

READING A FINDING AID

Continue



Scalar Accessibility Review

Ensuring we can all participate

Irmarie Fraticelli-Rodríguez, Leigh Clouse, Scott St. Louis

Harvard Library User Research Center, Brown Bag Presentation

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

BEYOND PAPER IN FINDING AIDS

Digitized and Born-Digital Materials in Finding Aids



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@HarvardLibrary

Leigh Clouse, Irmarie Fraticelli-Rodríguez
and Scott St. Louis



Irmarie Fraticelli-Rodríguez

Computational Archival Science,
Digital Curation, Data Analysis



Leigh Clouse

Digital Preservation, Accessibility



Scott St. Louis

Digital Curation, Collections Digitization,
Scholarly Communication, UX Research



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Discussion Topics

- Catalysts for digital a11y review
- Introduction to Scalar and audit website
- Workflow ins and outs
- Findings
- Next steps





Assessing



Testing



Navigating



Analyzing

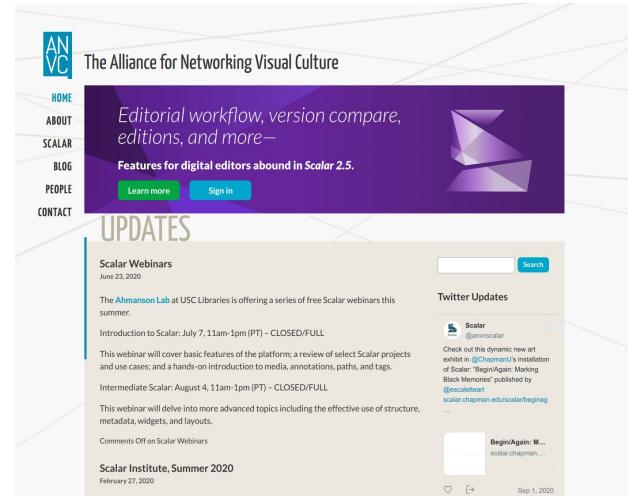
Our shared interest in **accessibility** challenged
us to consider the unique elements of
inclusive web design.

What is Scalar?

*“The **Alliance for Networking Visual Culture** seeks to enrich the intellectual potential of our fields to inform understandings of an expanding array of visual practices as they are reshaped within digital culture, while also creating scholarly contexts for the use of digital media in film, media and visual studies”*

Scalar is:

- Free and open source
- A publishing & authoring platform
- It enables the usage of multimedia to support your writing
- A semantic web authoring tool
 - Allows for improvisation with structure-data while being responsible for data standardization



Considering Platform Strengths

What does the Scalar platform offer to the user?

- Web publishing platform allowing the user to store detailed metadata of each media uploaded in a Dublin Core format.
- Scalar is a great platform when it comes to making connections between different pieces of information and demonstrating potential relationships.

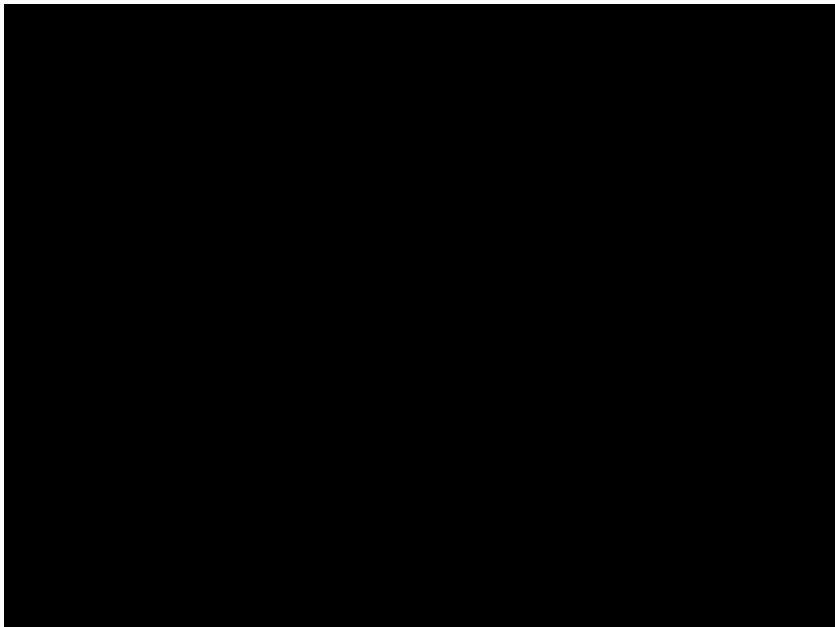
The user can connect media from the Internet Archive, Critical Commons, etc. This enables the development of a preservation plan for creative or academic projects.



Assessing

- What is an archive? What is a finding aid?
- Finding a Finding Aid
- Reading a Finding Aid
- What's in a Finding Aid and What's Not
- Using a Finding Aid to Request Access

Examples of Scalar Sites

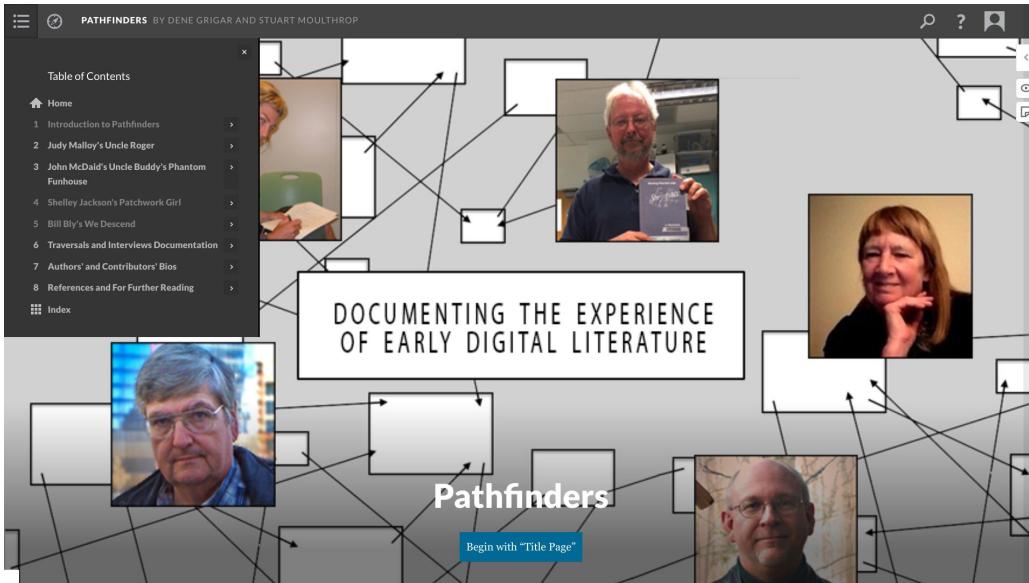


*Freedom's Ring: King's
“I Have a Dream” Speech,
Stanford University.*

A visualization of Martin Luther King Jr's 'I have a Dream' speech. The user can hear the speech while it can also see an animated transcription of it and multimedia.

Freedom's Ring: King's "I Have a Dream" Speech, Stanford University. <http://freedomsring.stanford.edu/?view=Speech>

Examples of Scalar Sites



Pathfinders: Documenting the experience of the Early Digital Literature

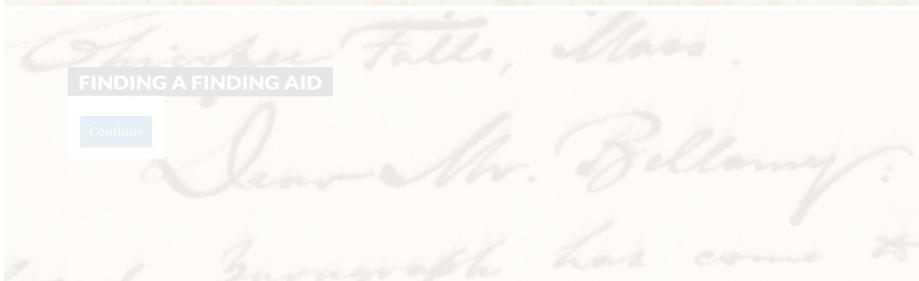
A book visualization that explains the development of digital literature from CD's to webpages.

Stuart Moulthrop & Dene Grigar. *Pathfinders: Documenting the Experience of Early Digital Literature*. Nouspace Publications.
<https://scalar.usc.edu/works/pathfinders/index>

Examples of Scalar Sites

FINDING AIDS: ARCHIVES 101 BY DOROTHY BERRY

The Hows and Whys of Finding Aids



Dorothy Berry, The Hows and Whys of Finding Aids. <https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/finding-your-way-through-finding-aids/index>

Dorothy Berry's The Hows and Whys of Finding Aids

A resource to educate users about the importance and structure of finding aids.

Site used to test the accessibility and usability of the Scalar platform.

Overall Scalar Audit Process



SiteImprove

Tool used to analyze **websites** according to the **WCAG standards**



Screen Reader Testing

Tools used to analyze **navigation** in websites using **tab ↲**.

By using tools like SiteImprove, NVDA, and ChromeVox, we were able to develop an informed analysis using the WCAG and Ally standards.

Also the Digital Strategies and Innovation (DSI) team is collaborating with the Harvard community to implement the Digital Accessibility Policy. With that the DSI team developed a checklist to conduct manual review of websites.

Both tools helped us prioritize issues and allowed us to create a enriched and detailed analysis of the website issues.

Identifying Accessibility Challenges: SiteImprove

How could accessibility improve?

- How does SiteImprove work?
 - WCAG guidelines and conformity levels
 - POUR - Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust
 - Level A, Level AA, and Level AAA
 - Review icons
 - Issue (exclamation mark), warning (triangle), and needs review (eye)
- How did we use SiteImprove for this project?



Testing

! "Aria-labelledby" has incorrect (ID) reference	2 occurrences
⚠ Redundant WAI-ARIA attribute	2 occurrences
👁 Do WAI-ARIA roles match the functionality of the element?	25 occurrences

Siteimprove

! Image with no alt attribute

A 1.1.1 Non-text Content

The image does not have an 'alt' attribute (alt="").

It's important all images have the attribute for alternative text regardless of whether an alternative text is added.

A screen reader knows how to handle both an empty alt attribute and one with a text. If there is no attribute some screen readers will compensate and read the path to the image instead, which will often give no value to the end user.

If you are using a CMS (Content Management System), the default setting should be that an empty alt attribute is added to all images.

Occurrences on this page	3
https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/applic...	
Image	
Image URL	
https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/applic...	
</> Open DevTools to view code snippet	
https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/ap...	
https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/applic...	

How do I meet this criteria?

Use one of the following techniques from [WCAG 2](#):

1. [F38](#) Failure of Success Criterion 1.1.1 due to omitting the alt-attribute for non-text content used for decorative purposes

H FINDING AIDS: ARCHIVES 101 BY DOROTHY BERRY

THE HOWS AND WHYS OF FINDING AIDS (5/6)

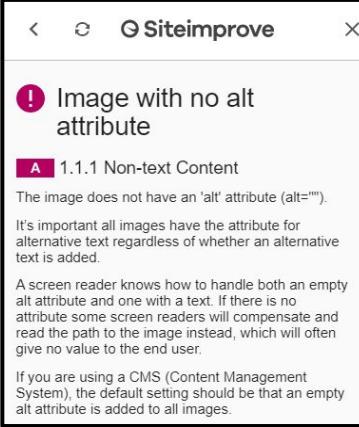
Beyond Paper in Finding Aids

Digitized and Born-Digital Materials in Finding Aids

Skip the Reading Room

Digitized Items Accessible through Finding Aids

Leigh Clouse, Irmarie Fraticelli-Rodríguez and Scott St. Louis

 A screenshot of the Siteimprove web accessibility tool. The main window shows a page titled "FINDING AIDS: ARCHIVES 101 BY DOROTHY BERRY". On the left, a sidebar lists errors: "Image with no alt attribute" under section "A 1.1.1 Non-text Content". The error message states: "The image does not have an 'alt' attribute (alt=''). It's important all images have the attribute for alternative text regardless of whether an alternative text is added. A screen reader knows how to handle both an empty alt attribute and one with a text. If there is no attribute some screen readers will compensate and read the path to the image instead, which will often give no value to the end user. If you are using a CMS (Content Management System), the default setting should be that an empty alt attribute is added to all images." Below this, a table titled "Occurrences on this page" shows three instances of the error across different URLs.

Occurrences on this page	3
https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/applic...	^
Image	
Image URL	
https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/applicatio...	
<> Open DevTools to view code snippet	
https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/ap...	🔗 ↴ ↵
https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/applic...	▼

How do I meet this criteria?
Use one of the following techniques from WCAG
[2](#)

1. F38 Failure of Success Criterion 1.1.1 due to omitting the alt-attribute for non-text content used for decorative purposes

 A screenshot of a website titled "THE HOWS AND WHYS OF FINDING AIDS (5/6)" and "Beyond Paper in Finding Aids". The page features a large image of a laptop keyboard labeled "MacBook Air". The text on the page reads: "Digitized and Born-Digital Materials in Finding Aids". An orange arrow points from the Siteimprove error message to this specific part of the website.

Skip the Reading Room

Digitized Items Accessible through Finding Aids

! Image with no alt attribute

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Occurrences on this page 3

<https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/applic...> ^

Image

Image URL
<https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/applicatio...>

</> Open DevTools to view code snippet

<https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/ap...> ↗ ✓

<https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/system/applic...> ↗ ✓

How do I meet this criteria?

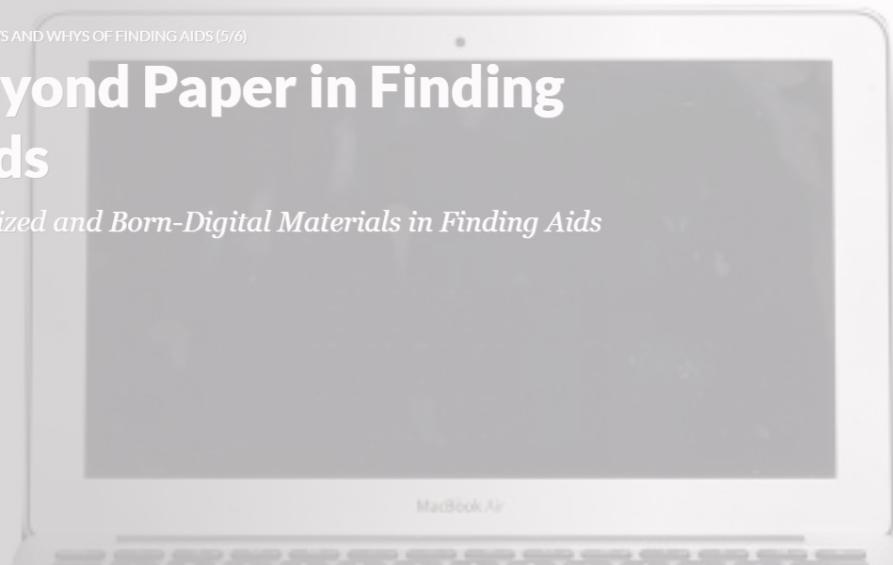
Use one of the following techniques from [WCAG 2](#)

1. [F38](#) Failure of Success Criterion 1.1.1 due to omitting the alt-attribute for non-text content used for decorative purposes

THE HOWS AND WHYS OF FINDING AIDS (5/6)

Beyond Paper in Finding Aids

Digitized and Born-Digital Materials in Finding Aids



Skip the Reading Room

Digitized Items Accessible through Finding Aids

Identifying Accessibility Challenges: Manual Review

How could accessibility improve?

- How is the Digital Ally Team manual review structured?
 - Keyboard access
 - Text enlargement
 - Page titles
 - Media content



Navigating

Source: [Tips for Manual Review](#)

- How did we use it for this project?
- Use of NVDA and ChromeVox Classic Extension screen readers

Audit Process

- Differences in review methods
- Interpreting the issues
- Organizing the audit

The screenshot shows a Google Sheets document with the following details:

- Title:** Scalar Accessibility Review Central Spreadsheet
- Header:** File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Data, Tools, Add-ons, Help, Last edit was on August 3.
- Content:**
 - Section 1:** SCALAR FINDING AIDS WEBSITE (HARVARD) - Link to Scalar Page Audited
 - Section 2:** WORKBOOK INSTRUCTIONS
 - Add page type in *italics* above. Hyperlink to the page itself.
 - Each new tab needs a number and dash before the page type. Each new tab should be a 'page type' like homepage, staff listing page, staff...
 - Table:** ISSUE #, PAGE AREA, ISSUE DESCRIPTION, WCAG CRITERIA, ACTION
 - Section 3:** PAGE INSTRUCTIONS
 - Start with 1 on each sheet and count up
 - Describe the area of the page consistently throughout all of the pages.
 - 1) Bold the way you encountered the issue SiteImprove, Keyboard Navigation, Zoom (200%), or Manual Review
 - 2) Provide a concise description of the issue so that the person fixing the problem can understand it.
 - Cite the WCAG criteria (single or multiple) that this is in violation of. It might be easier to add these later on after documenting the problems in the system.
 - Issues:**
 - Issue 1: Photo backdrops to page selections - SiteImprove: Alt text tags are missing for the photos that appear on the homepage - 1.1.1 Non-text Content
 - Issue 2: Underlying HTML - SiteImprove: "Aria-labelledby" has incorrect (ID) reference...ARIA labels used incorrectly - 1.1.1 Non-text Content, 3.3.2 Labels and Instructions
 - Issue 3: Help button and user menu - SiteImprove: The help button and user menu are missing HTML labels and are seen as one unit v. two separate units - 1.3.1 Info and Relationships, 3.3.2 Labels and Instructions, 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value
 - Issue 4: Underlying HTML - SiteImprove: Form possibly removed from user view but kept in code - 1.3.1 Info and Relationships, 3.3.2 Labels and Instructions, 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value
 - Issue 5: Underlying HTML - SiteImprove: Need to connect group elements that are logically connected to each other...ARIA labels used incorrectly - 1.3.1 Info and Relationships, 3.3.2 Labels and Instructions



Analyzing

Organizing to Improve Understanding

Prioritization is critical for providing a clear path to improvement, step-by-step.
Iteration counts! Making some improvements is better than making none at all.

- **High Impact:** Users will be unable to perform important system tasks or unable to understand important content if this item is not repaired.
- **Medium Impact:** Users will be able to perform important system task with some difficulty or will be able to understand important content with difficulty if this item is not repaired
- **Low Impact:** Users will be inconvenienced by leaving this item not repaired, but will be able to accomplish all tasks.

Source: Digital Ally Team, Harvard Library, “How to Prioritize Accessibility Issues,” <https://bit.ly/30DqFZX>

Finding Aids Scalar Book

Accessibility user story

As a low-vision researcher who uses a screen reader, I use the tab key to navigate web pages in my browser. I want to be able to discern links from non-linked text quickly, and I benefit from correctly applied alt-text descriptions for multimedia content.

Frequently occurring issues

- Color contrast of text and focus indicator color is insufficient (1.4 Distinguishable)
- HTML is not compliant with standards, esp. use of ARIA and "a" tags (1.3.1 Info & Relationships)
- Empty header tags and improper nesting of headers (2.4.10 Section Headings)
- Some links identified only by color (1.4.1. Use of Color)

"The accessibility issues we encountered appear split between content-specific issues and broader coding challenges for the Scalar development community." - Irma, Leigh, and Scott



Source: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Lunjw0uGGYq64JbmEDB1K5j5B0PGrl9dMWSYESOiuL/edit?usp=sharing

Scalar Accessibility Assessment Findings

Local control is limited. Accessibility issues split between some tasks that DSI can tackle and broader design challenges for the Scalar development community.

Scalar Accessibility Assessment,
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Lunjw0uGGYq64JbmEDB1K5j5B0PGrl9dMWSYESOiuL/edit?usp=sharing>

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Accessibility Assessment

Finding Aids Scalar Book

Finding: Empty Header Tags (Low)



Apps



! Heading is missing text

A 1.3.1 Info and Relationships

An empty heading occurs.

The tag for the heading is present, but there is no text in the tag.

Occurrences on this page	1
<h2> Empty	

[View code snippet in DevTools](#)

How do I meet this criteria?

Use one of the following techniques from [WCAG 2](#):

