The Importance of Coding Standards

Code should look like a single person wrote it, no matter how many people contributed to it. Coding standards allow for collaboration with others while improving code readability and avoiding common coding errors.

**CONSISTENCY**

Consistency helps to prevent errors within your code. For example, using single quotes in a PHP echo statement, only switching to double quotes to avoid having to use an escape character can keep you from having an error in the echo statement. Validating your HTML and CSS will expose any errors that need your attention. Consistency not only averts syntax errors, but it looks professional and reflects an attention to detail.

### ****READABILITY****

In a large portion of coding jobs, you will be collaborating with others to produce a quality product. With this in mind, you wanted to make sure that your code it easily readable. Coding standards provide a baseline across the board for any person working on your project. Proper use of whitespace in HTML, CSS, PHP, and JavaScript provide a clear picture of your code for anyone else viewing it. This allows for easy additions or debugging if your code needs it.

### ****EXCEPTIONS****

While Wordpress does offer articles for their guidelines and best practices, there are a few items with exceptions such as:

* Alphabetical vs. grouped declaration order in CSS
* Indentation with spaces instead of tabs in PHP is it makes the code more readable by aligning array items
* Tables vs. divs for tabular data in HTML

Additionally, there are some standards that are different between the different coding languages, for example:

* Spacing after brackets, commas, colons, and selectors
* Lowercase vs. uppercase for class names in PHP
* Naming conventions (camel case vs. hyphens vs. underscores)

Like anything that you learn, the more that you do it, the more it will become second nature to you. Coding standards follow this adage and will make your product easy to read and easy to edit. Happy coding!

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*COMMENTS\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

I’m very excited about this class. I went to the Drupal camp over the summer and found out that it is one of the new up and coming content management systems. That begin my first exposure to content management I wanted to know more. I had heard about Wordpress but I’ve never used it before now. I’m hoping to utilize this to make my online schoolwork portfolio look amazing! I’ve also never had a blog so this is going to be great practice and exposure. It’s been about 12 years since I’ve had any kind of writing assignment so this is a great way to jump back into that. I read a few articles that said that the average time someone spends reading a blog article is about 96 seconds, so I feel like this article length falls within that amount of time while still getting the information across to the viewer.

Live link to blog:

hraemoore.wordpress.com/2017/08/17/coding-standards/