHomework.html".

Create a CSS file that does the following:

- 1) Makes all H1 text green and serif
- 2) Removes underlining from all hyperlinks
- 3) Adds a background color of your choice to the body
- 4) Centers paragraphs with a class of "paraCenter"
- 5) Puts a thick, brown border around the image
- 6) Creates a CSS id selector called "email" and sets its properties to include a background color of orange and a sans-serif font (e.g., Helvetica, Arial, Verdana).

Part II: Swap files with a partner and do a code review.

Walk them through what you did and explain your comments. Ask if the code makes sense to them and listen to their feedback.

Make sure you discuss the following:

- Does the code perform correctly?
- Is it easy to read?
- Are the comments clear and unambiguous?
- Would you publish this code for others to read & comment on?

Part III: Change your CSS to be an internal stylesheet. Make sure it still looks the same.

Get rid of the `<link ref=...">` tag and move all the CSS to be internal, so you're just using one HTML file.

All the CSS should go inside the `<head>` tag.

Part IV: Now put your CSS inline in the HTML file. Again, make sure it looks the same as before.

Remove all the CSS from the `<head>` section & place it inline where the HTML elements appear. There should still be only one file used (i.e., not additional CSS files).

Part V: Download the sample CSS & HTML file. Using a browser debugger tool, fix the files so that they display correctly.

Using the browser of your choice (IE, Chrome, Firefox, or Safari), load up the developer tools to help you determine what needs to change in the elements there.

Fix the HTML & CSS files so that they have the correct styles for each element.