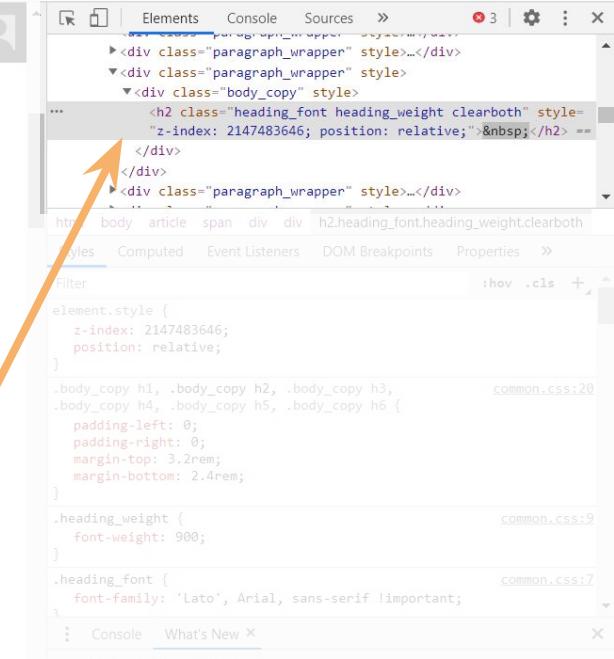
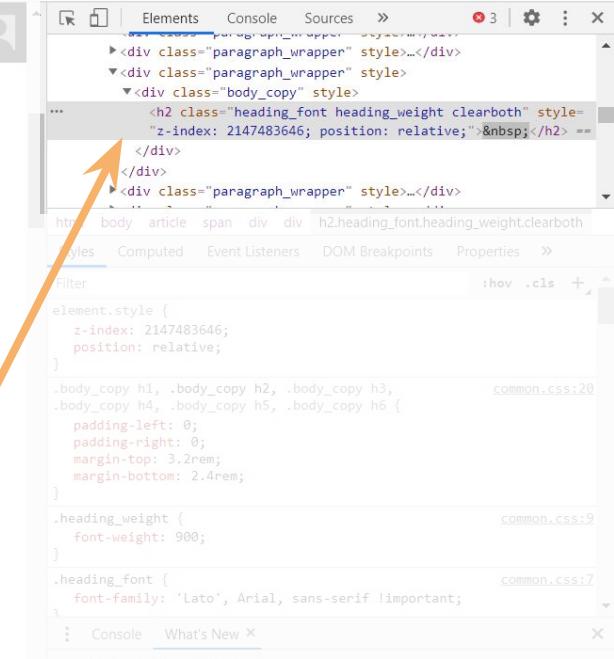
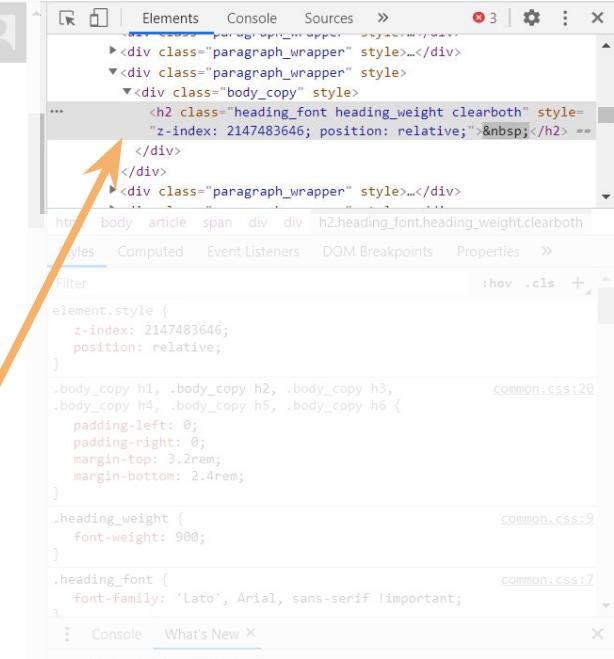
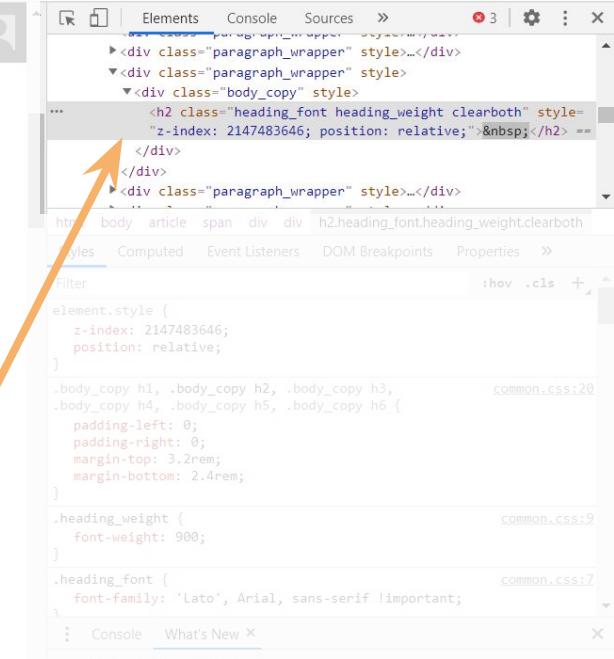
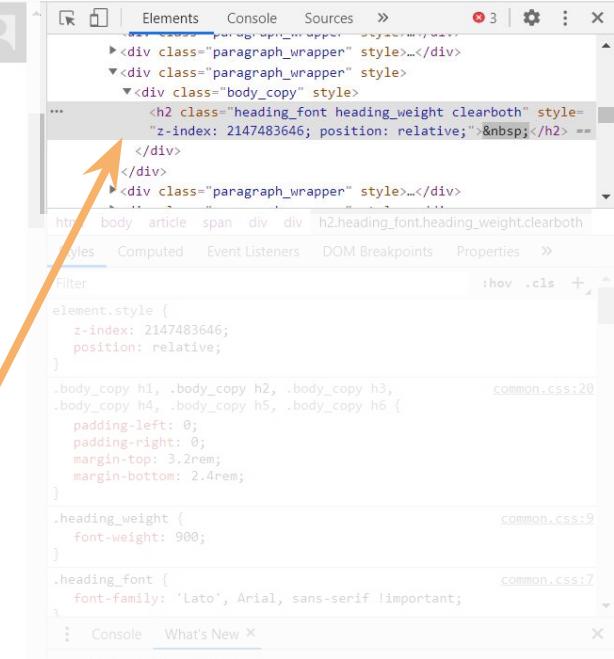
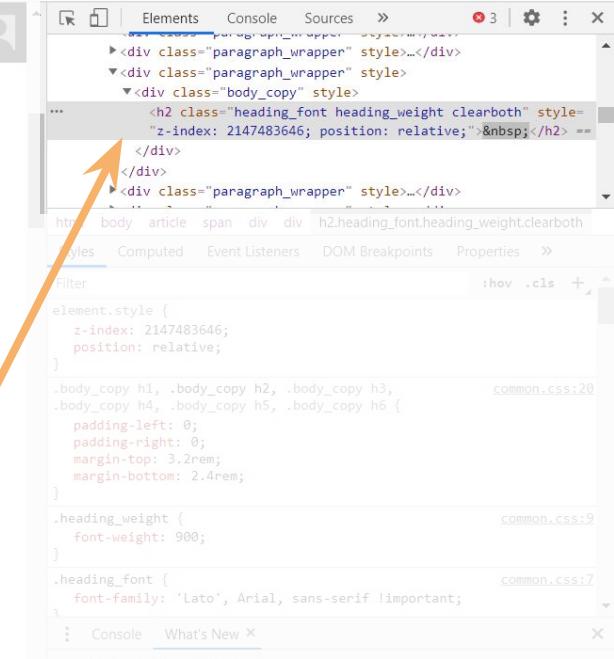
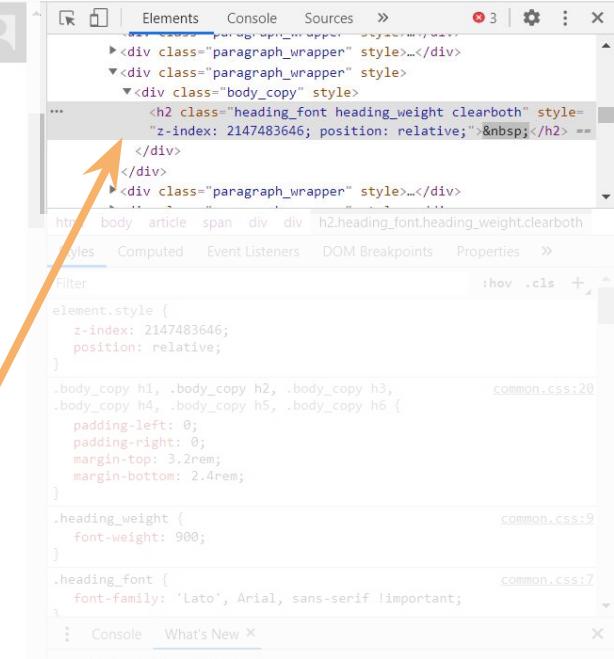
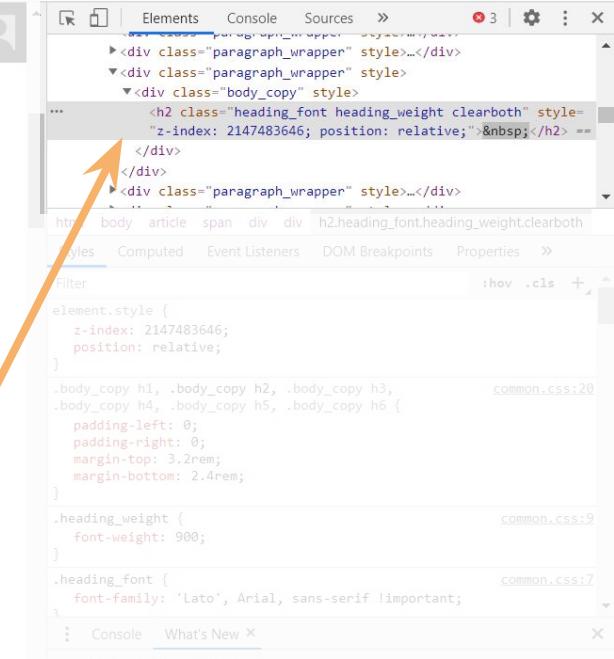
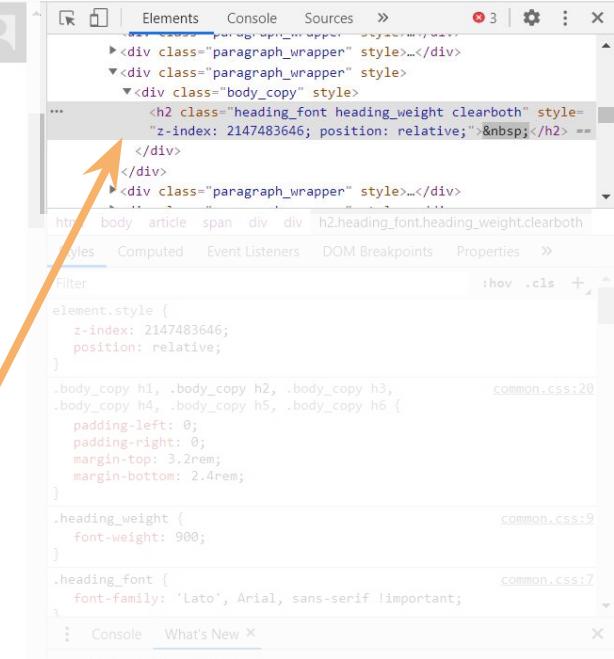
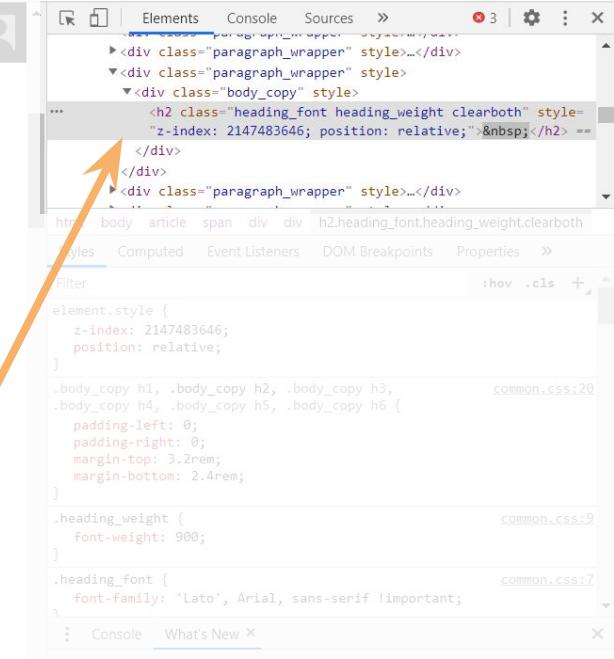
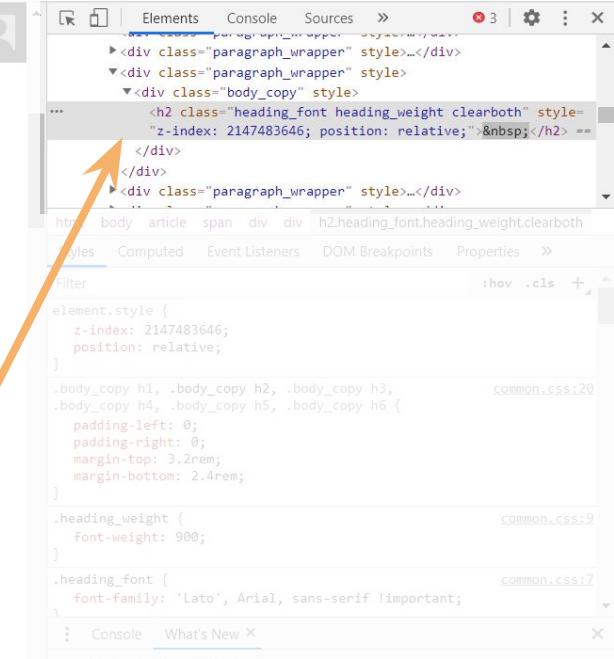
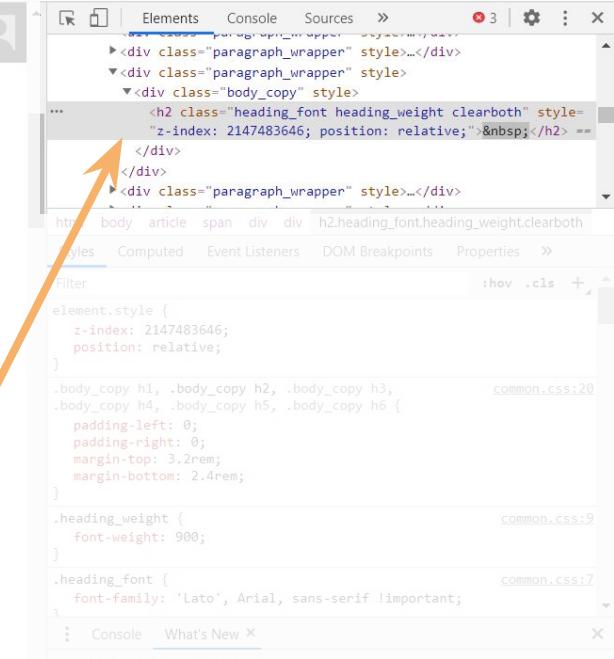
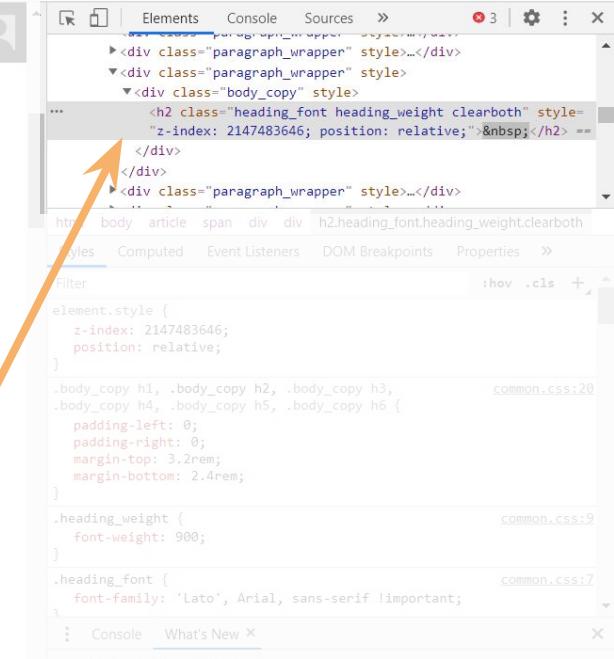
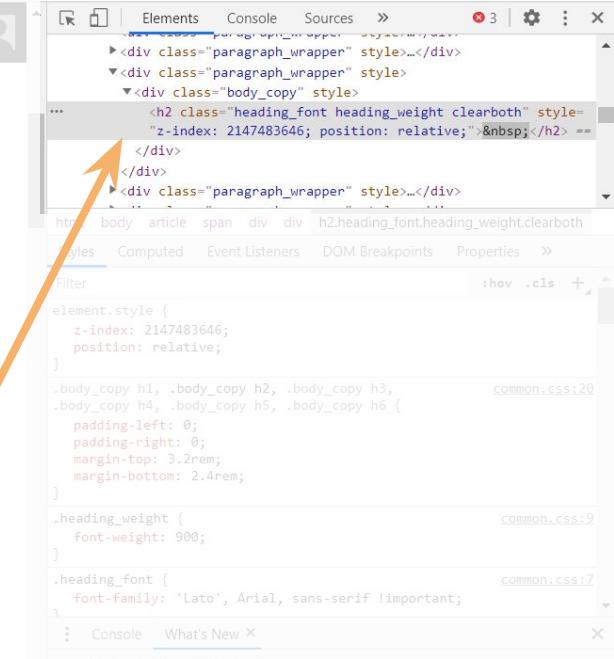
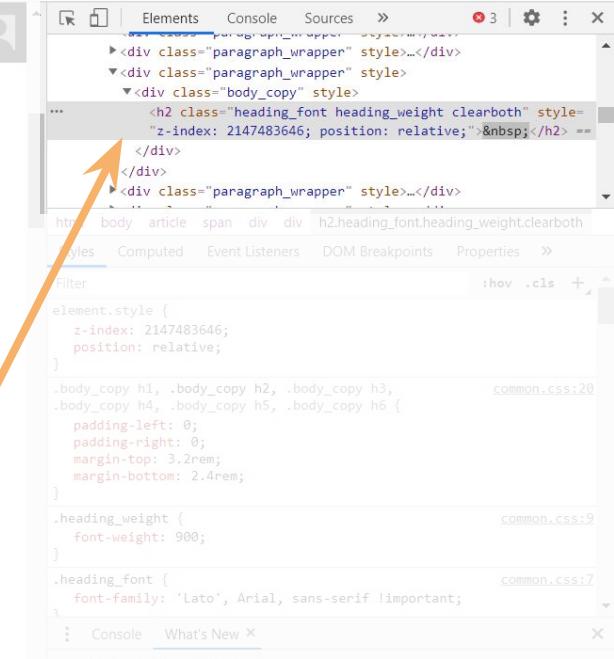
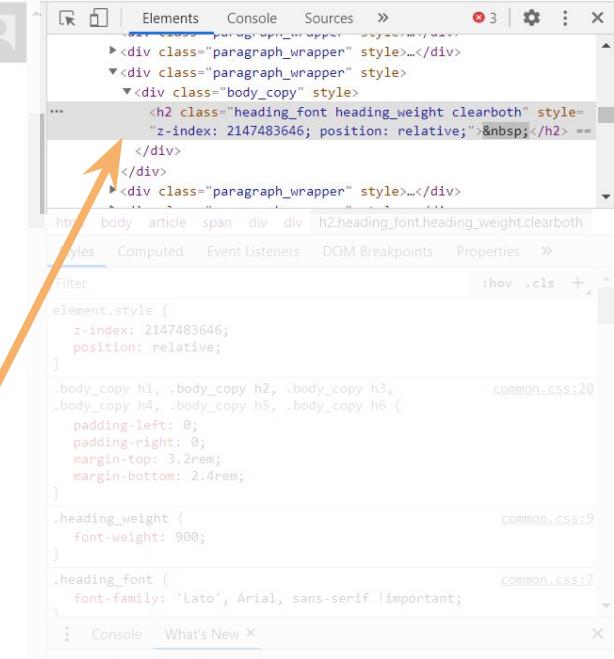
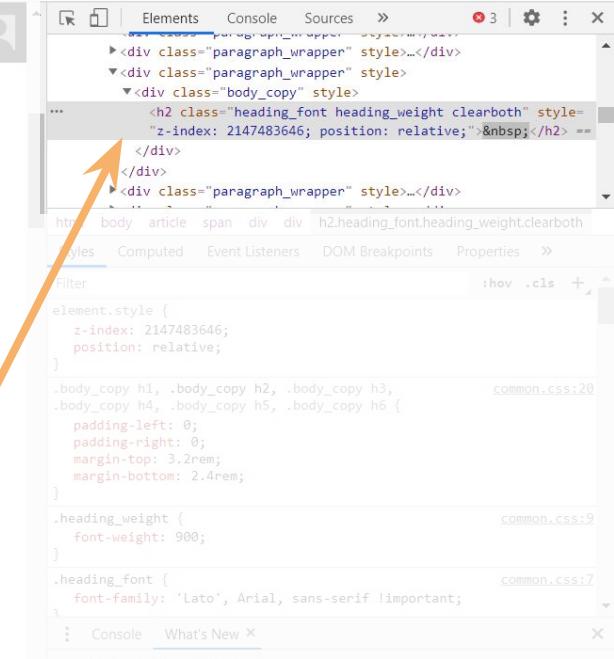
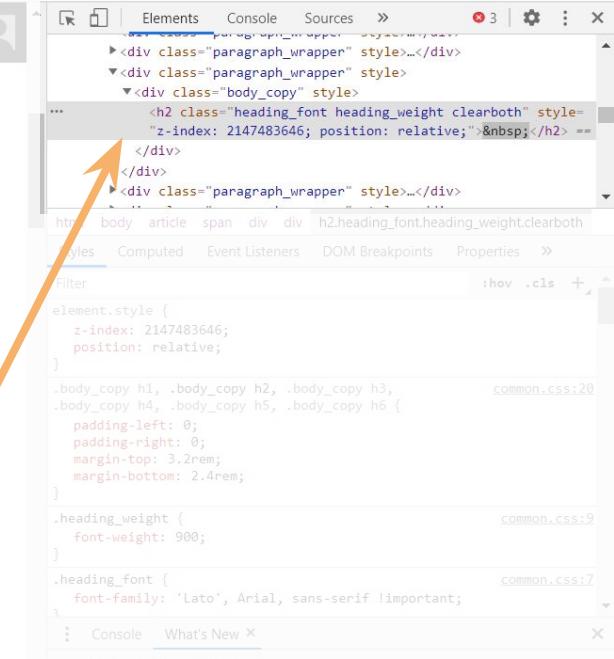
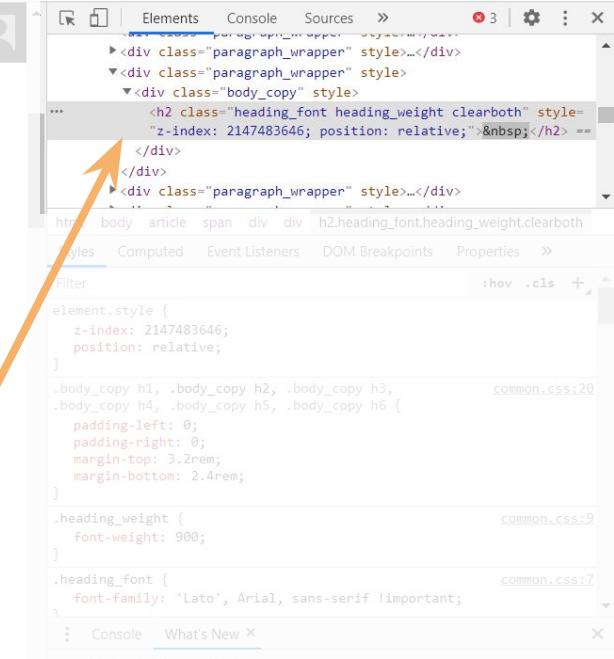
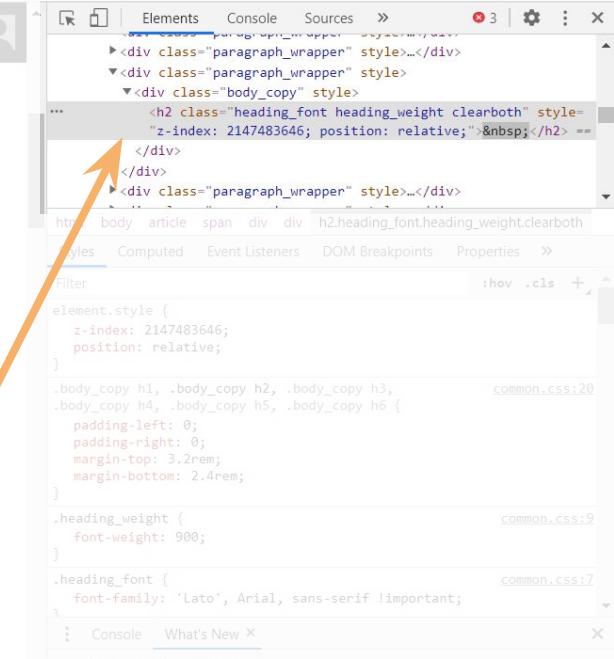
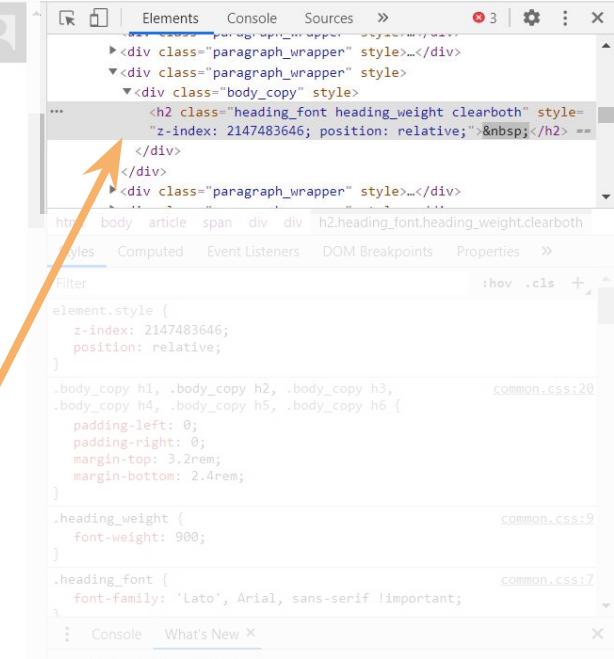
