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Reflection #1

As of this week I completed lab assignments 1-5 and have taken two quizzes on Eric Meyer's *CSS: The Definitive Guide*. This class is an extremely rewarding class because it allows me to express my creativity in a structured manner. The best way to learn something is to teach it. By implementing the topics of the chapter into the code of the webpage and then explain these coding techniques to the reader on the same webpage I am truly assimilating the knowledge. In other words, not only am I writing in the parlance of computer code (CSS/HTML) but also I am writing in plain English in effect dissecting what the code means to a reader that is not necessarily a computer scientist. This two-pronged approach consolidates the intake of all information in my long-term memory so that I can recall it and apply it in an instant.

Another key point I am learning about web design is website maintenance. Code comments are key to reminding you what means what in your code. After amassing many lines of code in my CSS document for me to quickly comb through it and pick out what I want to alter code comments are essential. In my case I have designed about two basic designs and build off or modify these templates for new pages. This way I am not starting from scratch for each assignment.

The final comment I will make about this course is that it leaves me with a lot of freedom. I use the lab assignments as a guide but take the design into my own hands. When I possess a vision for how my site should look I do not let up until I am happy with the outcome. This means I have spent many hours tweaking the appearance of each webpage on a large scale and a small scale. I am a detail-oriented person and computer science classes like this one are a perfect fit for me.