COMP 1017

Day 11

Introduction to CSS…Finally!!

Everything that we’ve done up until now has focused on HTML.

… so, uh, what's that empty folder doing there in our framework (css)?

Of note there are actually two, but the js folder will remain empty for this course.

CSS

Your First Cascade…Mazel Tov!

What is CSS?

Glad you asked!

CSS, or Cascading Style Sheets, tells your browser how everything should look.

It’s the visual part. Gotta have style!

It’s a set of rules, which you write, for presenting HTML elements.

Because HTML was never designed for formatting, CSS can:

➔ lay out the content
➔ style the content

The best part is that one stylesheet can control the look of all of the pages in your website.

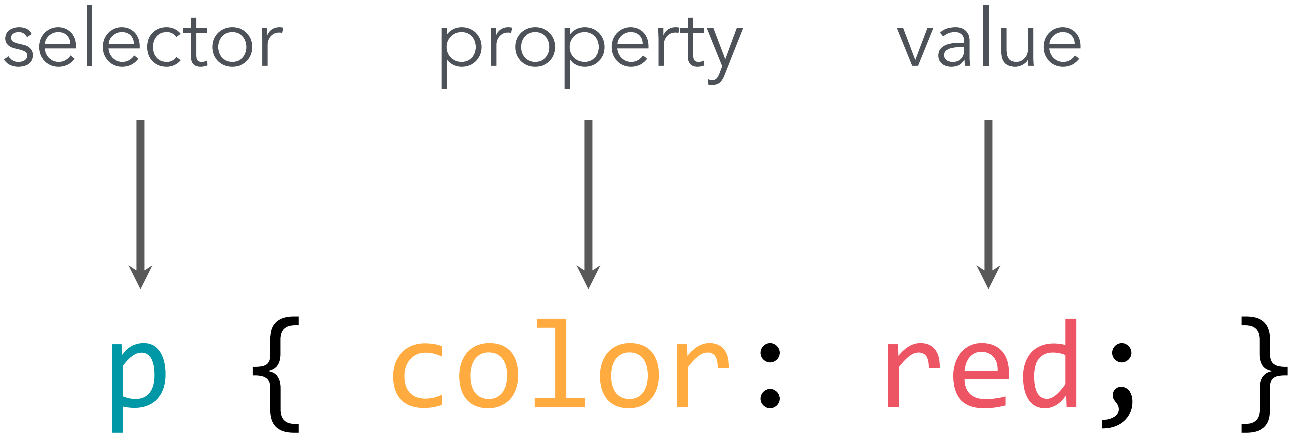
This can save you a lot of work and go a long way towards making your site look and feel consistent.

CSS Rules

Why, I do declare!

So, a stylesheet has a bunch of rules that tell a browser how to present your HTML.

What do these rules look like?