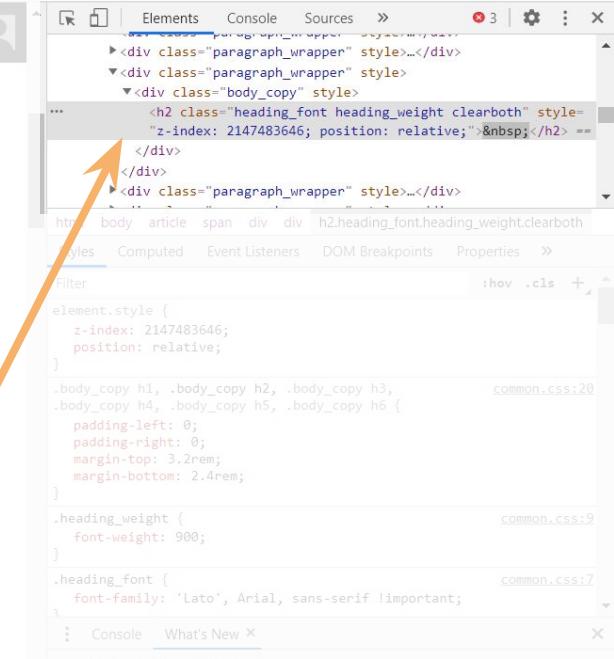
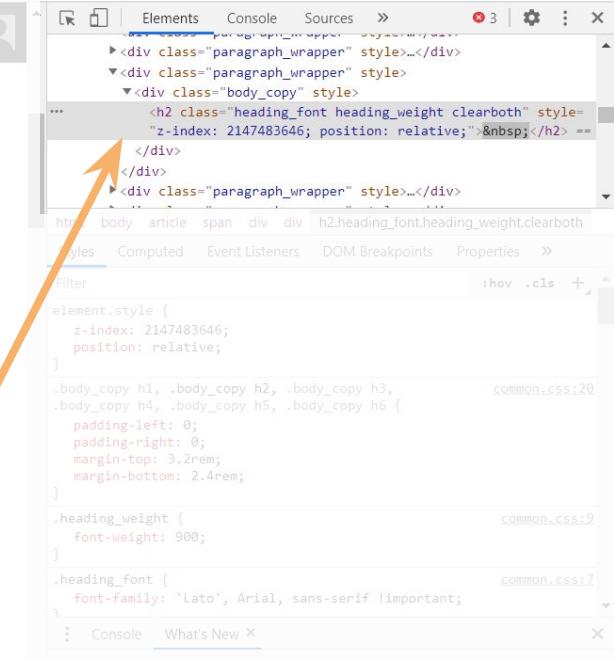
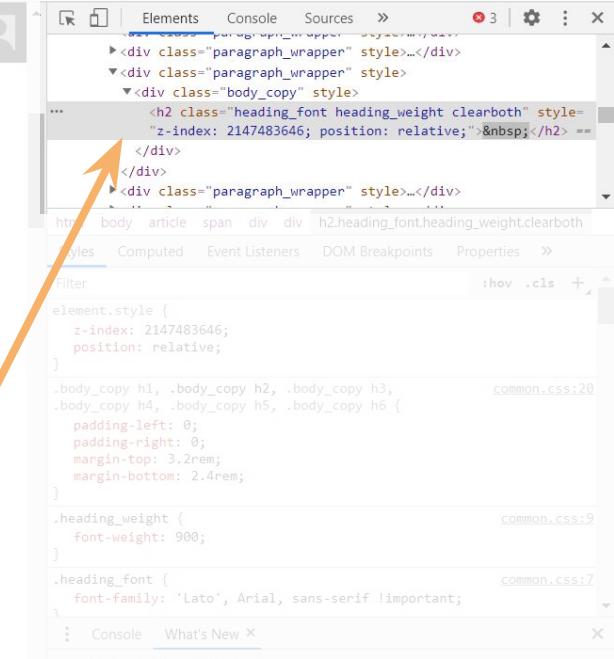
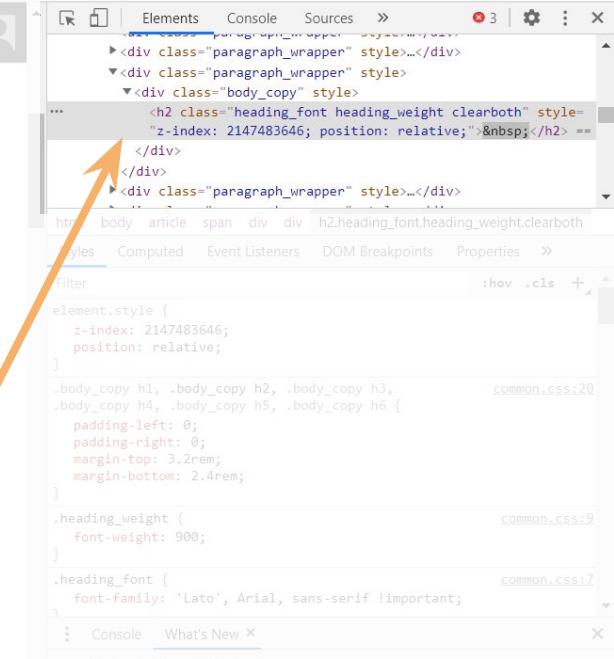
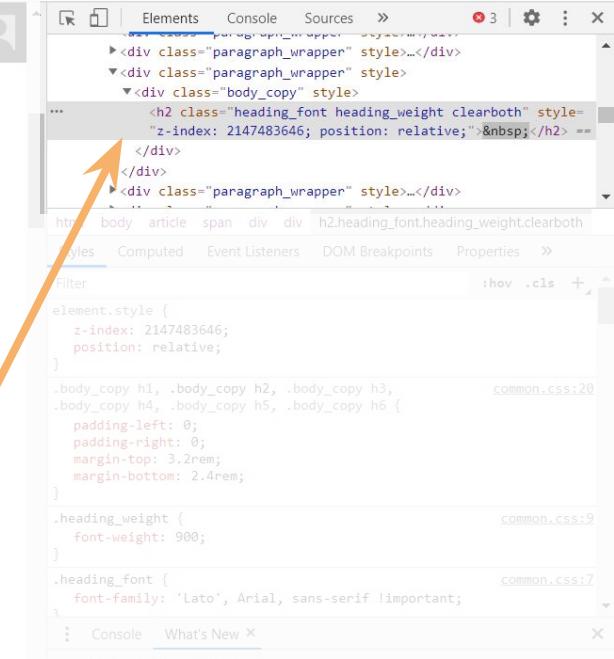
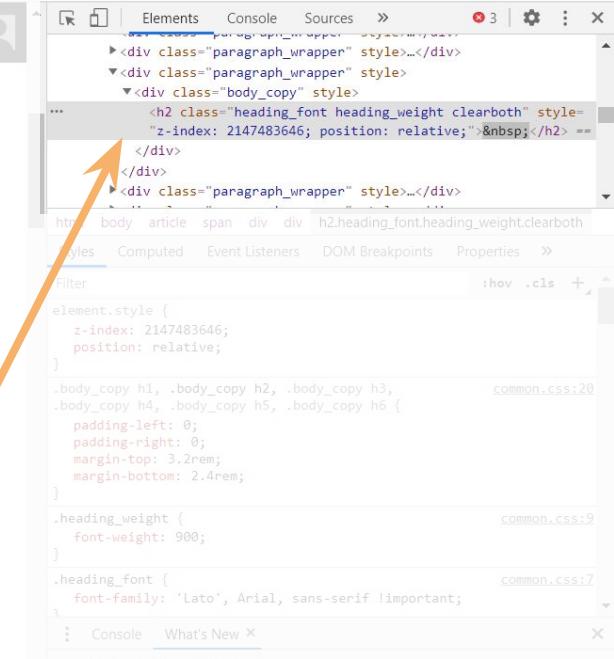
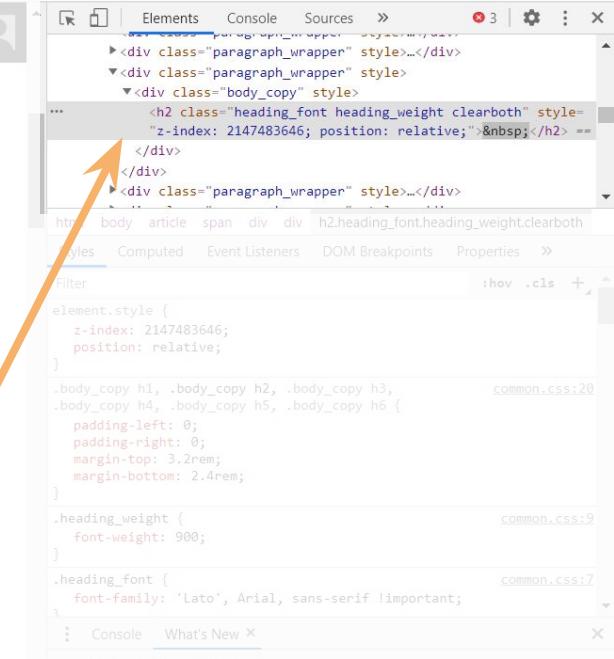
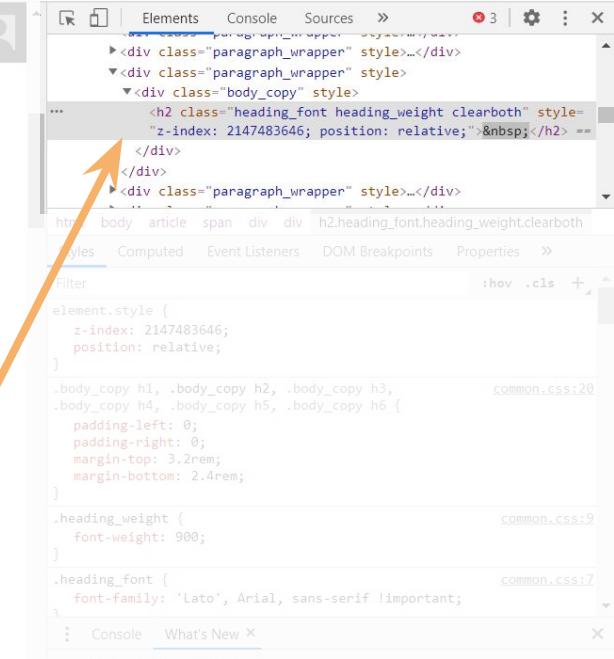
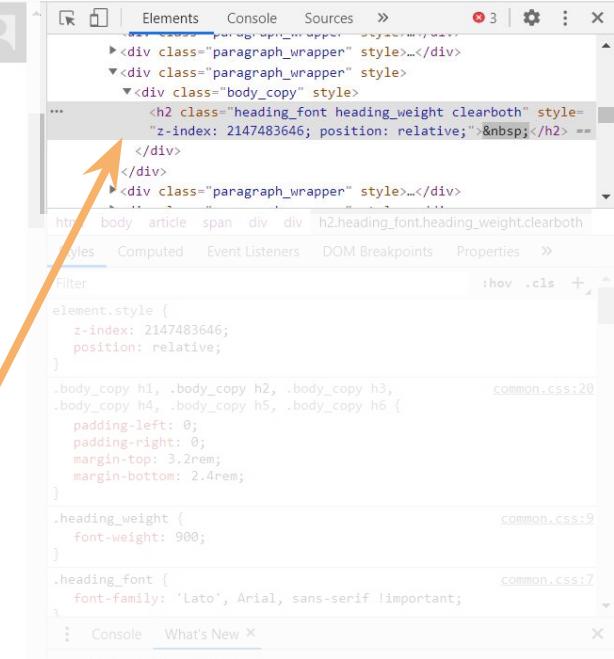
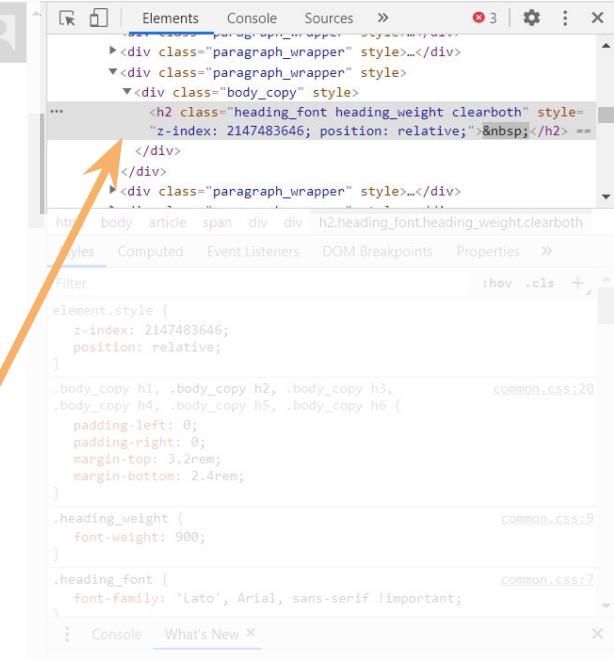
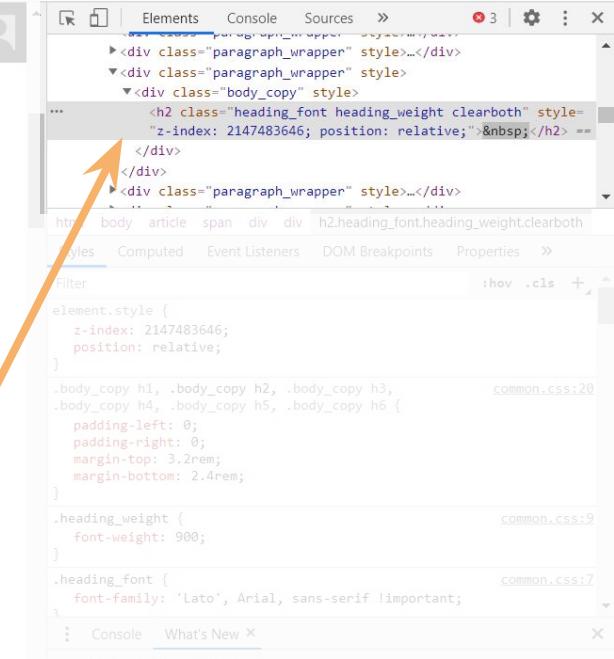
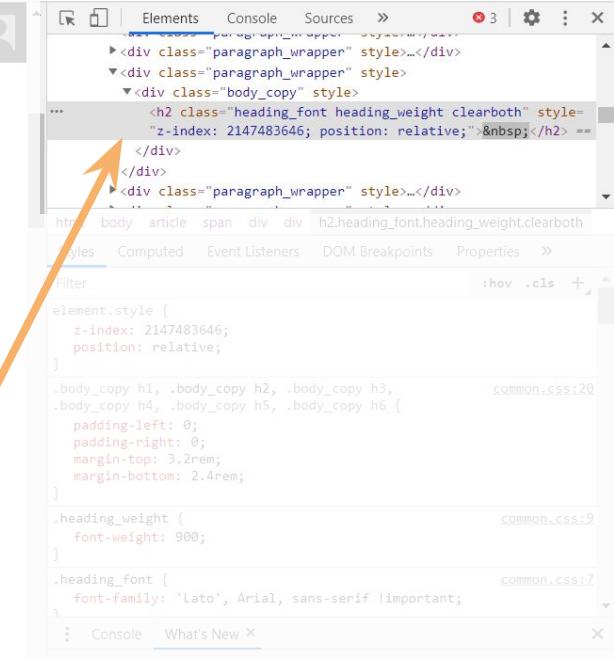
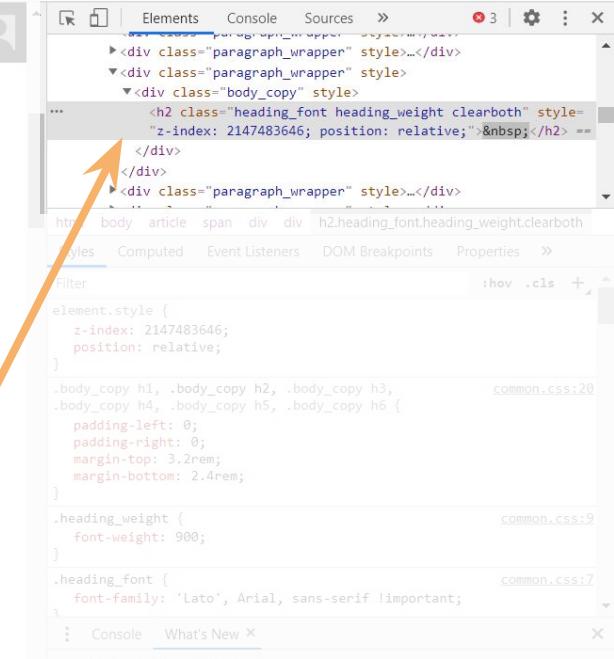
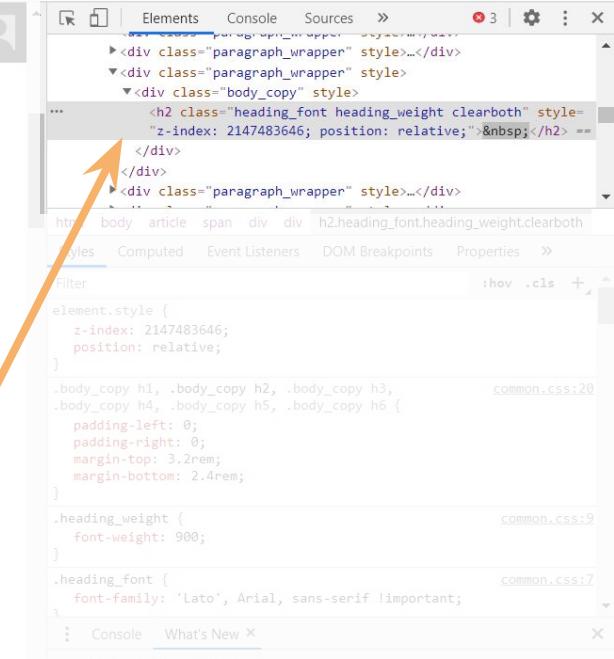
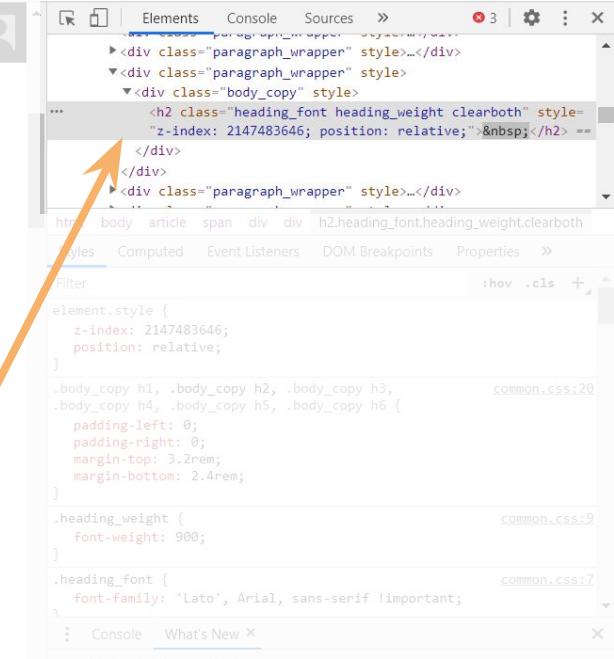
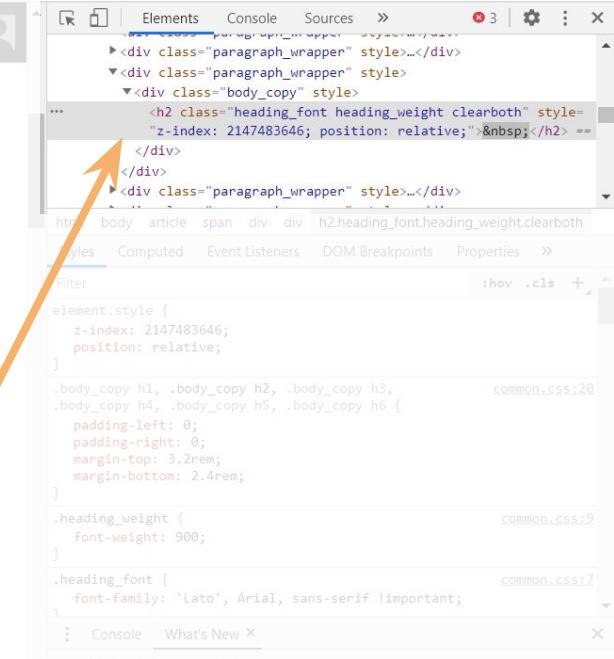
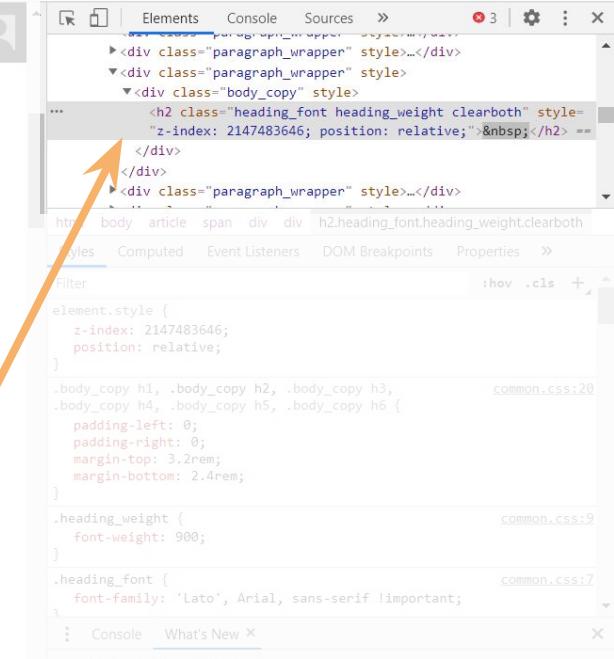
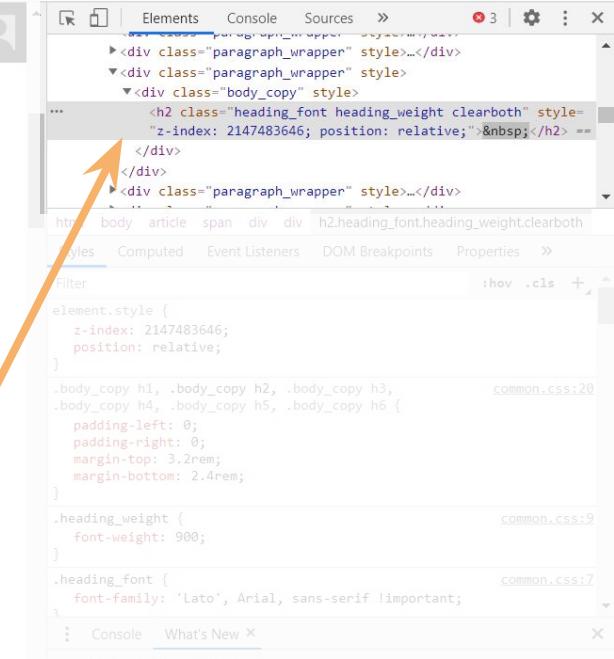
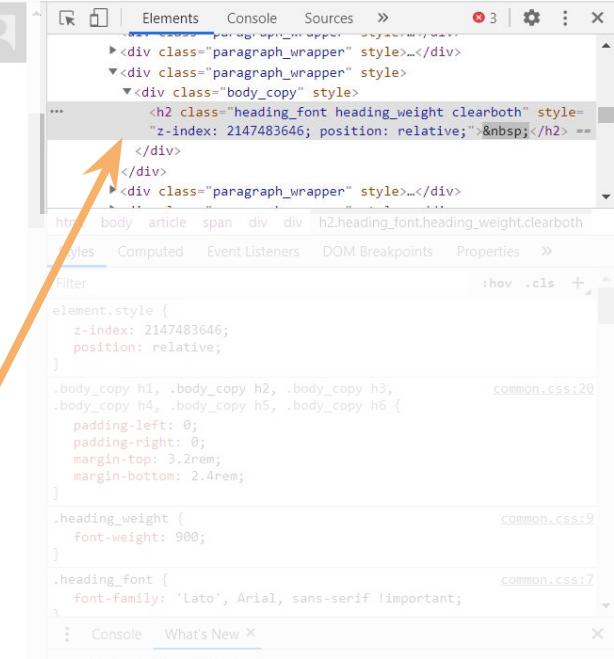
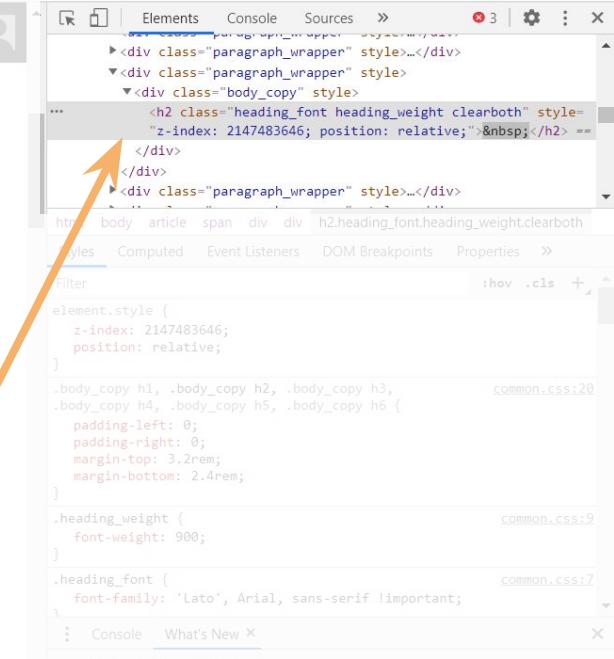
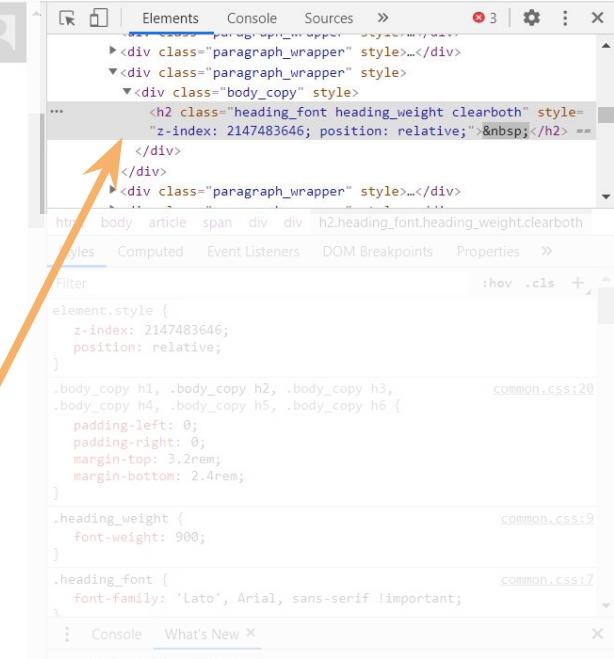
