

Preliminary Work

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5 — Lab 5: CSS

5.1 Introduction

In this lab you will explore cascading style sheets, or CSS. CSS tells a web browser how to display the HTML on the page, whereas the HTML contains the information about what to display. The basic concept is that you should separate information's style from its content.

5.2 Preliminary Work

5.2.1 Basic CSS

If you are not familiar with CSS, browse to <http://www.w3schools.com/css/> and follow the *CSS Basic*, *Styling*, *Box Model* and *Advanced* tutorials. If you are unfamiliar with CSS, take time to play around with the live examples that are provided in these tutorials.

5.2.2 CSS Selectors

Selectors are a critical, and complicated, aspect of programming for web UI design. If you're not familiar with these concepts, here are some links that you should read:

HTML DOM - Document Tree And Selectors:

http://css.maxdesign.com.au/selectutorial/document_tree.htm

Which do I use, ID or Class?

http://css.maxdesign.com.au/selectutorial/advanced_idclass.htm

Students of all skill levels read this link:

Selectors In Action:

http://css.maxdesign.com.au/selectutorial/tutorial_intro.htm

5.3 Classwork

5.3.1 Sketch Your Site

Why Site Sketches?

Sketching is a very important part of the website creation process. Sketching allows you to quickly record and share ideas that you have in your head that would take hours to put down

using software. Take a look at this article: *Why You Should Be Sketching Even If You Can't Draw*. Don't worry about your drawing skills, good or bad they won't affect this part of the process. The idea is that you want to get down on paper *quickly* the very basic layout of how you want your site to appear.

If you're totally stuck, for inspiration you can take a look at *65 Examples Of Website Sketches For Inspiration* at <http://pixelbell.com/website-sketch/>. Also, take a look at Bootstrap's examples page at <http://getbootstrap.com/2.3.2/getting-started.html#examples>. You will be using Bootstrap later in the semester, and these examples can show you some possible page layouts.

Sketch your home page on the worksheet provided to you. Pay attention to where the navigation bar will be going, what items will be in the navigation bar. Remember, your minimum site will have *Home*, *About*, and *Current Work* pages, but you're welcome to add more pages if you wish.

Get Some Feedback

Show your sketch to your partner. Get some feedback. You don't *have* to incorporate the feedback from your partner, but on the other hand your partner may inspire you with ideas you didn't have.

5.3.2 Add Nav Bars to your Class Pages

Using the code listed in the http://www.w3schools.com/css/css_navbar.asp tutorial as an example, add a navigation bar to the web pages you've created for this class. The navigation bar should reflect the sketch that you have drawn. Don't worry about fonts or exact appearance, just try to get the nav bar in the right place on the page, and get it to link to the other pages on your site.

5.3.3 Slice and Dice with Style

Use `<div>s` and the principals discussed in the *Selectors in Action* tutorial to add some structure and style to your pages. The page structure should reflect layout that you sketched above.

If you are at a loss for text to add to your web page, use some Lorem Ipsum dummy text. You can learn more about it and have some generated for you at <http://www.lipsum.com/>.

5.3.4 Validators

Validators are automated code checkers, which help you clean up your code syntax. There are a number of popular validators for both HTML and CSS.

Use the following two validators to validate your class website home page: Markup Validation: <http://validator.w3.org/> CSS Validation: <http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/>

5.4 References

Using Selectors:

http://docs.webplatform.org/wiki/tutorials/using_selectors

Advanced Selectors:

http://docs.webplatform.org/wiki/guides/advanced_selectors_guide

Inheritance and Cascade:

http://docs.webplatform.org/wiki/tutorials/inheritance_and_cascade

Validators:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Validator>