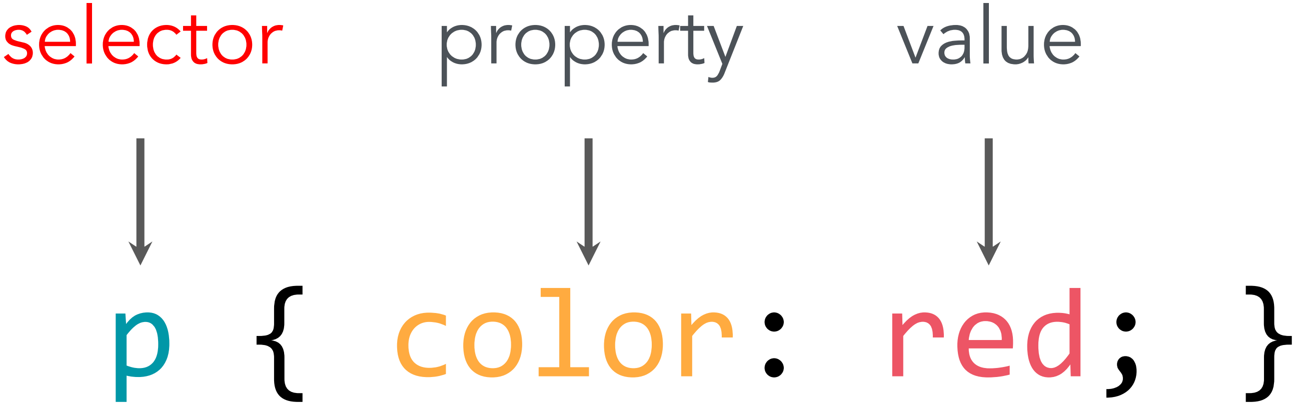
selector

property

value

```
p { color: red; }
```

A selector is the HTML element that you want to style.



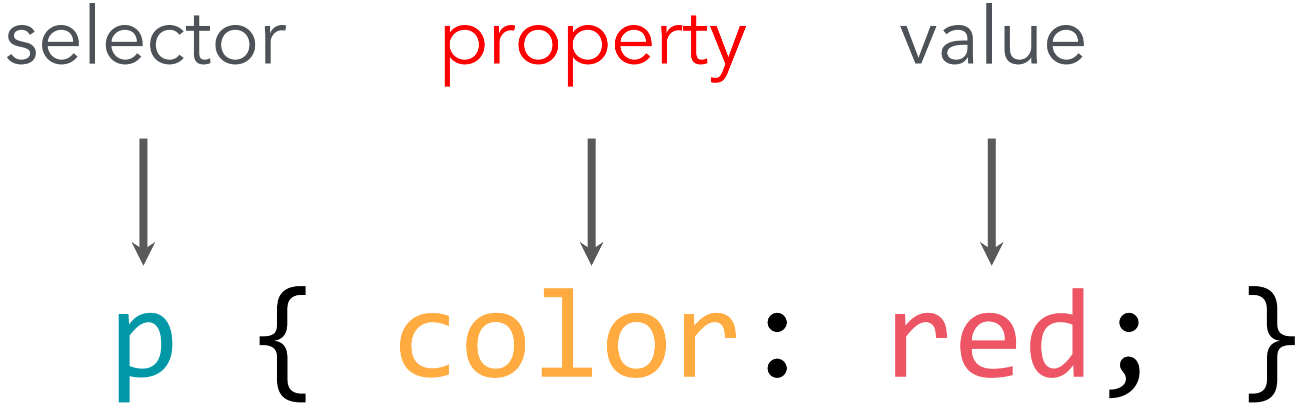
selector

property

value

```
p { color: red; }
```

A property is the type of style you want to change.



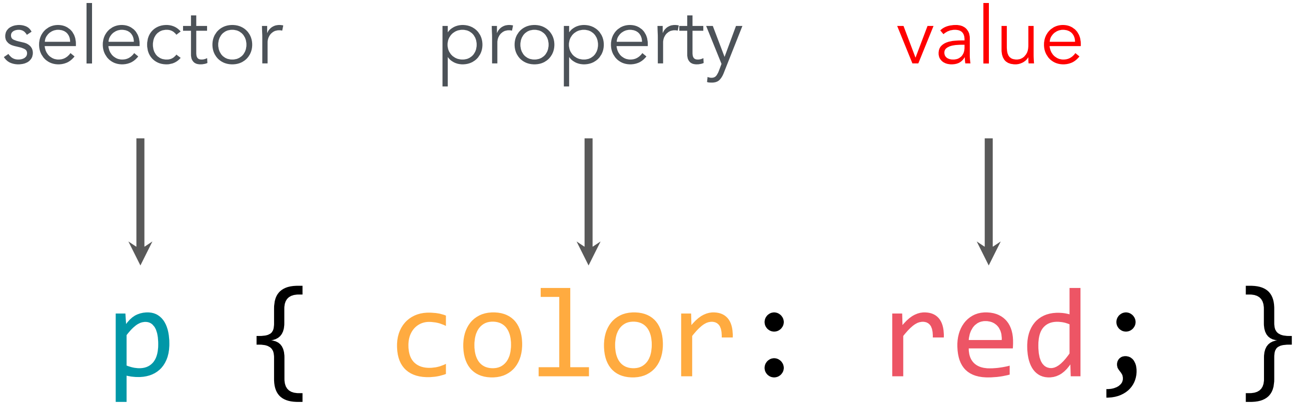
selector

property

value

```
p { color: red; }
```

A value is what you want to set that property to.