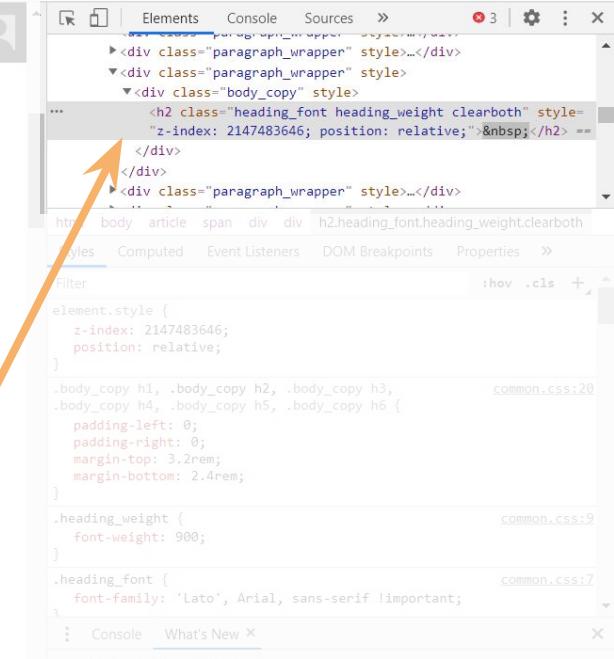
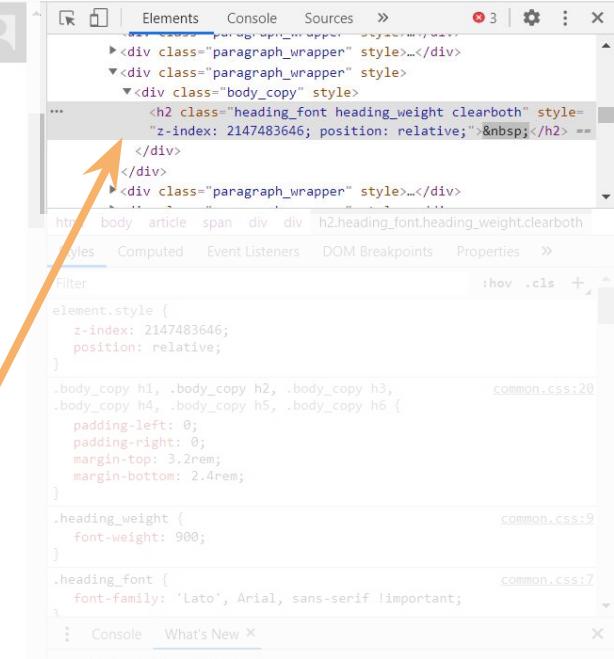
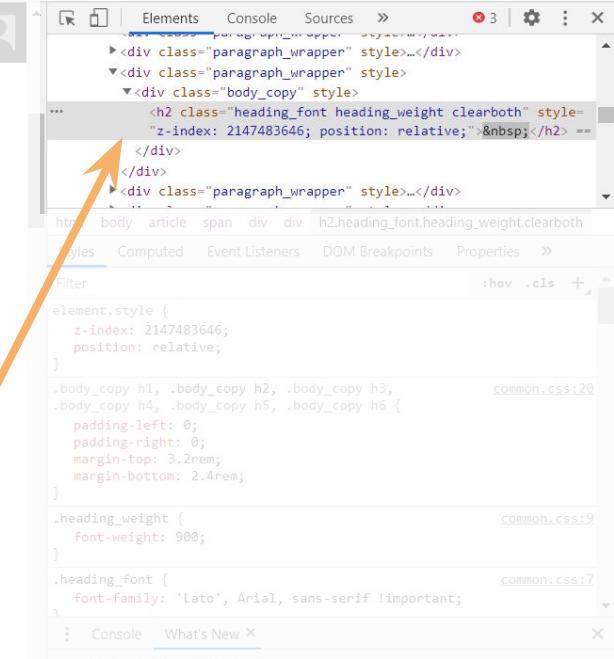
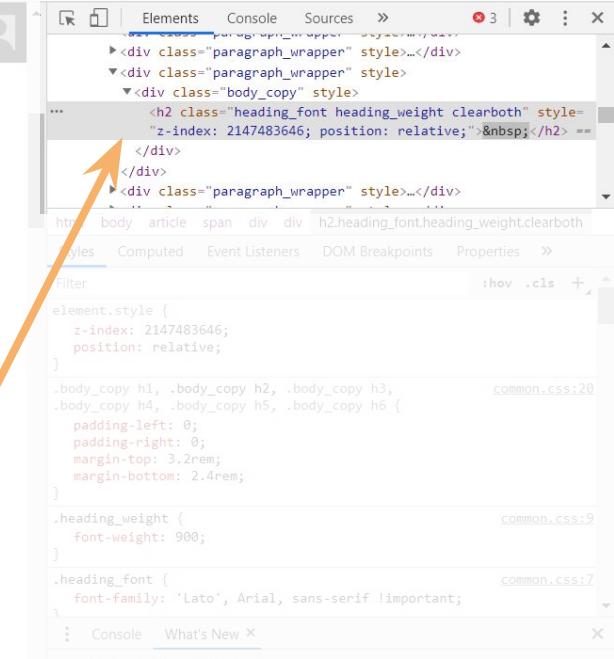
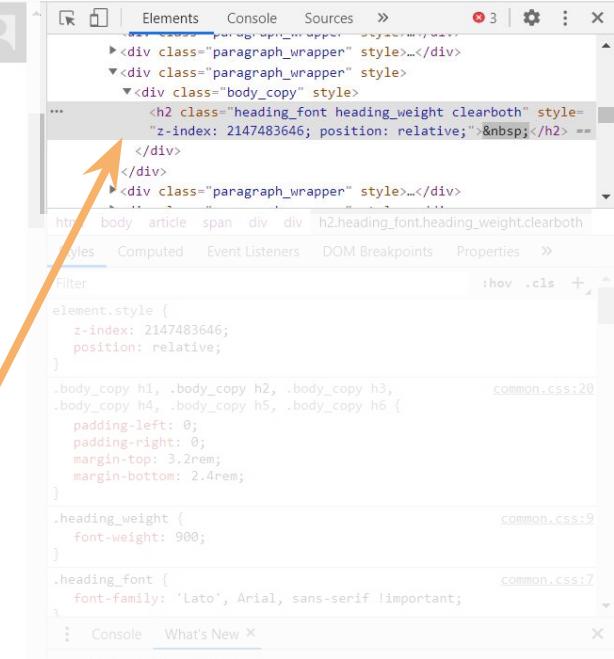
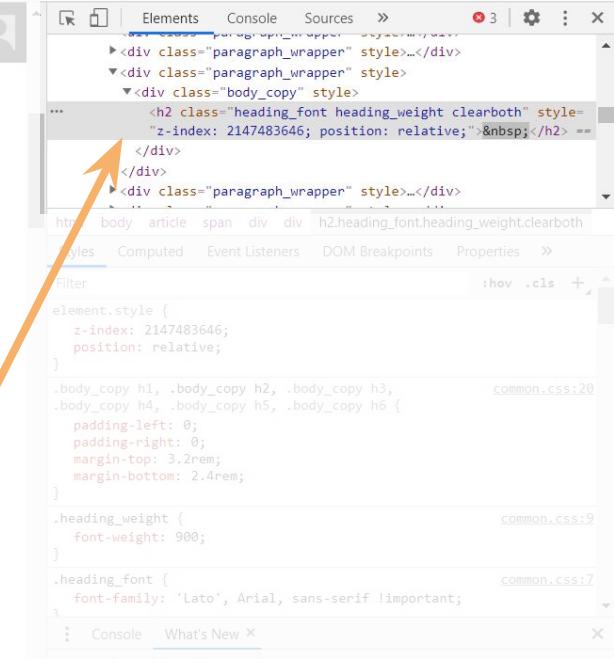
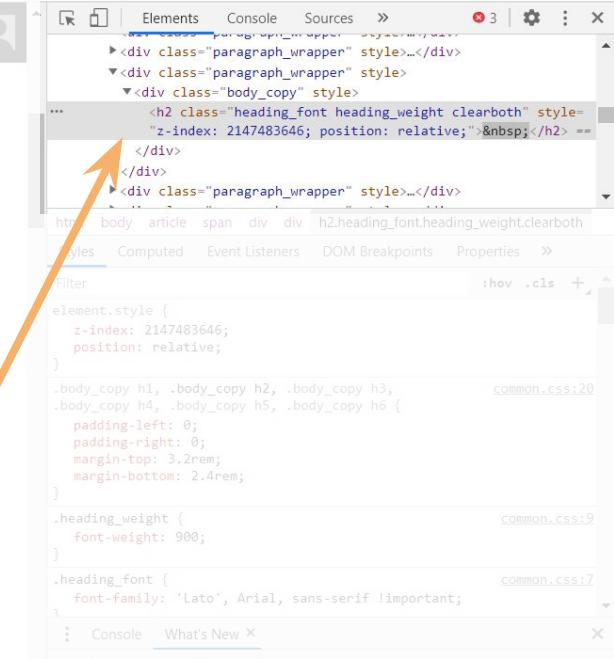
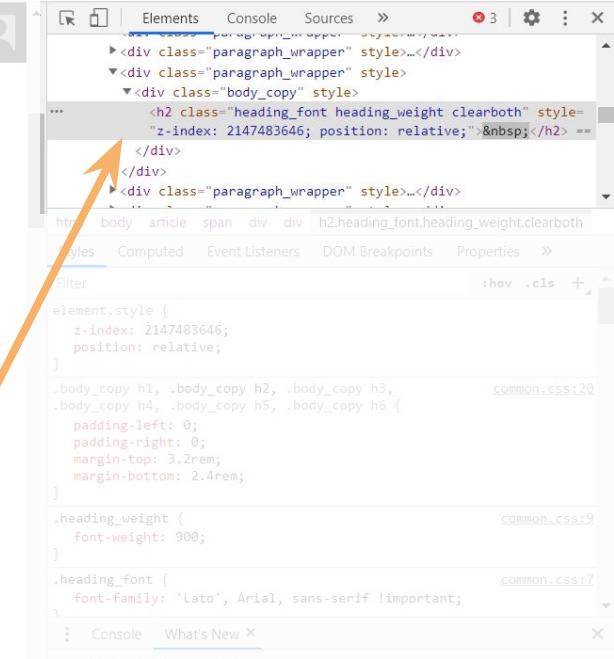
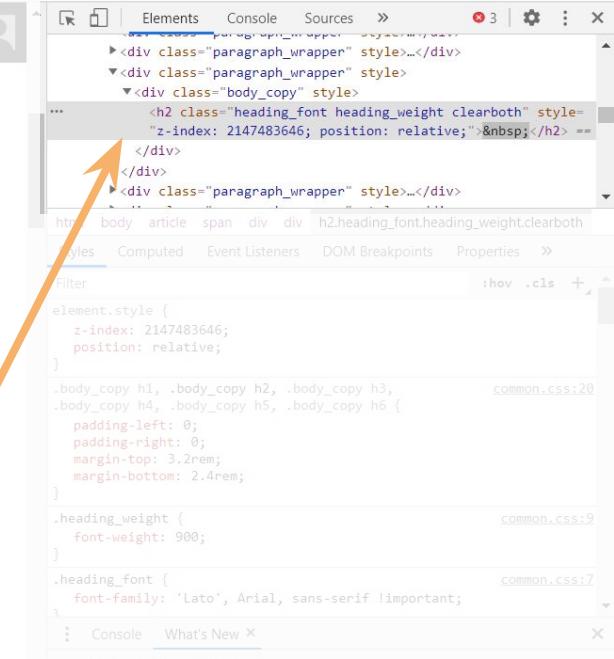
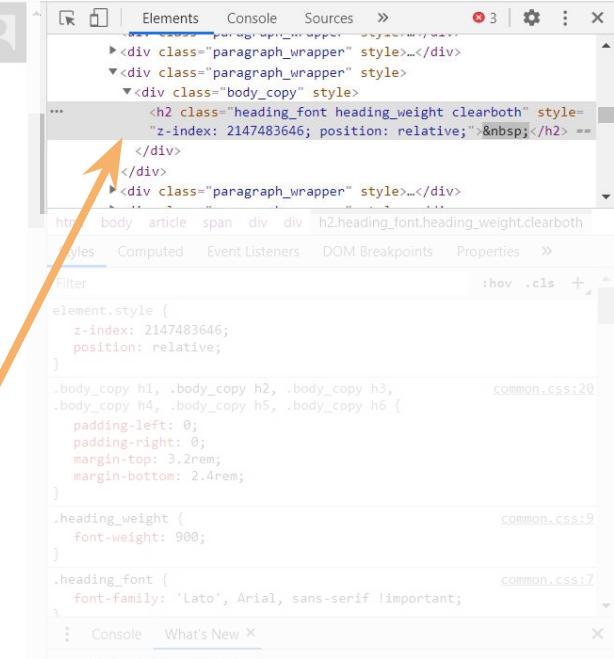
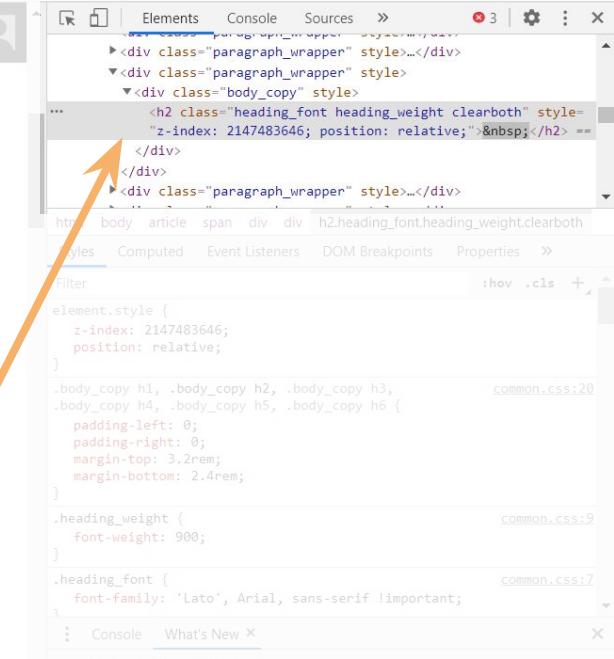
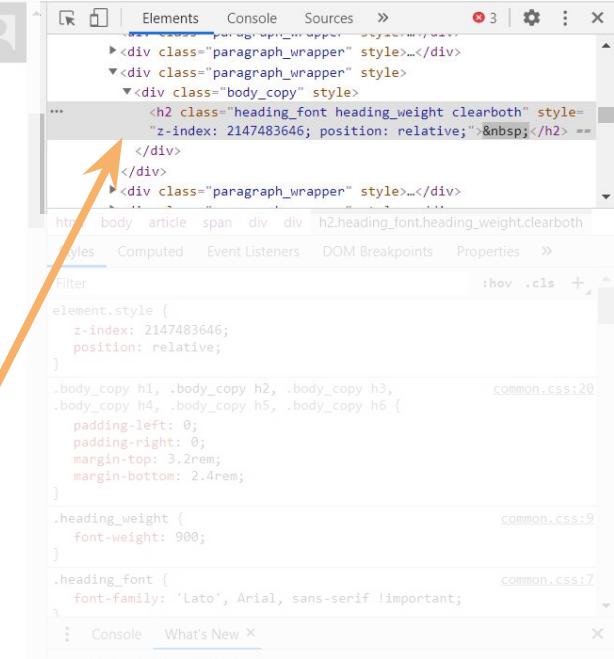
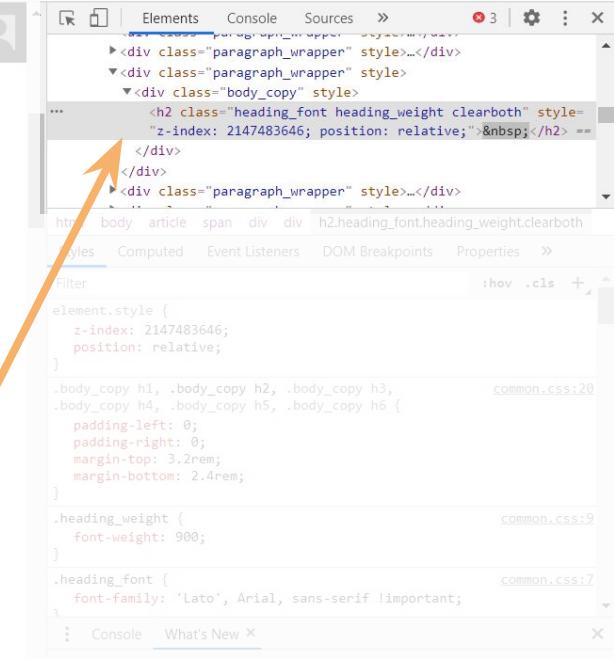
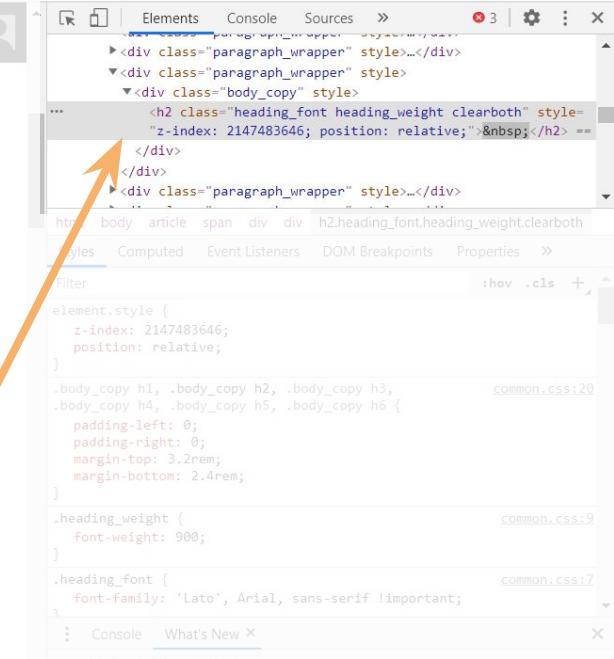
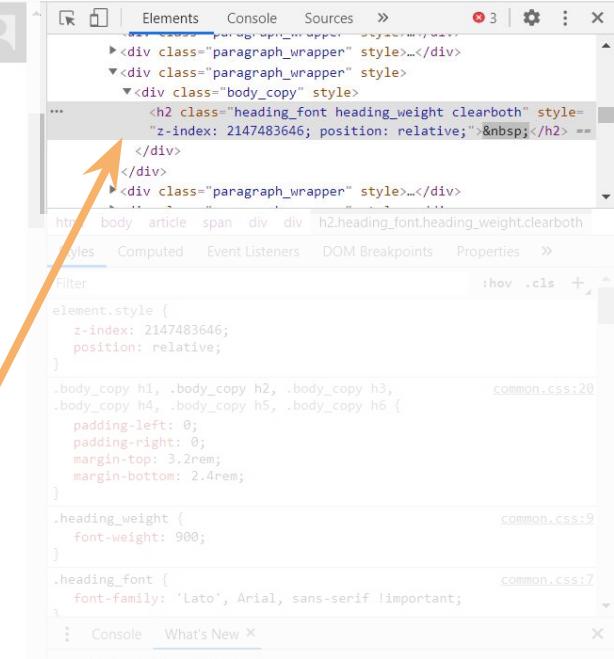
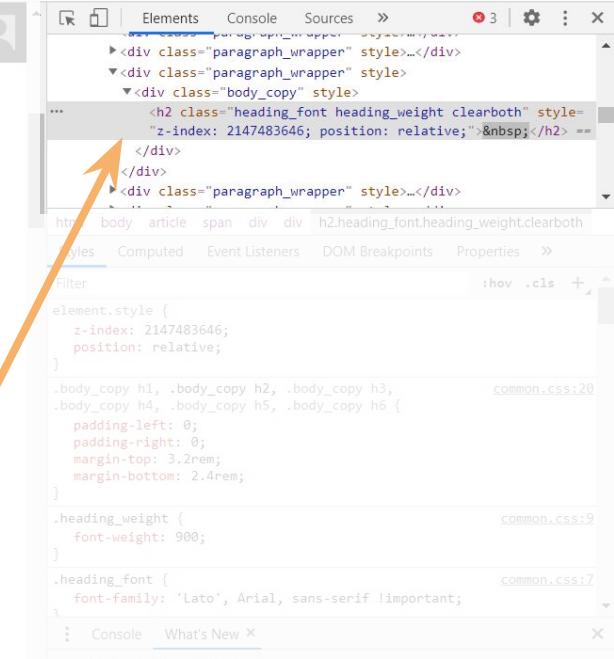
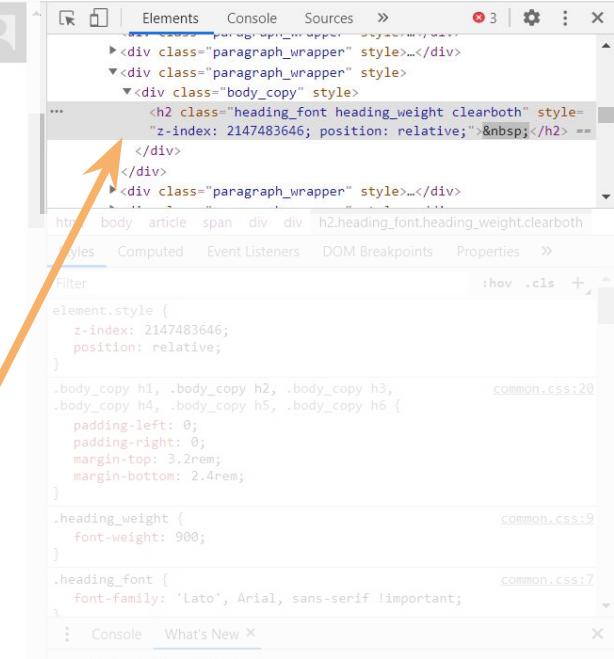
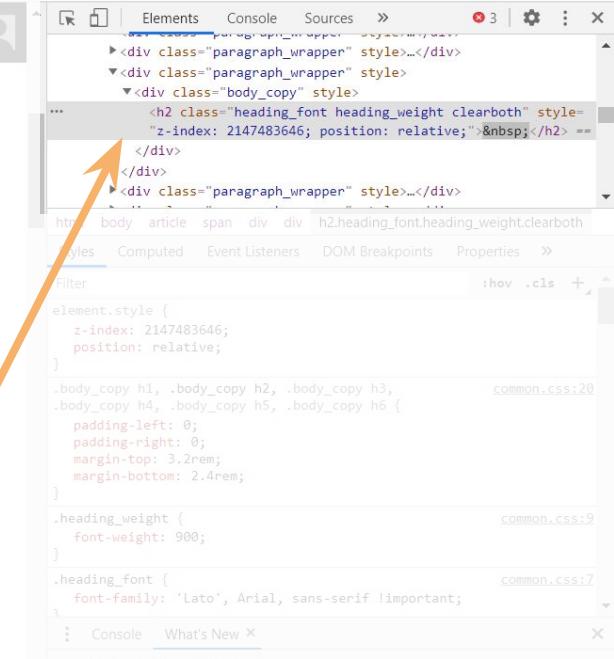
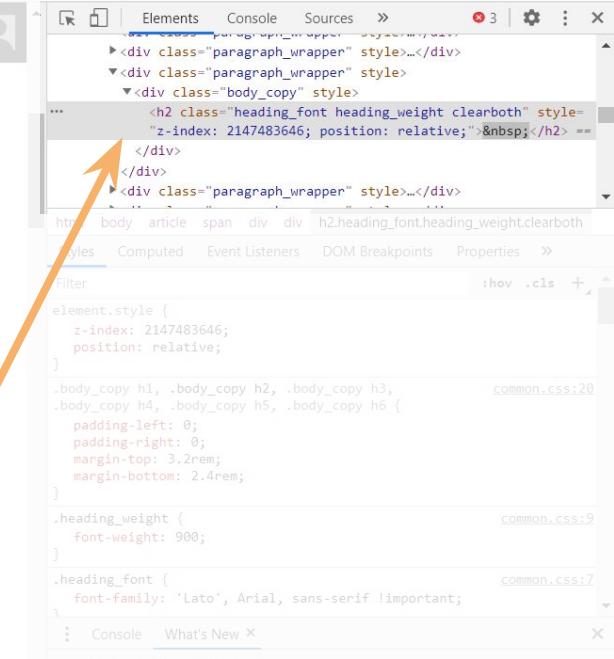
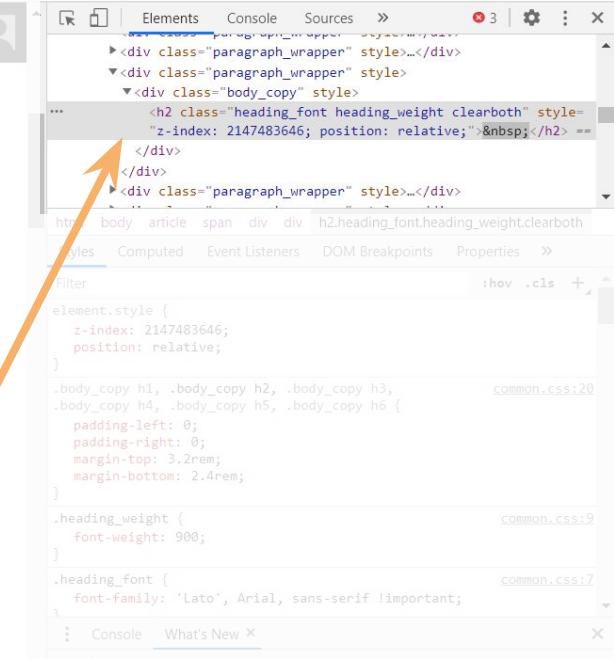
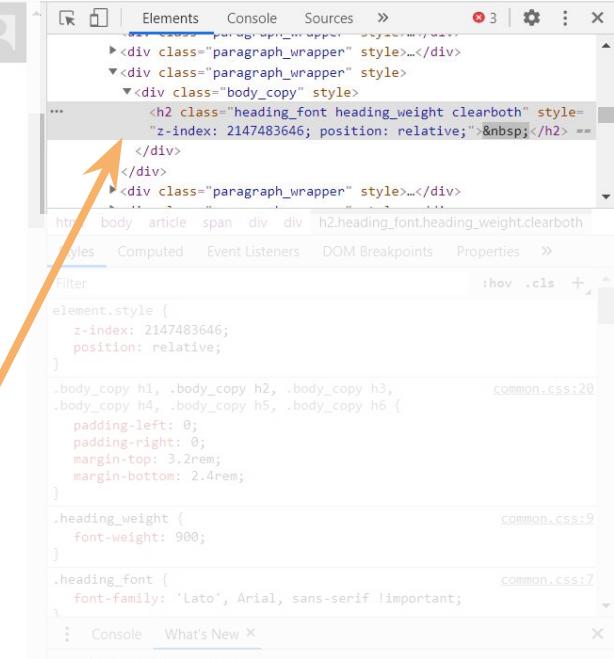
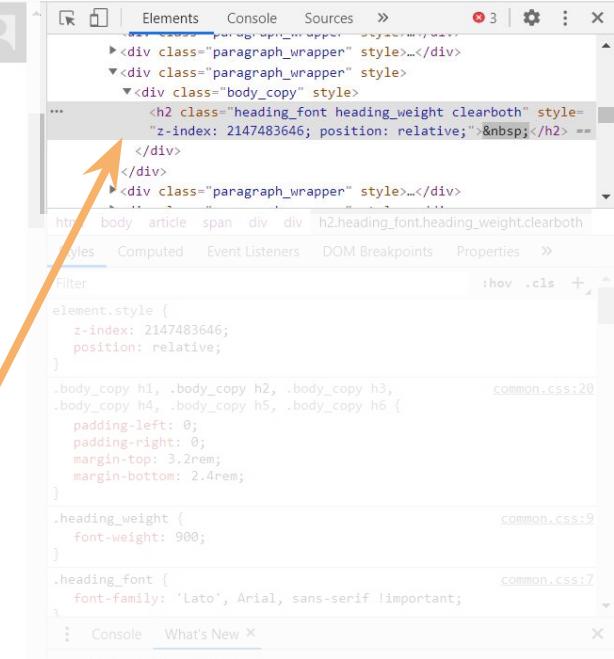
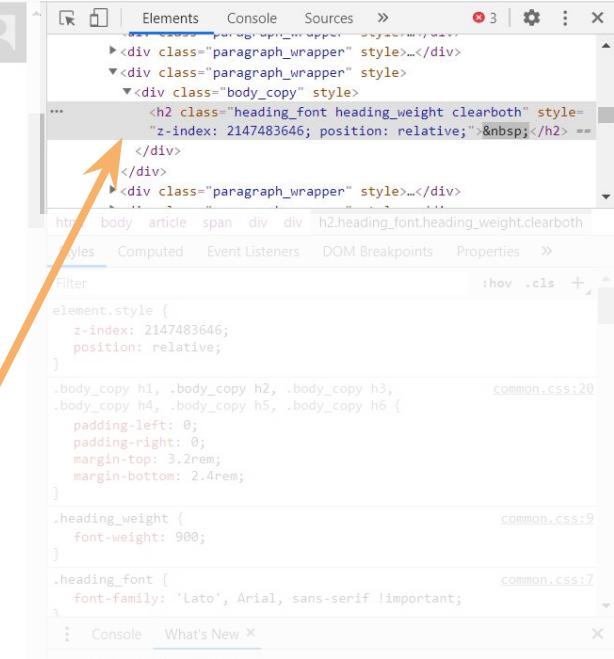
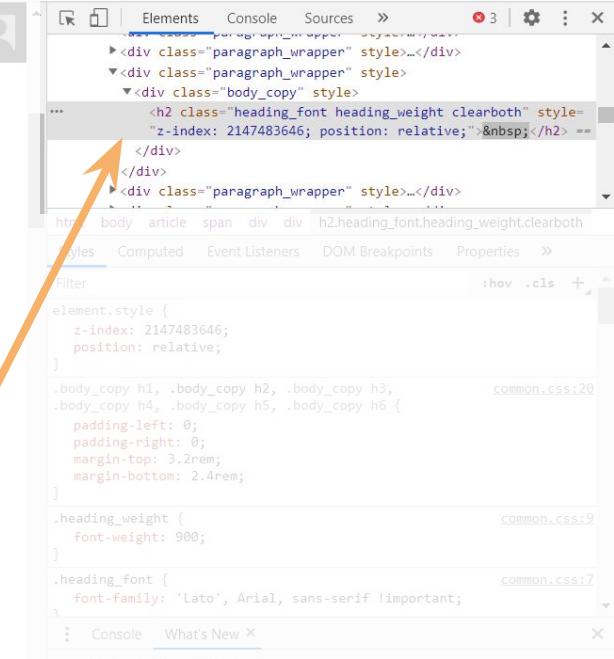
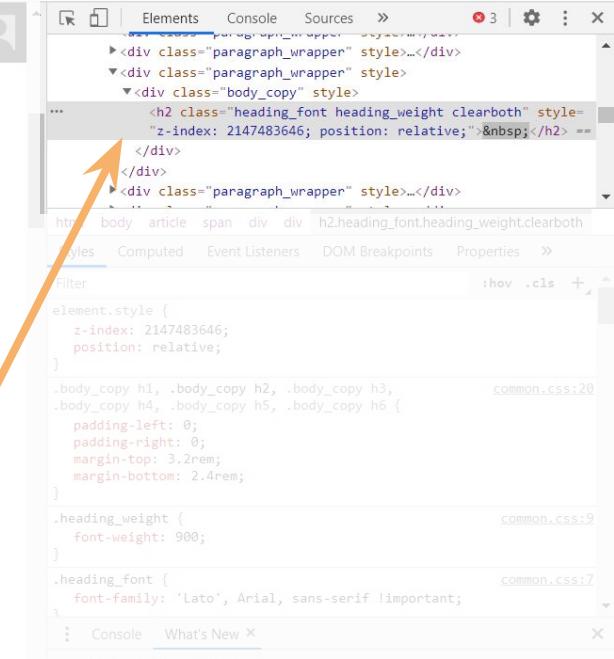
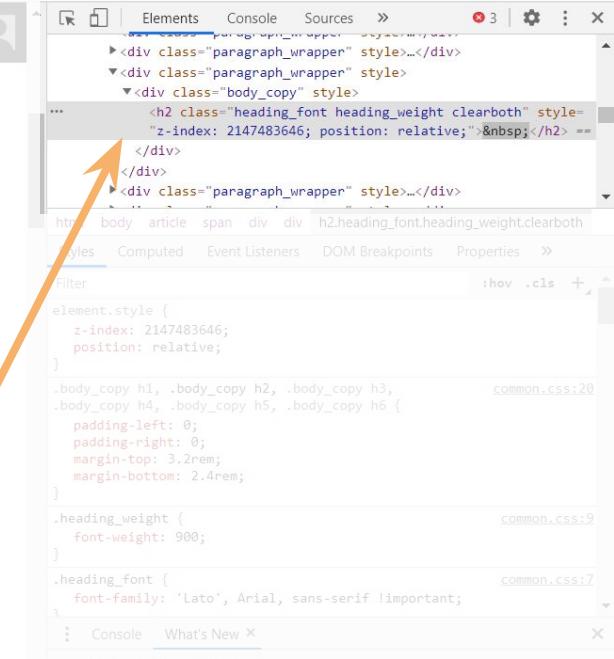
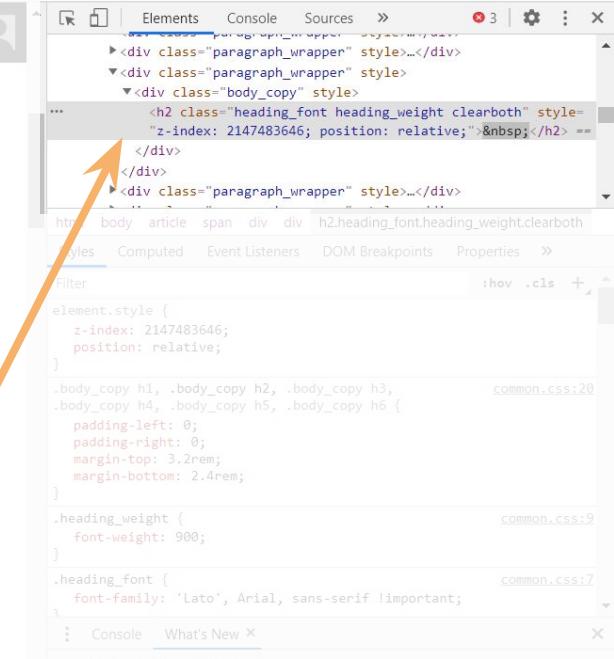
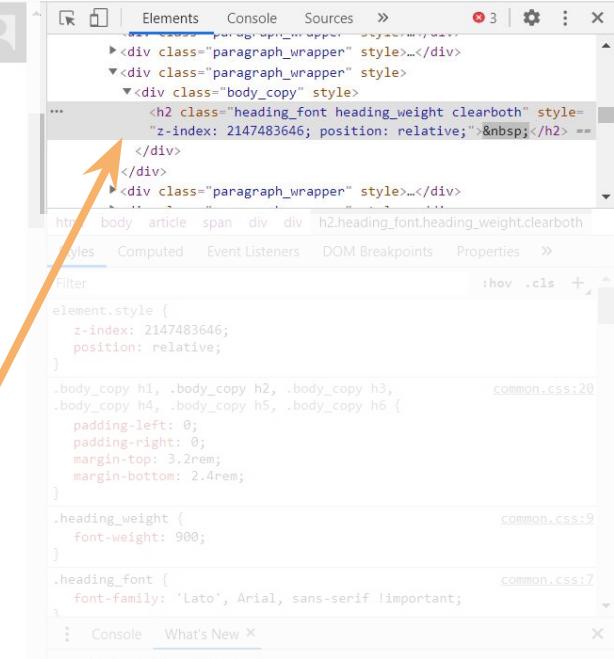
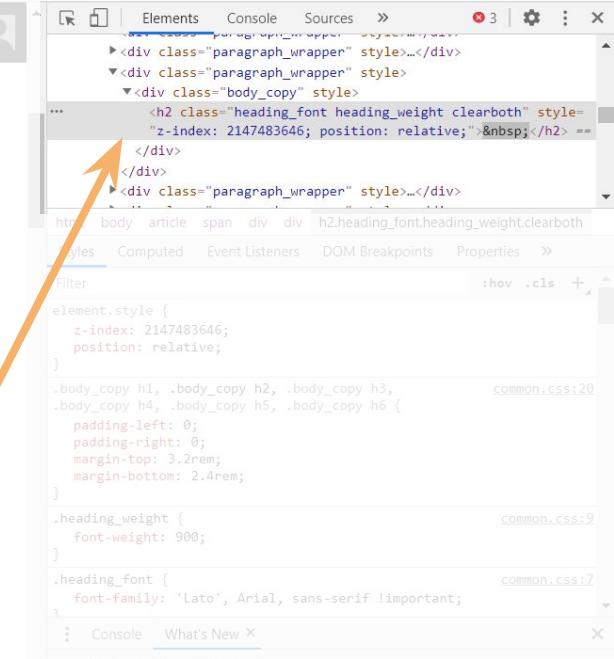
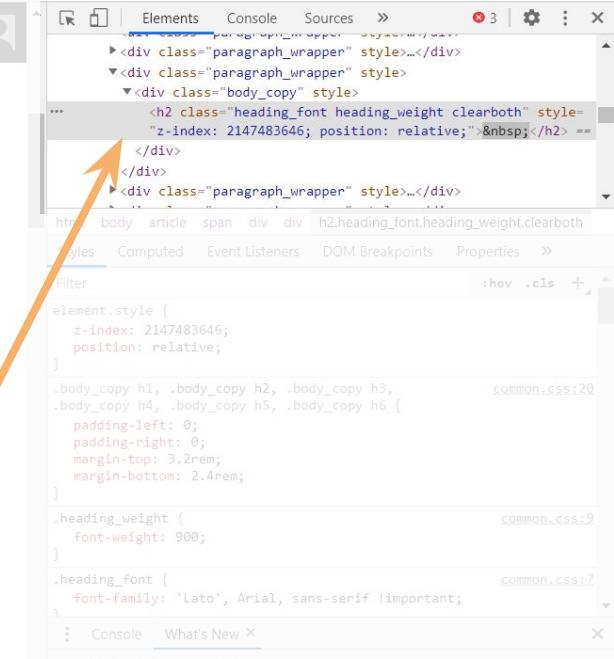
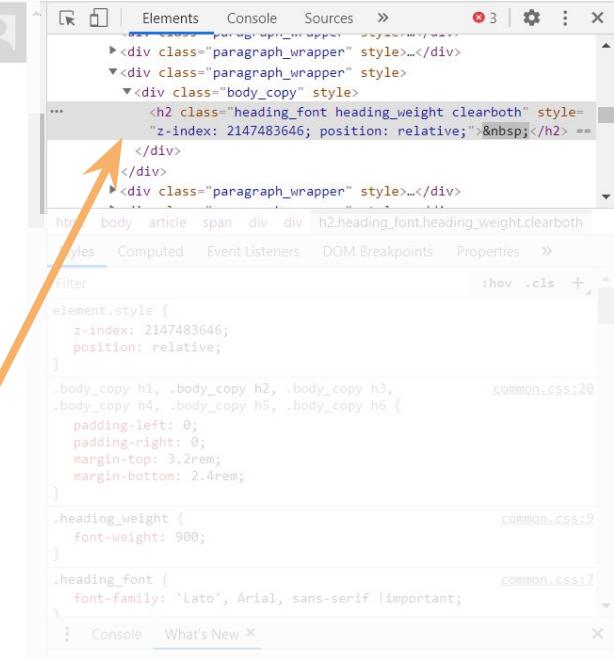
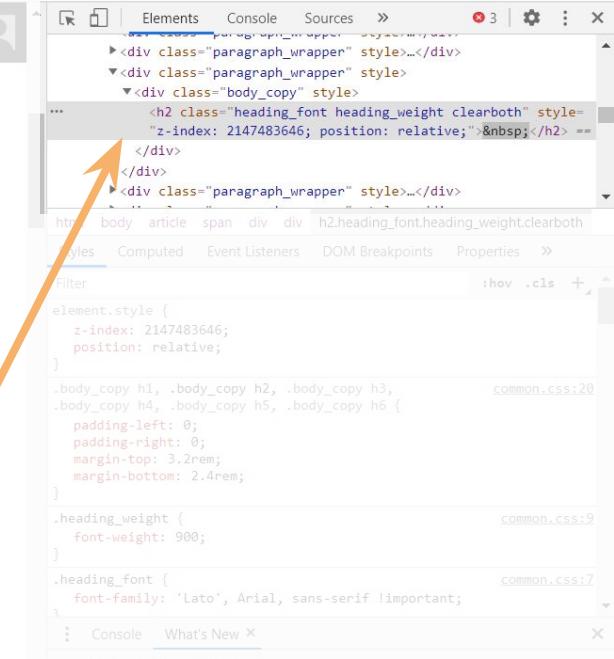
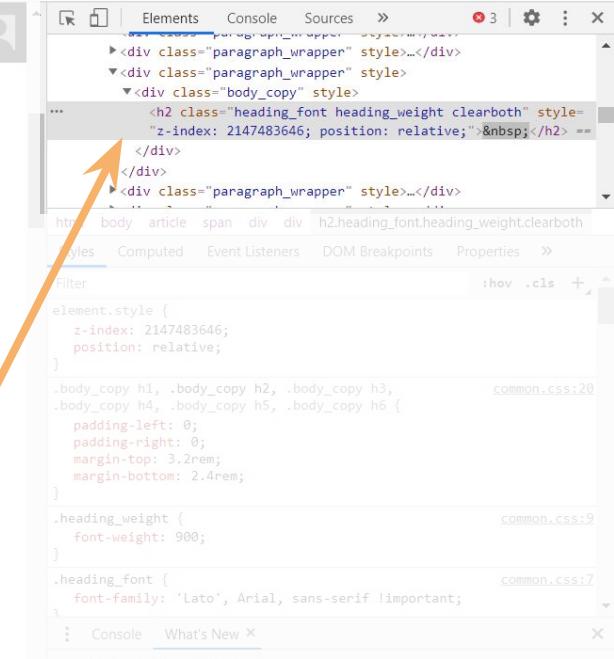
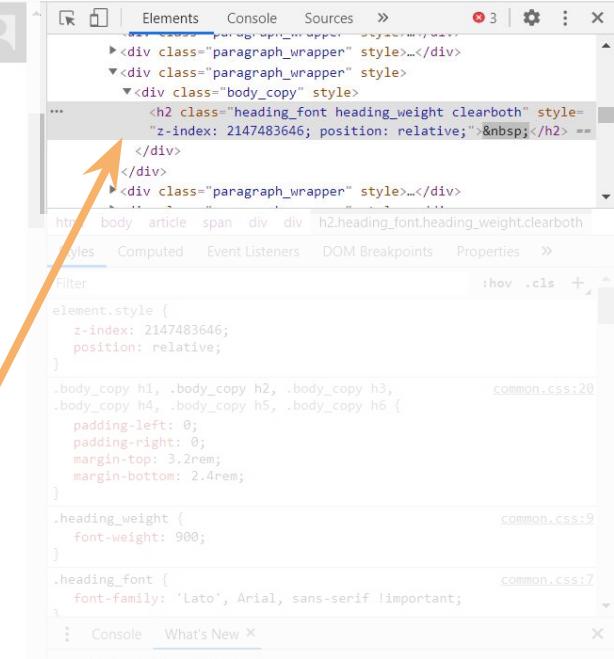
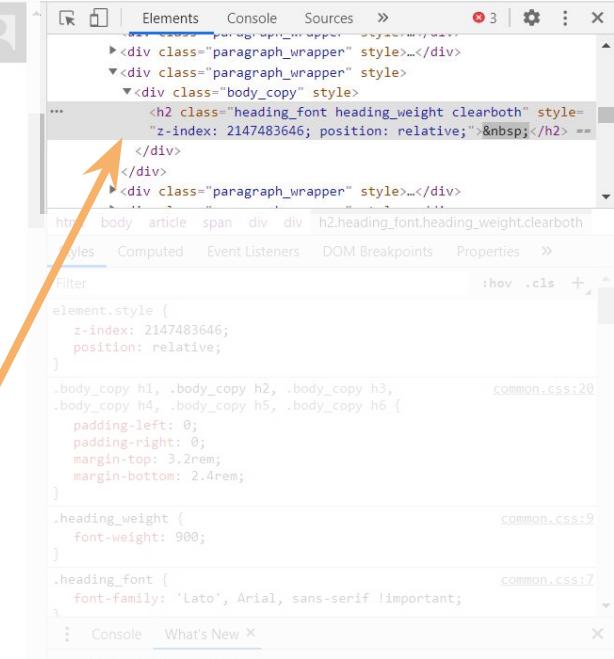
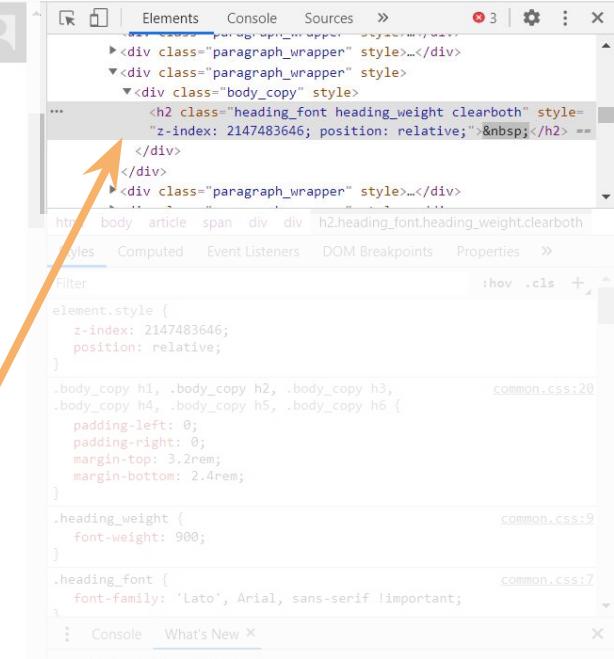
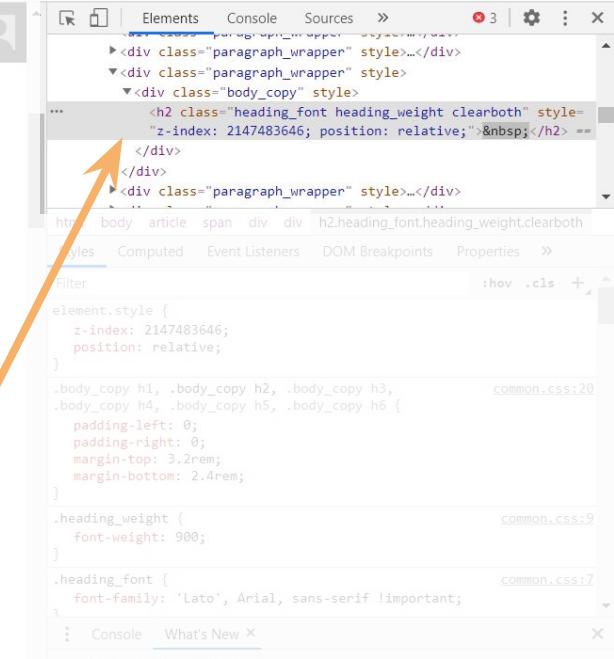
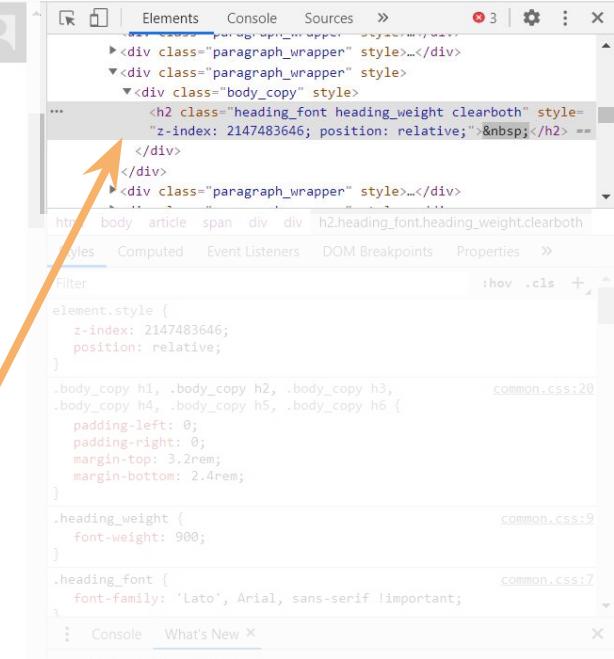
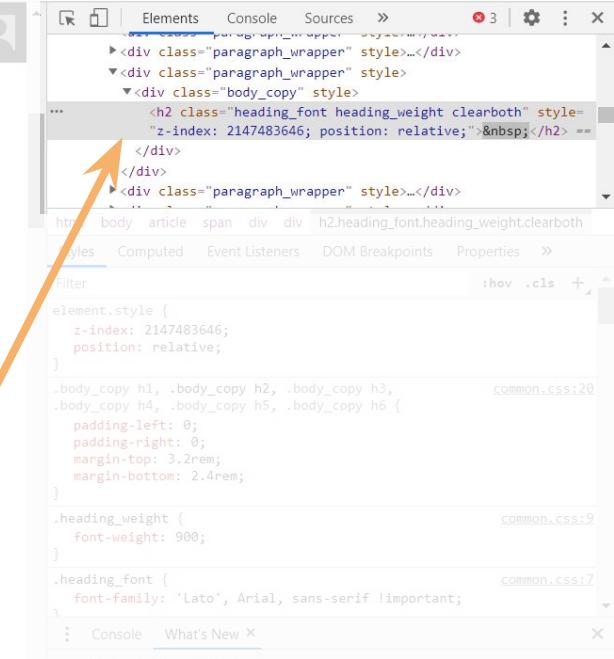
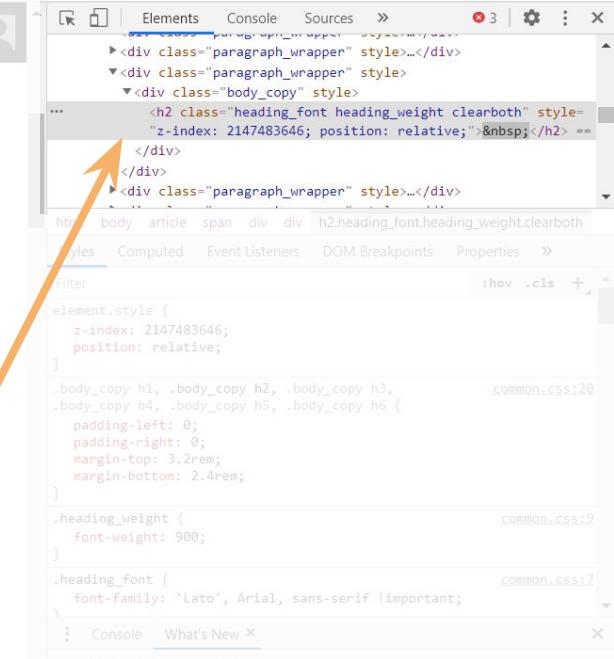
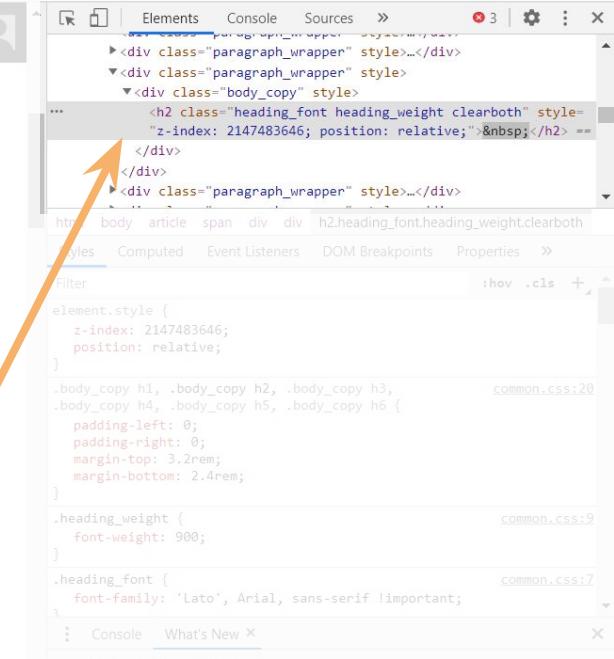
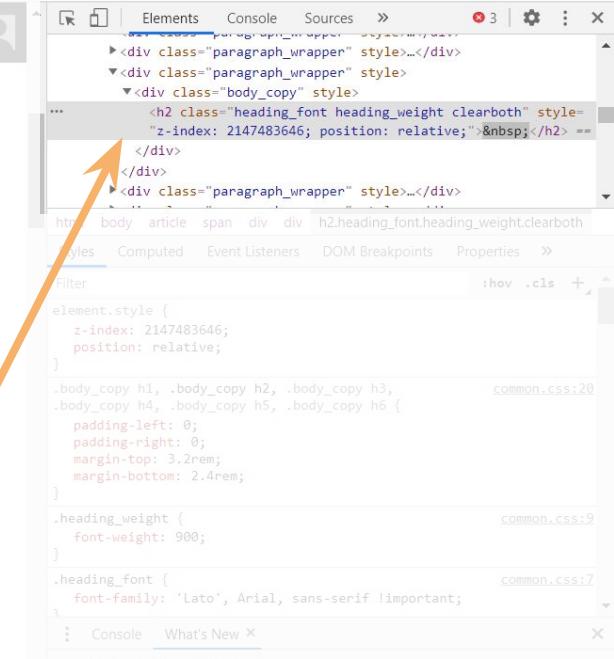
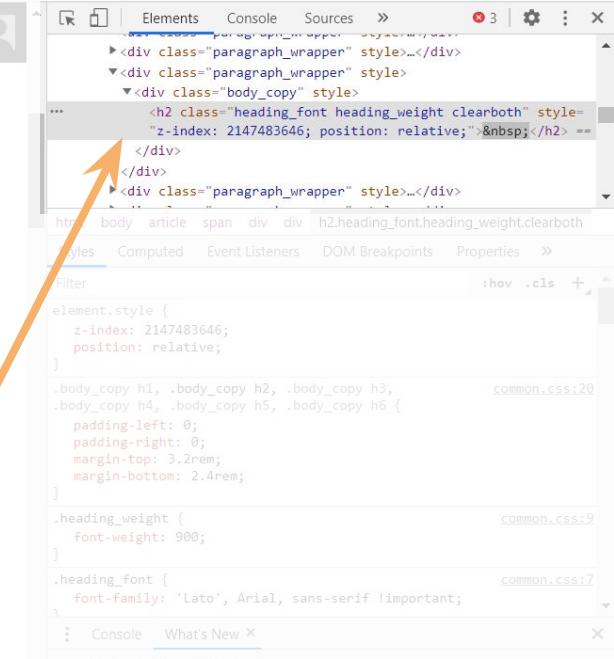