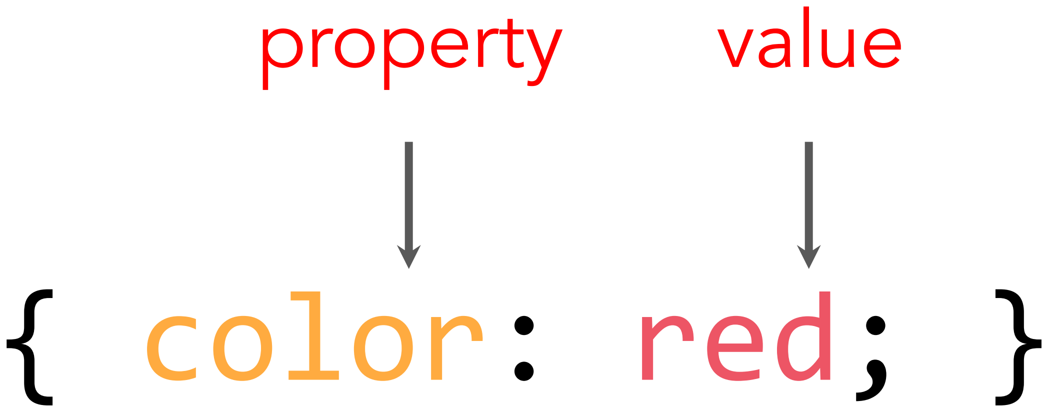
selector

property

value

```
p { color: red; }
```

A declaration is a property and a value pair.



property

value

```
{ color: red; }
```

You can have multiple declarations in one rule.

```css
p {
     color: red;
     font-size: 12px;
  }
```

Syntax

ft. The Terminator

Okay, so what about syntax?

Just like HTML elements need to be inside < angle brackets >, CSS declarations need to be inside { curly braces }.

{ this is known as the css syntax }

Properties and values must be separated by a colon (:).

All declarations must end with a semicolon (;).

If you do not end your declarations with a semicolon, it would be like not closing an HTML tag.

Including CSS

Because it’s nice to be included. ☠️

How do we include CSS in our website?

There are three ways:

1. Linking (external)
2. embedding
3. inline styles*

* don’t actually do this.

Linking (external) to CSS

You should do this … like, all the time.

Linking to a CSS file* is best practice.

* AKA an external stylesheet

This means that you should totally do it this way!

To do it, use the following tag in your `<head>` element:

```html
<link rel="stylesheet" href="css/styles.css">
```

Your `<head>` should look something like the following …

```
<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title>My test page</title>
      <!-- CSS style sheet -->
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css"
    href="css/styles.css">
 </head>
```

Embedding CSS

This is the next-best option.

We aint doing this either though.

Alright, so that’s how you link to an external stylesheet.

What about embedding?

Using a special tag, you can totally write CSS in your <head>.

```
<style>
  p {
    color: red;
  }
</style>
```

Altogether, this would make your `<head>` look something like …

```html
<head>
  <meta charset="utf-8">
  <title>My test page</title>
  <style>
    p {
      color: red;
    }
  </style>
</head>
```

Inline Styles

If you do this, the ghosts of web instructors past, present, and future will visit you on Christmas Eve.

So, first of all … don’t do this.

You want validation errors? Because this is how you get validation errors!

Remember our table border warning from day 4?

```
<table border="1">
```

```
<p style="color:red;">Don’t do this!</p>
```

The reason that we don’t do this anymore is that it’s really hard to edit everything line-by-line.

This means that your website won’t be maintainable.

The Cascade

The victor is always the last rule standing.

We figured out what ‘stylesheets’ means; what about ‘cascading’?

This means that if you have multiple styles applied to an element, the last rule applied will win.

CSS Demo