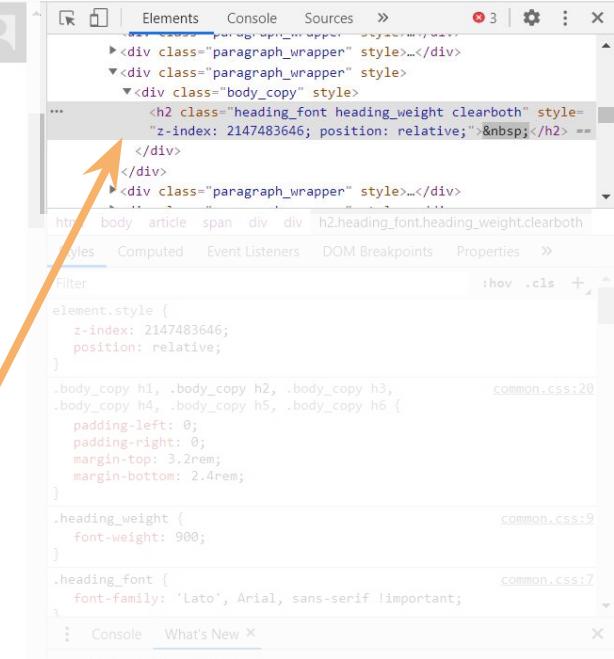
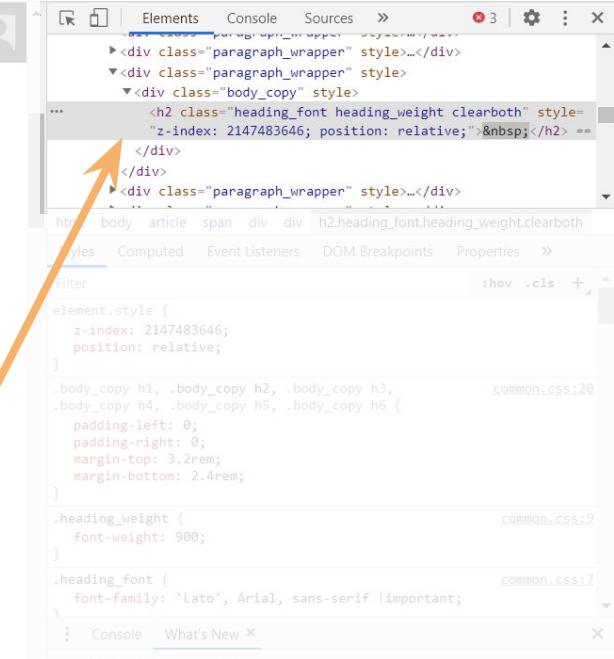
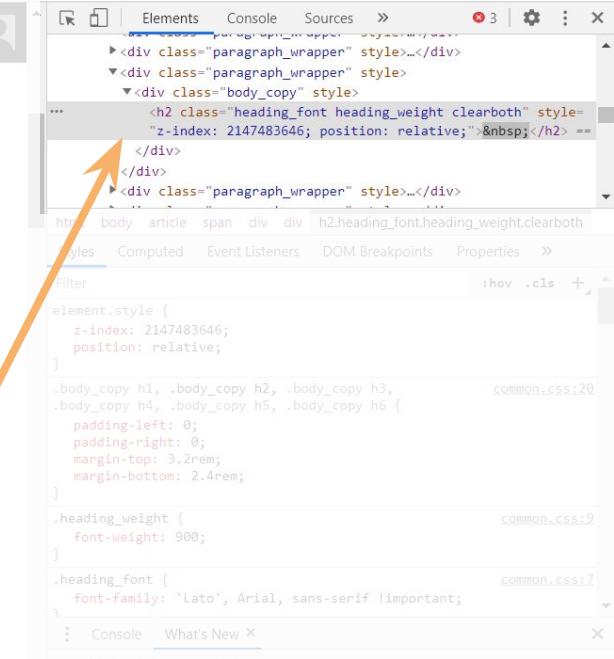
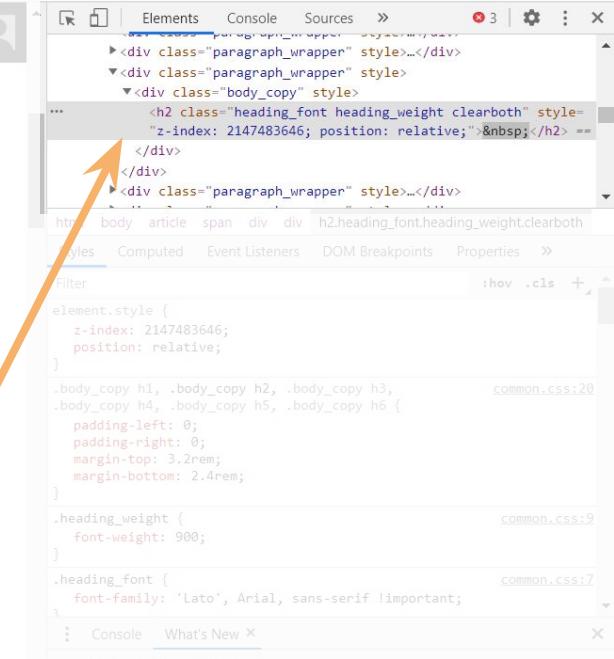
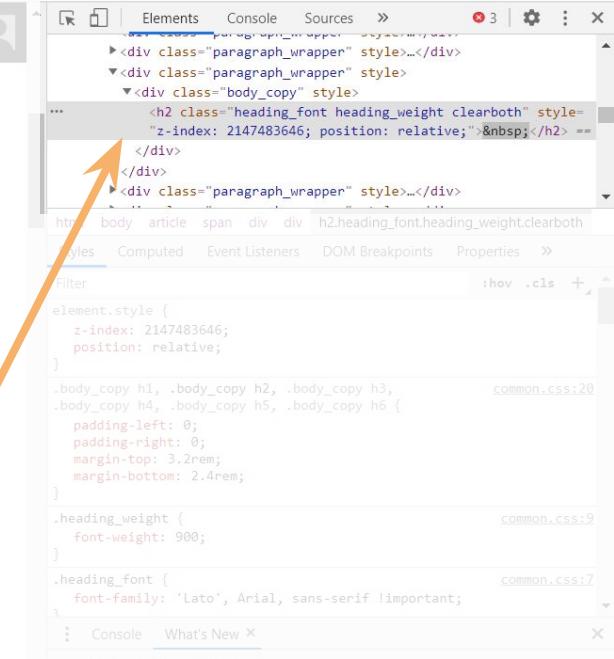
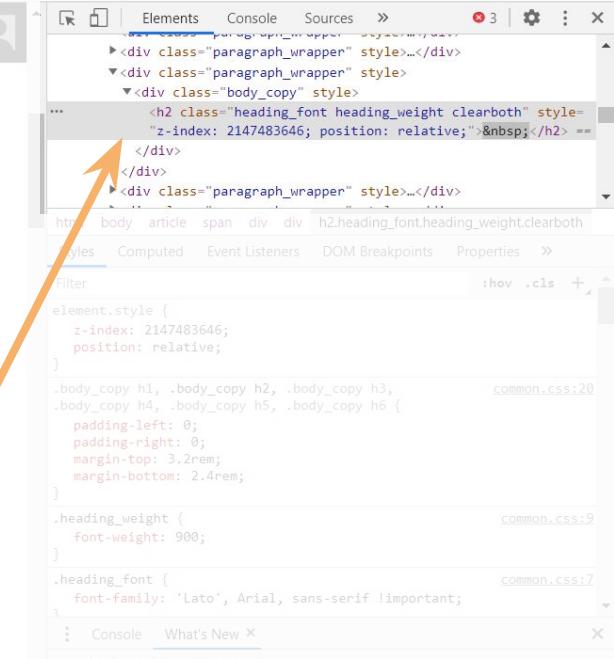
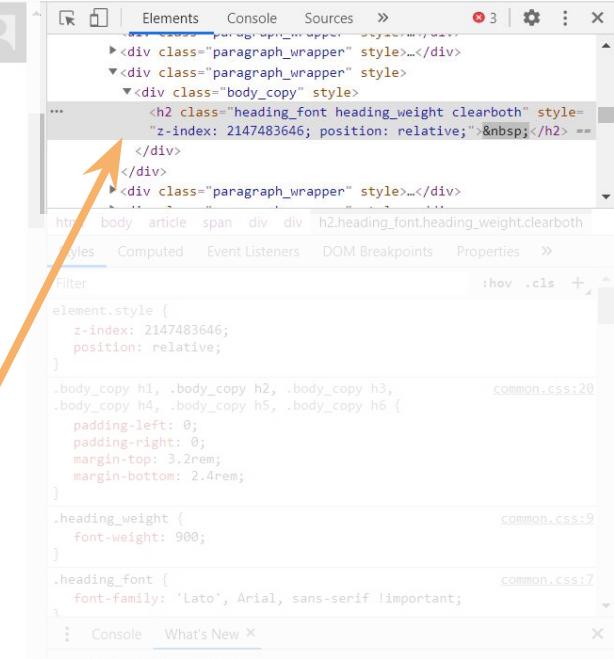
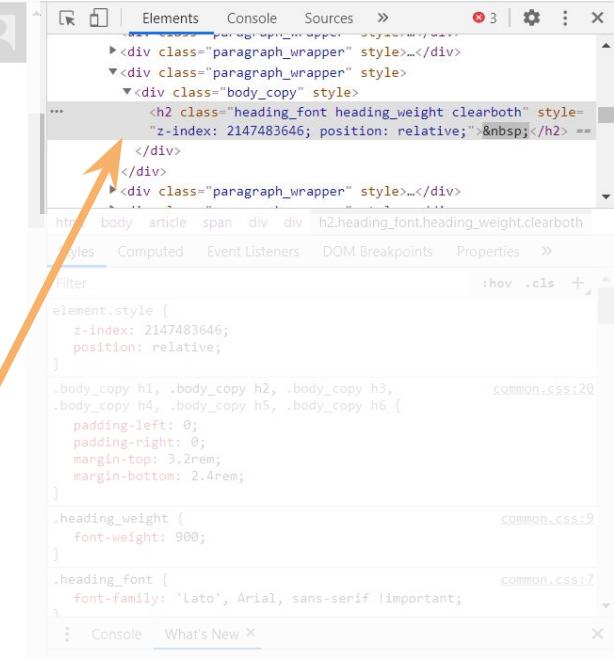
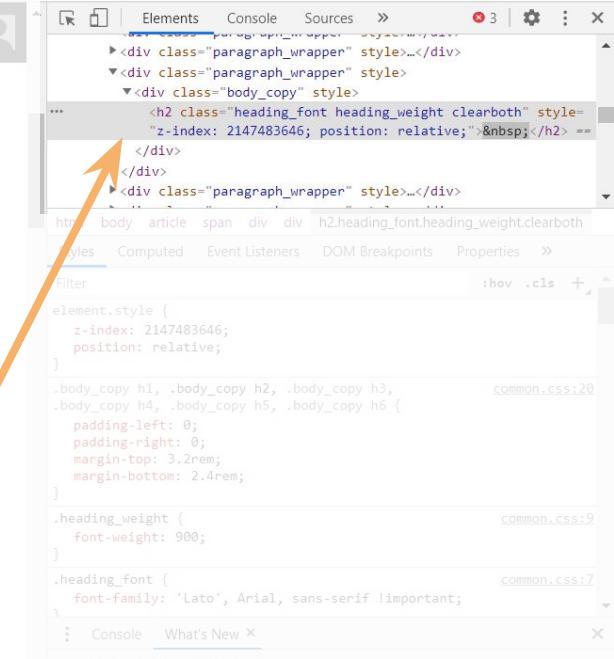
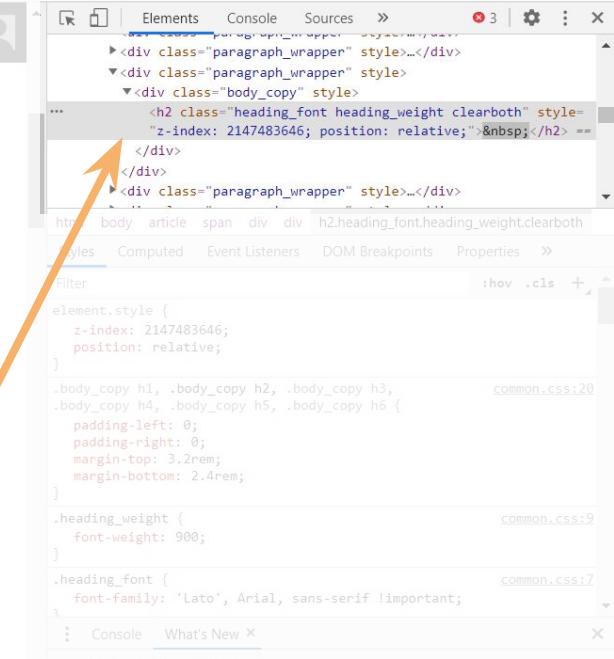
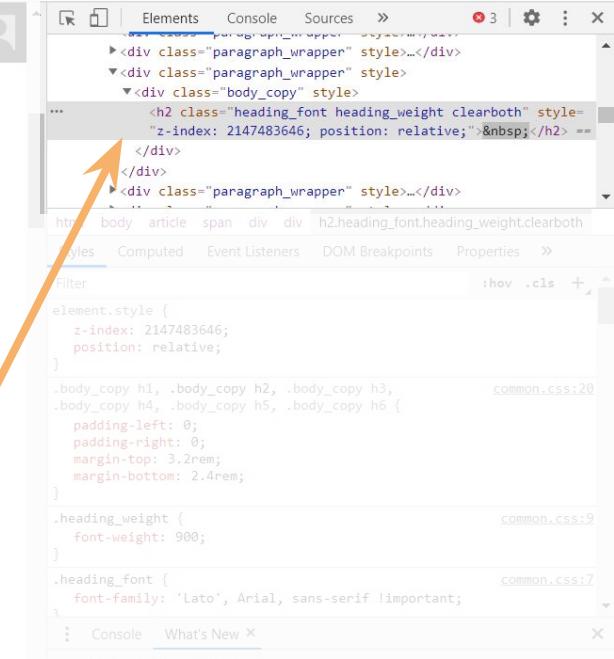
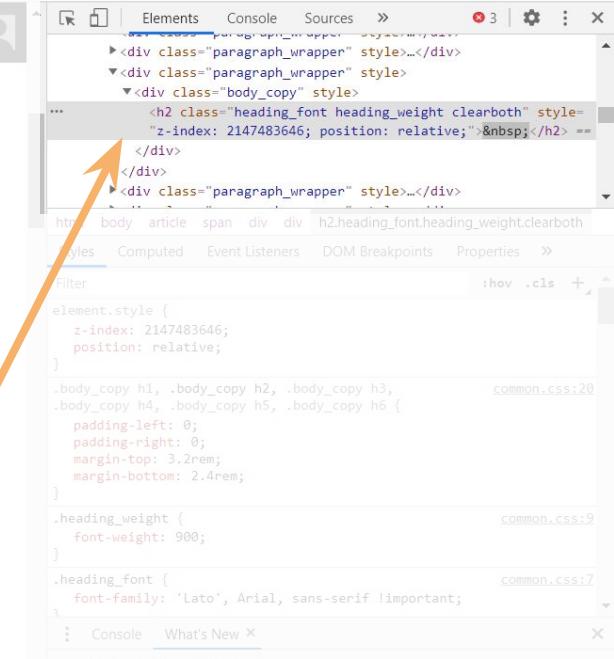
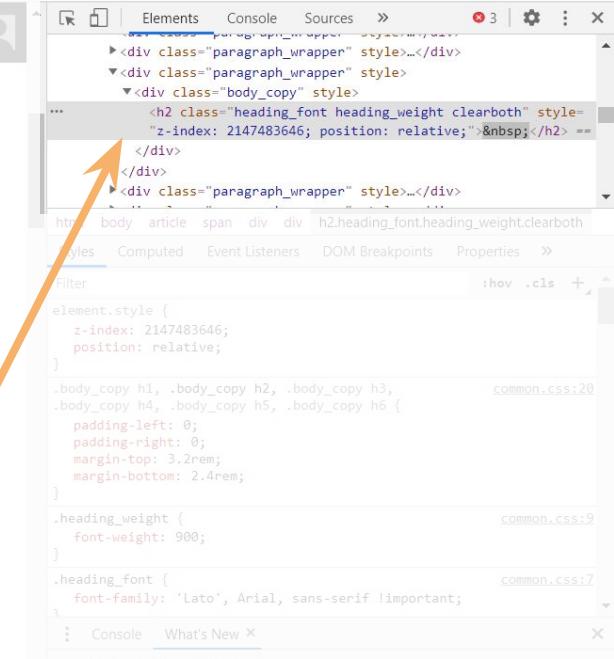
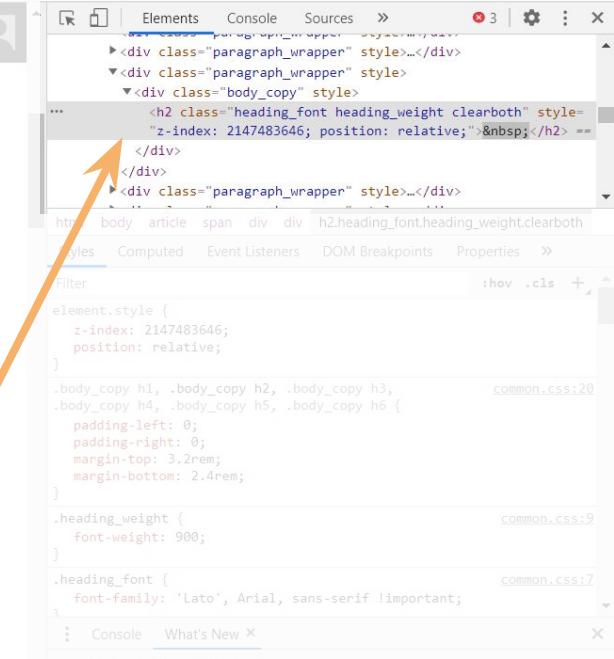
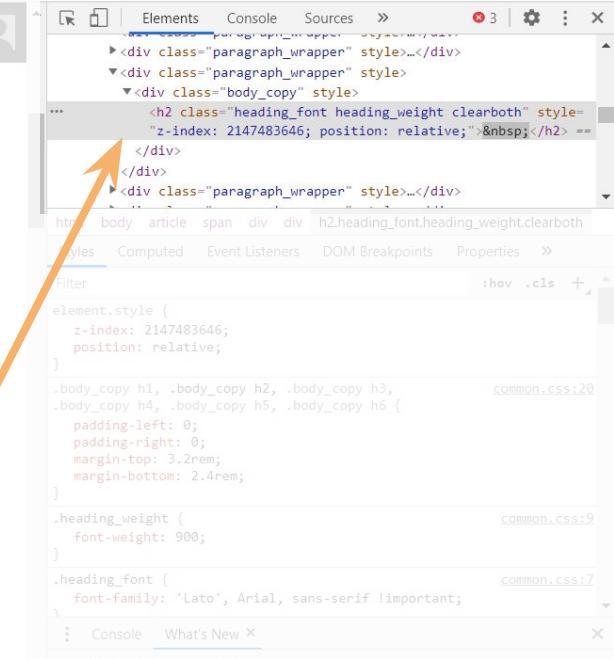
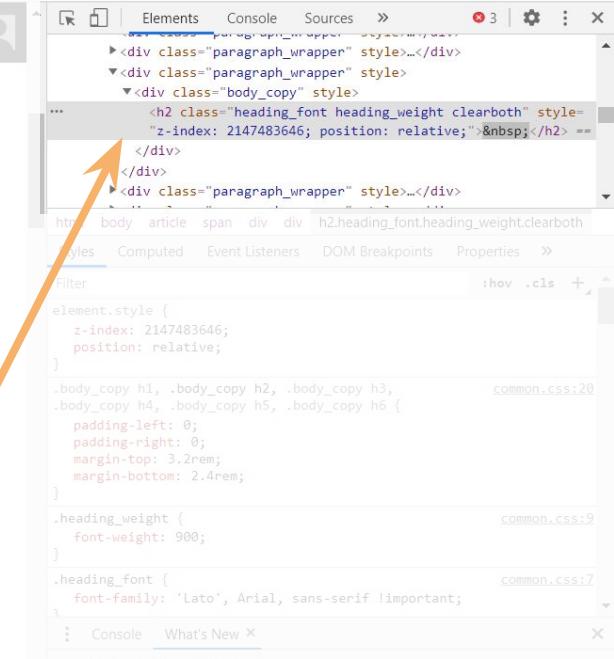
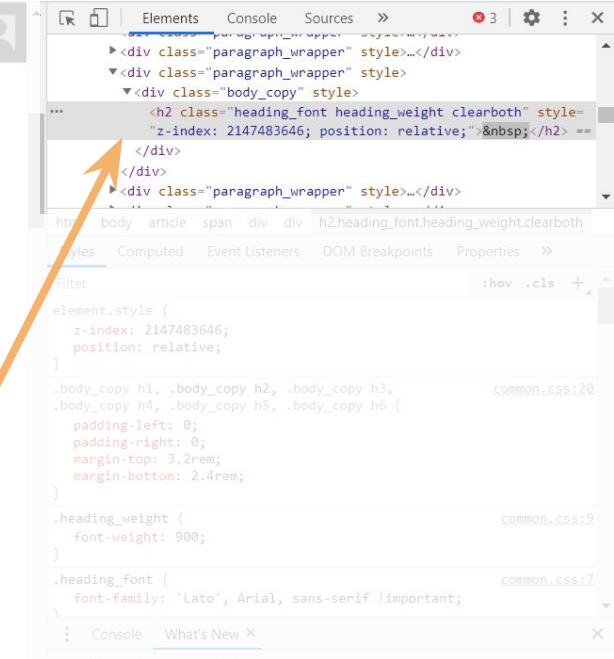
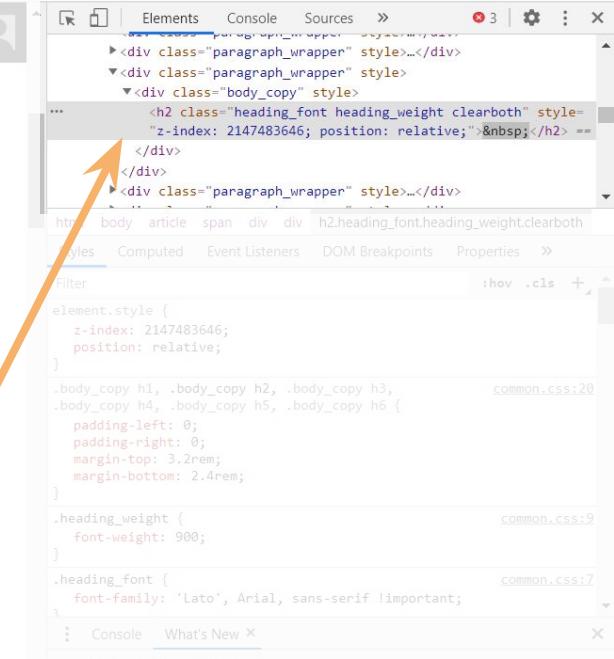
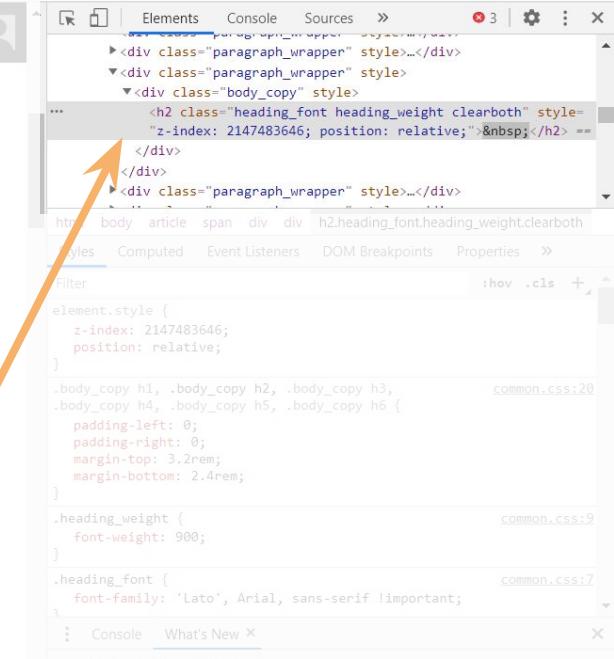
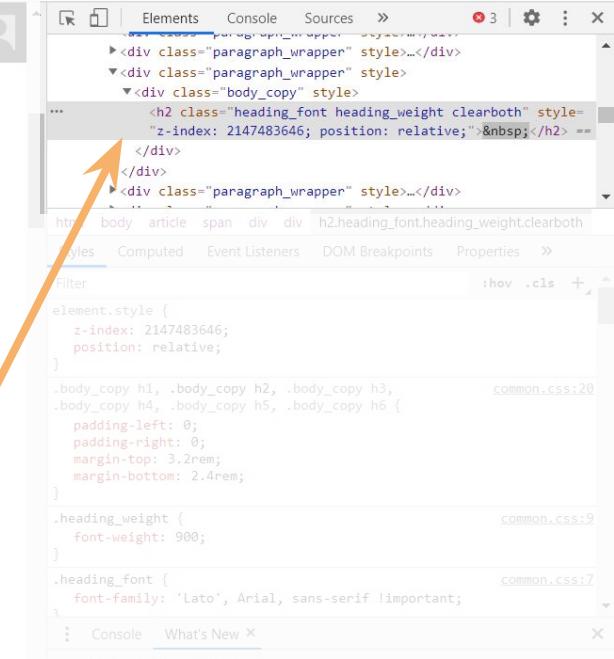
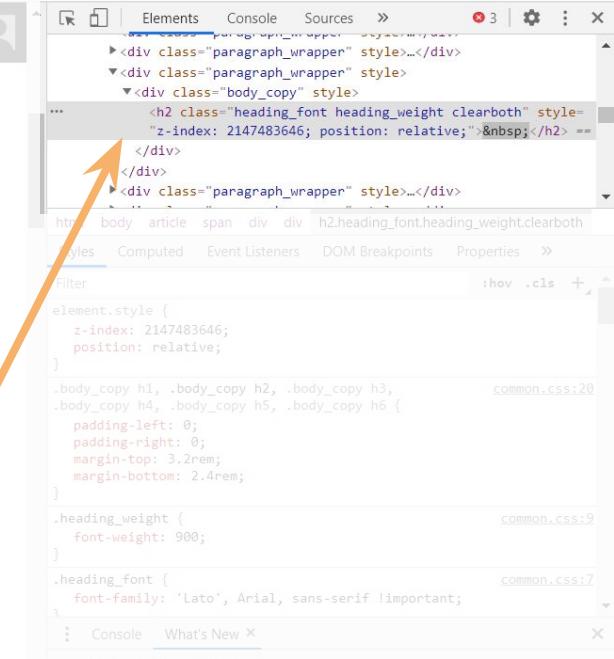
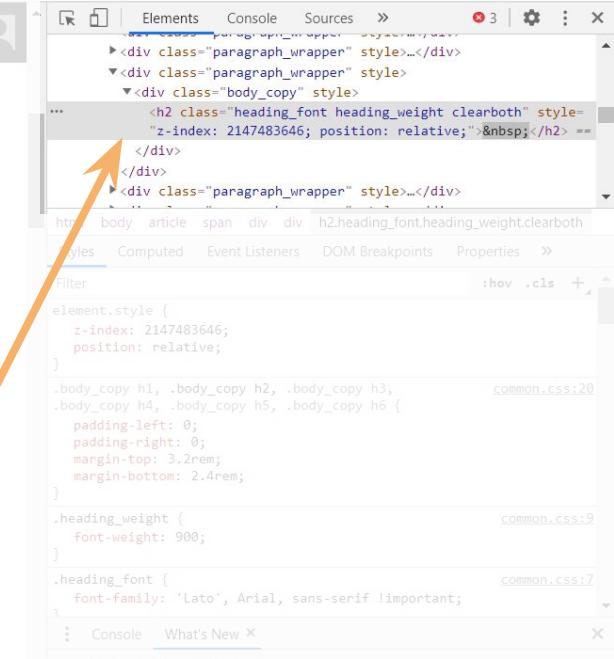
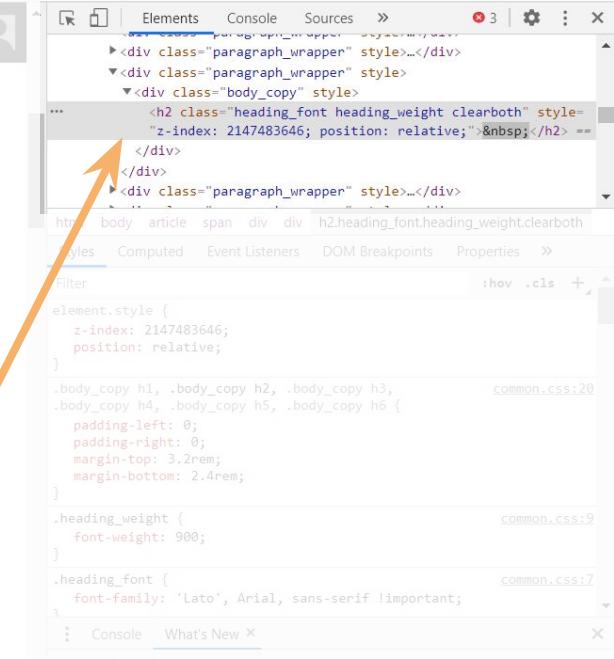
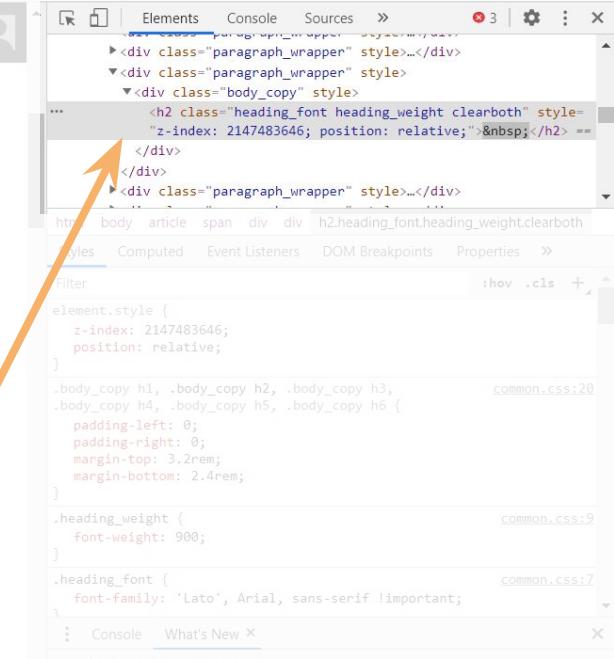
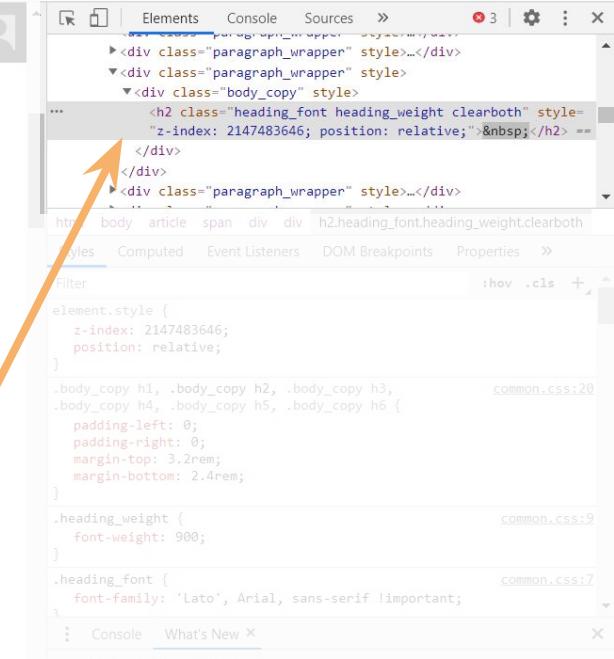
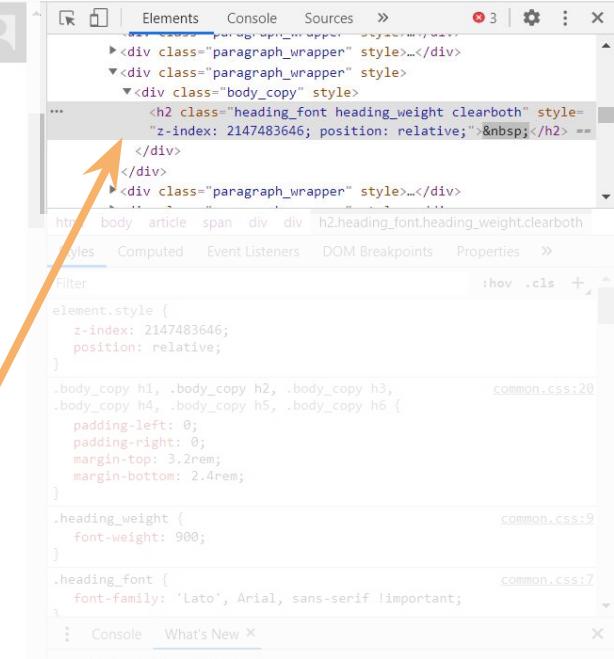
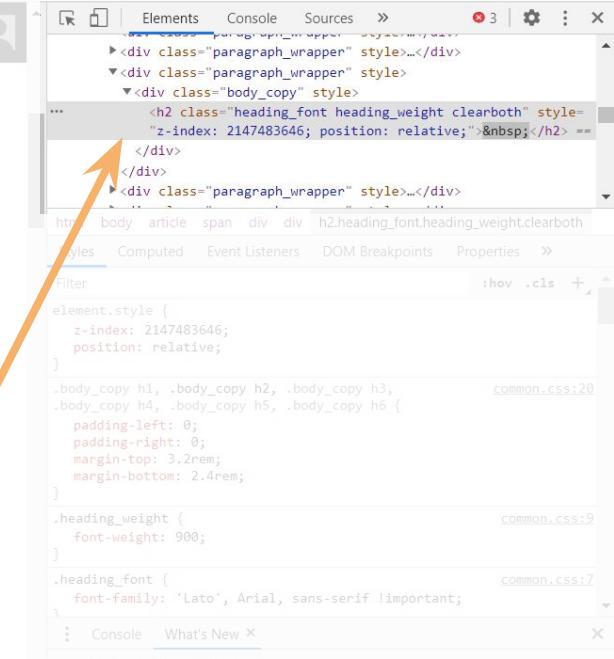
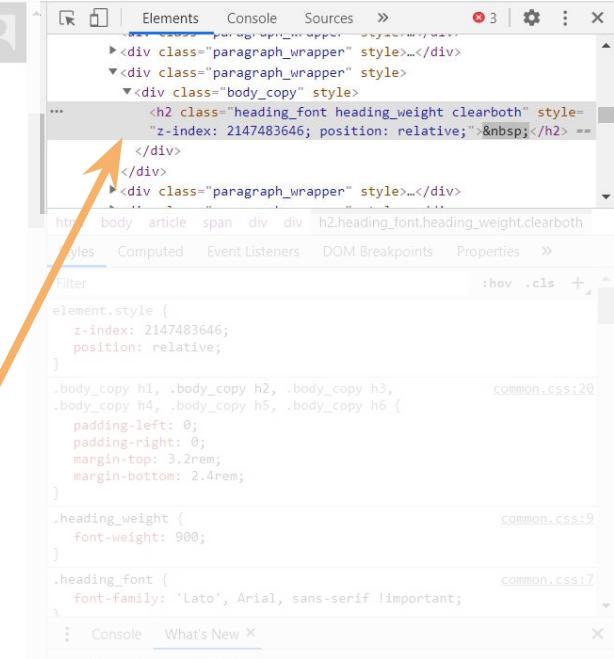
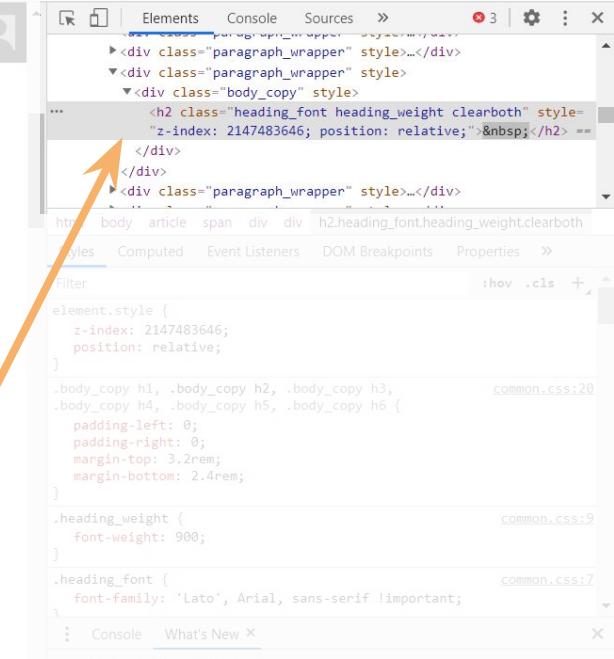
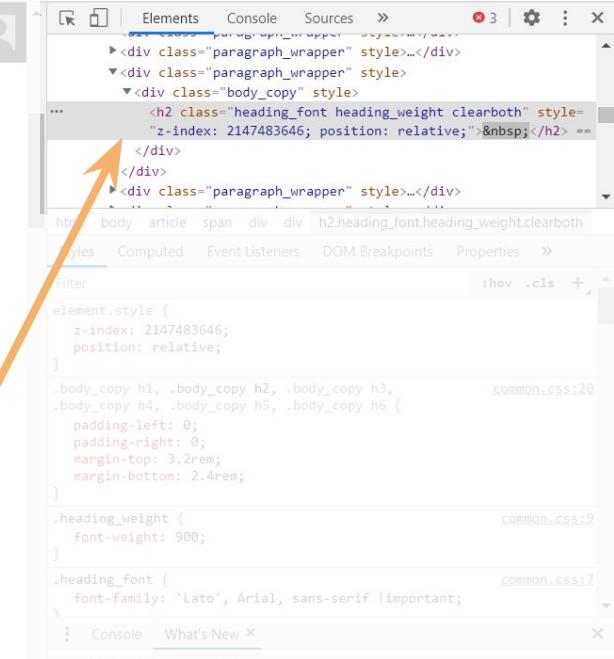
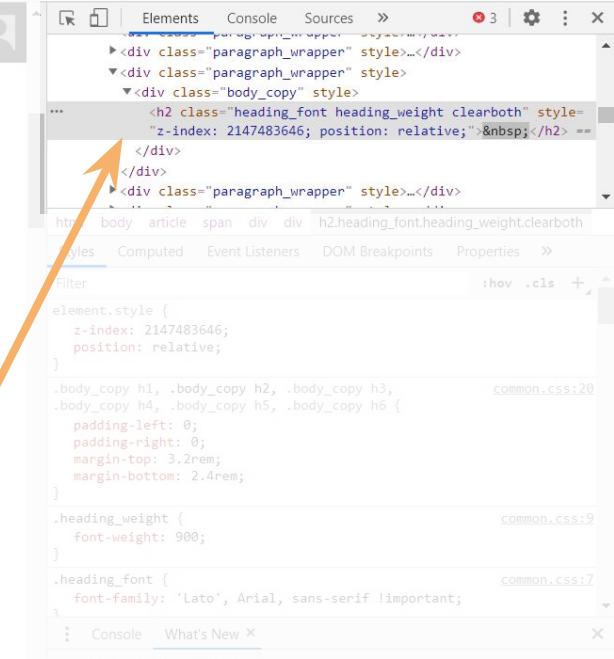
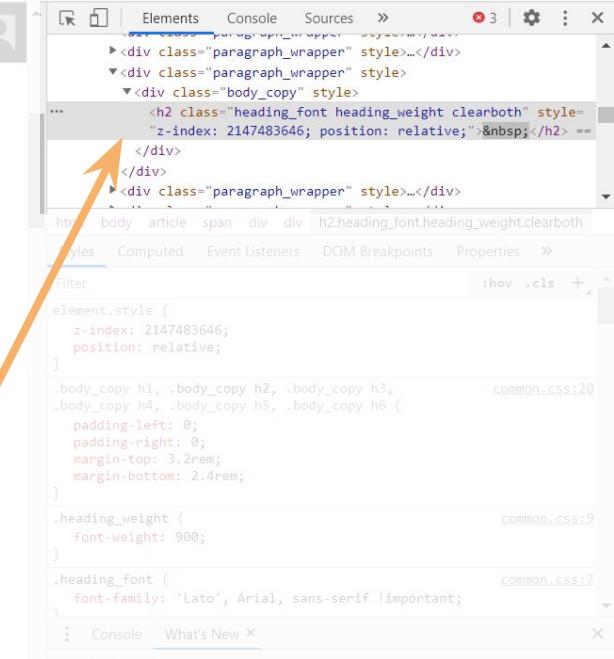
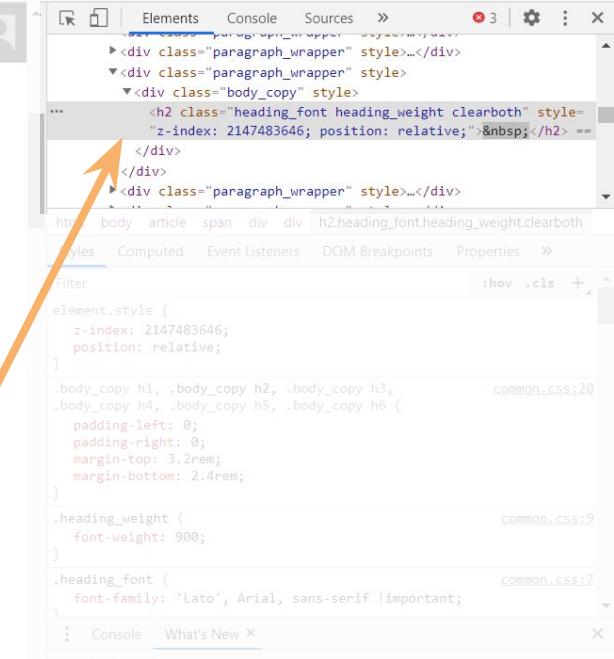
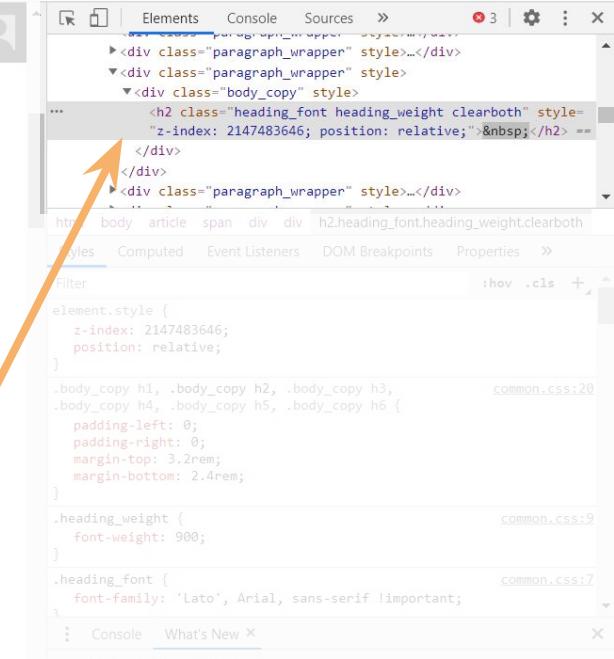
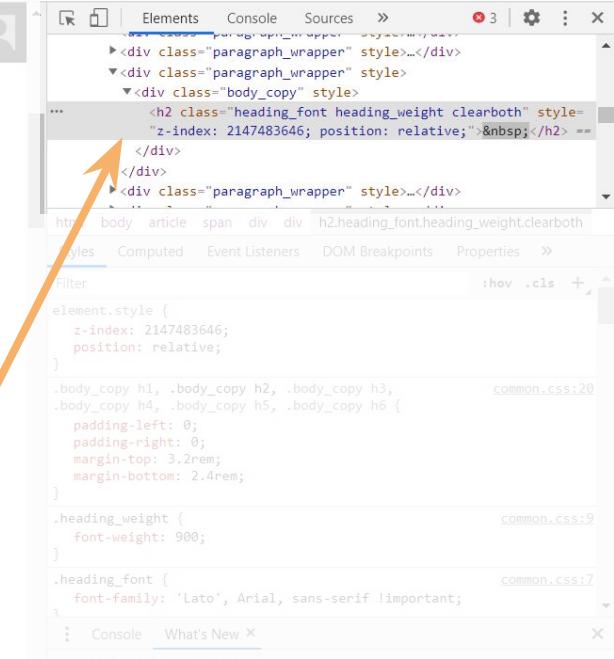
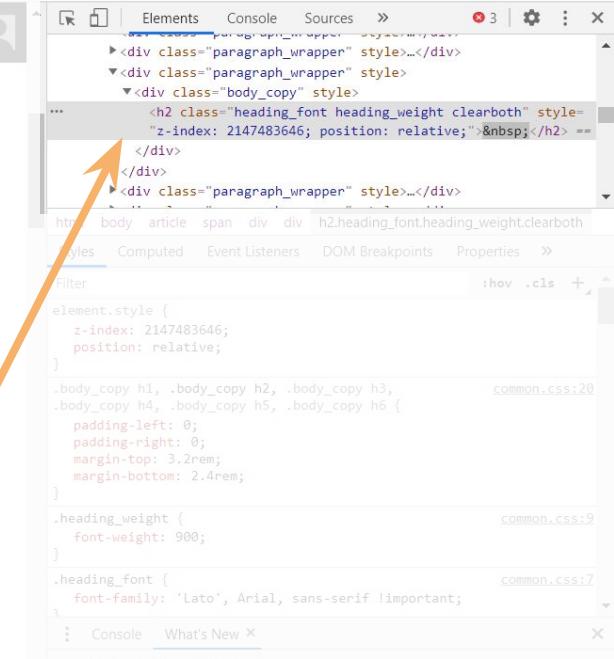
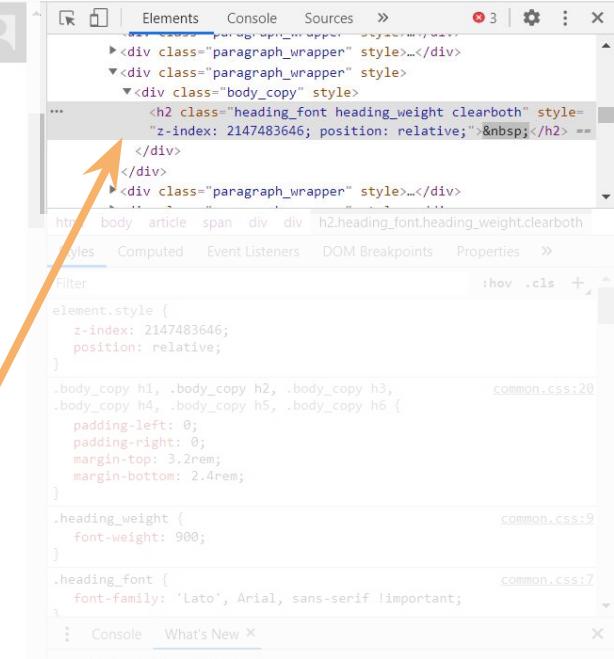
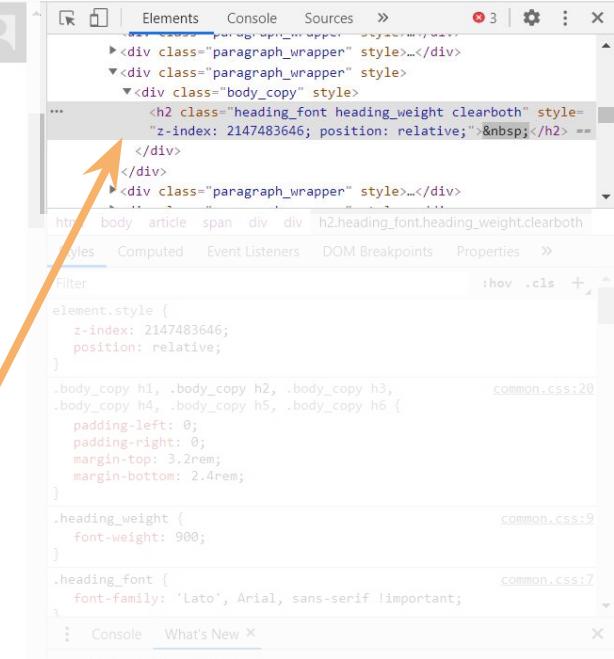
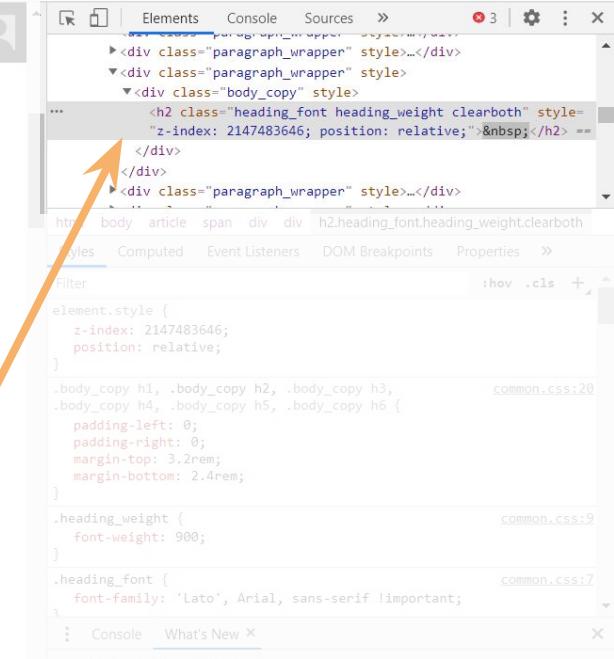
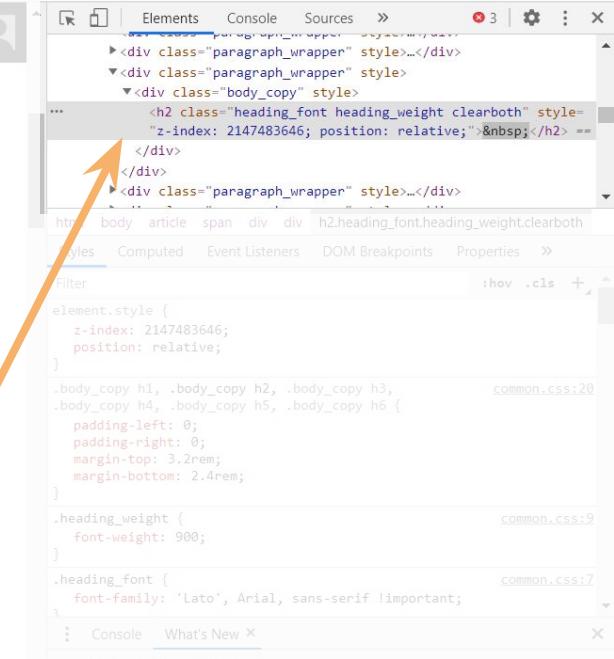
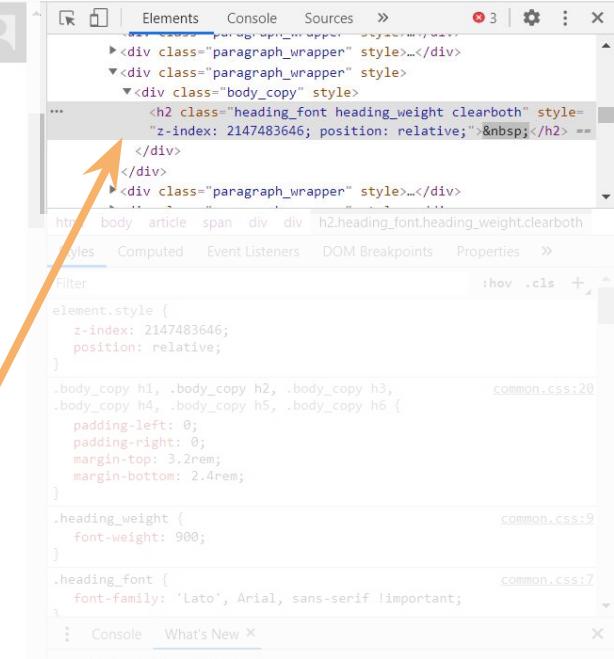
1. [H42](#) Using h1-h6 to identify headings

These references are taken from [Content Accessibility Guidelines 2](#)

[Get Your Full Website Check](#)

Different Paths, Same Destination

Hollis and Hollis for Archival Discovery

There are two easy ways to search for finding aids of Harvard collections. The first is through Hollis, Harvard's library catalog which contains millions of records ranging from vinyl records, to Medieval manuscripts, to today's New  **earboth**    **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**   **earboth**  <img alt="Screenshot of a browser developer tools element inspector showing the H2 heading element." data-bbox="650 140 970

Finding Aids Scalar Book

Accessibility user story

As a low-vision researcher who uses a screen reader, I use the tab key to navigate web pages in my browser. I want to be able to discern links from non-linked text quickly, and I benefit from correctly applied alt-text descriptions for multimedia content.

Frequently occurring issues

- Color contrast of text and focus indicator color is insufficient (1.4 Distinguishable)
- HTML is not compliant with standards, esp. use of ARIA and "a" tags (1.3.1 Info & Relationships)
- Empty header tags and improper nesting of headers (2.4.10 Section Headings)
- Some links identified only by color (1.4.1. Use of Color)

"The accessibility issues we encountered appear split between content-specific issues and broader coding challenges for the Scalar development community." - Irma, Leigh, and Scott



Issue summary

Critical issues (high rating)

- Alt text tags and content missing
- Focus indicator often unclear when tabbing through pages
- Input field has no description for help and agrees but contains copyright content
- Does not contain alt text description
- Link text for "continue" button misleading

Based on the results of the accessibility audit of the Scalar book "Finding Aids Scalar Book". The audit was conducted using the WAVE tool and focused on the accessibility of the Scalar book's website. The findings are presented here to inform the Scalar development community about the types of accessibility issues that may need to be addressed.

Finding: Non-Compliant HTML (Low)

Leigh Clouse, Irmarie Fraticelli-Rodríguez
and Scott St. Louis

! "Aria-labelledby" has incorrect (ID) reference

A 1.1.1 Non-text Content

The WAI-ARIA 'aria-labelledby' attribute has a reference to an ID that does not exist or an ID that is not unique.

Make sure the ID referred by 'aria-labelledby' exists on the page and that the referred ID is only used on one element on the same page.

Occurrences on this page

2

<div> myModalLabel



Label IDs

myModalLabel

</> Open DevTools to view code snippet

<div> myModalLabel



Accessible Rich Internet Applications (**ARIA**) is a set of attributes that define ways to make web content and web applications (especially those developed with JavaScript) more accessible to people with disabilities.

It supplements HTML so that interactions and widgets commonly used in applications can be passed to assistive technologies when there is not otherwise a mechanism. For example, ARIA enables accessible navigation landmarks in HTML4, JavaScript widgets, form hints and error messages, live content updates, and more.

Many of these widgets were later incorporated into HTML5, and **developers should prefer using the correct semantic HTML element over using ARIA**, if such an element exists. For instance, native elements have built-in keyboard accessibility, roles and states. However, if you choose to use ARIA, you are responsible for mimicking (the equivalent) browser behaviour in script.

Source: MDN Web Docs, “ARIA,”
<https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/Accessibility/ARIA>

Source: Siteimprove accessibility checker when used for
<https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/finding-your-way-through-finding-aids/index>

Finding Aids Scalar Book

Accessibility user story

As a low-vision researcher who uses a screen reader, I use the tab key to navigate web pages in my browser. I want to be able to discern links from non-linked text quickly, and I benefit from correctly applied alt-text descriptions for multimedia content.

Frequently occurring issues

- Color contrast of text and focus indicator color is insufficient (1.4 Distinguishable)
- HTML is not compliant with standards, esp. use of ARIA and "a" tags (1.3.1 Info & Relationships)
- Empty header tags and improper nesting of headers (2.4.10 Section Headings)
- Some links identified only by color (1.4.1. Use of Color)

"The accessibility issues we encountered appear split between content-specific issues and broader coding challenges for the Scalar development community." - Irma, Leigh, and Scott



Issue summary

Critical issues (high rating)

- Alt text tags and content missing
- Focus indicator often unclear when tabbing through pages
- Input field has no description for help and suggests button as copyright concern
- Does not use alt text for media descriptions
- Link text for "continue" button misleading

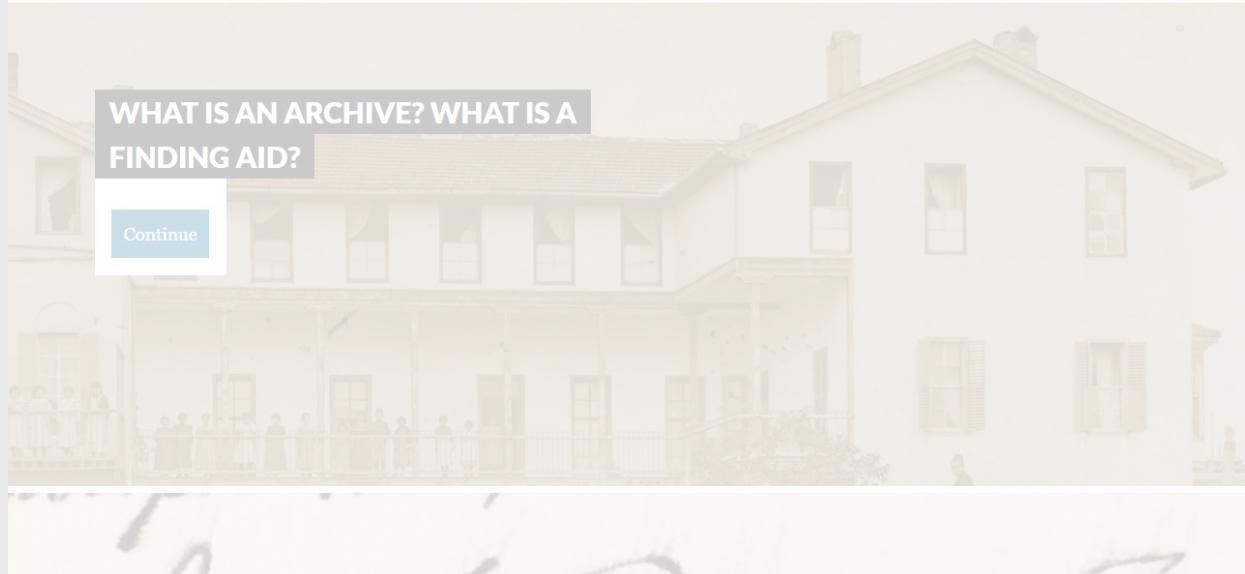
Based on the results of the 2020 Accessibility Audit of the Scalar project. The audit was conducted by the Harvard Library Accessibility Assessment team. The full report is available at [https://tinyurl.com/ScalarAuditReport](#).

Finding: Color Contrast (Medium)

Leigh Clouse, Irmarie Fraticelli-Rodríguez
and Scott St. Louis



The Hows and Whys of Finding Aids



Finding Aids Scalar Book

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- Alt text tags and content missing
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- Does not contain alt text or link descriptions
- Link text for "continue" button misleading

Source: https://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/evaluator/evaluator.html?uri=https%3A%2F%2Fscalar.library.harvard.edu%2Fbooks%2Ffounding%2Findex.html%23page%3D1&method=analyze&language=en-US

Finding: Links identified by color (Medium)

Leigh Clouse, Irmarie Fraticelli-Rodríguez
and Scott St. Louis

! Link identified only by color

A 1.4.1 Use of Color

It appears that color is the only distinguishing feature about links in blocks of text.

If links in blocks of text are identified only by color, the color contrast ratio between the link text and the surrounding text needs to be at least 3:1. This is not the case here.

Furthermore, for links identified only by color, there should be additional visual cues when users point to the link with their mouse or move keyboard focus to the link. The additional visual cues could be underlining the link or making it bold.

This applies to links that are visually part of a block of text. Menu items etc. should not be considered here.

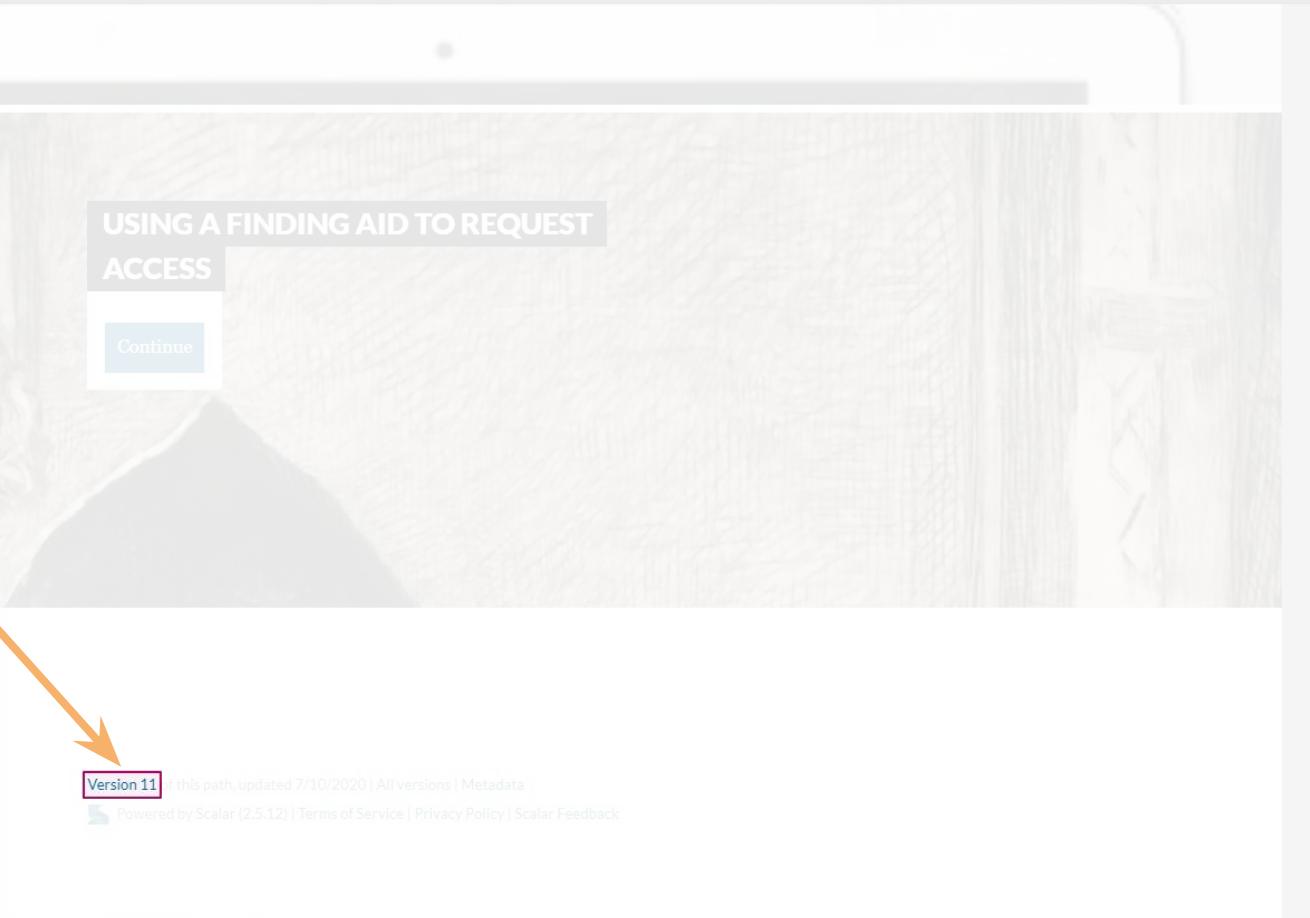
Choose one of the following:

Make sure there are other visual indicators of links besides the color, such as underline or bold.

Or ensure that links have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 with surrounding text, and provide additional visual cues when pointing with a mouse or moving keyboard focus to the link.

Please notice that the 3:1 color contrast ratio for links identified only by color should be measured text to text and not text to background.

Occurrences on this page	8
<a> Version 11	
 Open DevTools to view code snippet	
<a> All versions	
<a> Metadata	
<a> Scalar	
<a> 2.5.12	



Finding Aids Scalar Book

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- Does not contain alt text description
- Link text for "continue" button misleading

Source: https://www.accessible.gov/scalar/
https://www.accessible.gov/scalar/

Finding: Missing Alt text and tags in images (High)

! Image with no alt attribute

A 1.1.1 Non-text Content

The image does not have an 'alt' attribute (`alt=""`).

It's important all images have the attribute for alternative text regardless of whether an alternative text is added.

A screen reader knows how to handle both an empty alt attribute and one with a text. If there is no attribute some screen readers will compensate and read the path to the image instead, which will often give no value to the end user.

If you are using a CMS (Content Management System), the default setting should be that an empty alt attribute is added to all images.



What is an Alt attribute?

An HTML attribute that helps screen readers describe media. The media managed by Scalar is never assigned an alt text when inserted into pages.

The DublinCore description metadata field that the user inputs is not equivalent to the alt text, nor is it connected.

Every photo must have an alt attribute. It aids screen readers and also if the image link is broken.

Accessibility Assessment

Finding Aids Scalar Book

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**Finding:
Focus indicator
often unclear
when tabbing
through pages
(High)**

When tabbing through the website, there is no visual cue of where the cursor stands.

Also, if the page is using pathways, a feature that sets the user to follow one of the available path experiences, there is no visual cue that aids the user to know if it's standing in the before or after arrow.



Finding Aids Scalar Book

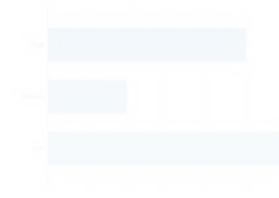
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Issue summary

Critical issues (high rating)

- Alt text tags and content missing
- Focus indicator often unclear when tabbing through pages
- Input field has no description for help and sign-in buttons near copyright notice
- Poor description of too much descriptive text
- Link text for 'Contact' button misleading

Source: https://www.accessible.gov/scalar/
This report was generated using the Accessible.gov tool. It is a beta version of the tool and is not yet fully functional. It is intended to be used as a starting point for accessibility analysis and to identify potential areas for improvement. It is not a substitute for manual review or professional accessibility consulting.

Finding:

Input field has no description for help and sign-in buttons

(High)



! Input field has no description

A 1.3.1 Info and Relationships

Input fields should always have a description that is explicitly associated with the field to make sure that users of assistive technologies will also know what the field is for.

If the input field has a visible description indicating the purpose of the field, this description should be explicitly associated to the input field either as a HTML label or using the WAI-ARIA attribute 'aria-labelledby'.

If it is not possible to add a visible description, either add a mouseover text ('title' attribute) to the input field or create an invisible label using the WAI-ARIA attribute 'aria-label'.

Occurrences on this page 1

<input> Empty

[Open DevTools to view code snippet](#)

How do I meet this criteria?

Use one of the following techniques from WCAG 2:

1. [ARIA4](#) Using a WAI-ARIA role to expose the role of a user interface component
2. [ARIA14](#) Using aria-label to provide an invisible label where a visible label cannot be used
3. [ARIA16](#) Using aria-labelledby to provide a name for user interface controls
4. [G167](#) Using an adjacent button to label the purpose of a field
5. [H44](#) Using label elements to associate text labels with form controls
6. [H65](#) Using the title attribute to identify form controls when the label element cannot be used

THE HOWS AND WHYS OF FINDING AIDS (6/6)

Using a Finding Aid to Request Access



The help button and user menu button require HTML labels so that someone utilizing assistive technologies will know exactly what they are for as they are toggling over them.

Computer, Enhance

Using Finding Aids to Request Access

Leigh Clouse, Irmarie Fraticelli-Rodríguez
and Scott St. Louis

Finding Aids Scalar Book

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- Empty header tags and improper nesting of headers (2.4.10 Section Headings)
- Some links identified only by color (1.4.1. Use of Color)

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Issue summary

Critical issues (high rating)

- Alt text tags and content missing
- Focus indicator often unclear when tabbing through pages
- Input field has no description for help and agrees with common copyright concern
- Drop-down menu of too much description
- Link text for summaries become misleading

Finding: Drop-down navigation menu needs description (High)

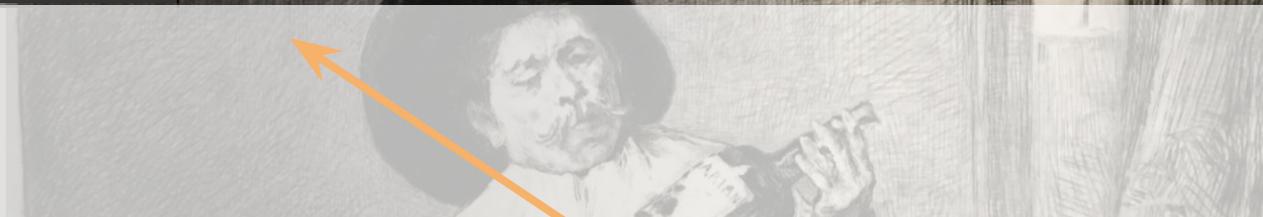


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AND WHYS OF FINDING AIDS (6/6)

Using a Finding Aid to Request Access



Computer, Enhance

Using Finding Aids to Request Access

When tabbing through the website, the navigation menu in the header is not described in a way that would allow users to easily explore the site's various pages.

Finding Aids Scalar Book

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- Some links identified only by color (1.4.1. Use of Color)

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Issue summary

Critical issues (high rating)

- Alt text tags and content missing
- Focus indicator often unclear when tabbing through pages
- Input field has no description for help and suggests button as copyright concern
- Gross discrediting of too much description
- Link text for “Continue” buttons misleading

Source: https://www.accessible.gov/scalar-accessibility-report.html#critical-issues

Finding: Link text for “Continue” buttons misleading (High)



! Link text used for multiple different destinations

A 2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)

The same link text is used for links going to different destinations. Users might not know the difference if they are not somehow explained.

Make sure links are distinguishable by just their link texts or WAI-ARIA labels ('aria-labelledby' or 'aria-label') to make it clear that they lead to different destinations.

Occurrences on this page	6
Continue	▼
Continue	▼
Continue	▲
Link	
https://scalar.fas.harvard.edu/finding-your-way-through-finding-aids/reading-a-finding-aid	
↳ Open DevTools to view code snippet	
Continue	▼
Continue	▼
Continue	▼

How do I meet this criteria?

Use one of the following techniques from [WCAG 2](#):

1. [ARIA7](#) Using aria-labelledby for link purpose
2. [ARIA8](#) Using aria-label for link purpose

The “Continue” buttons featured on the website would benefit from additional text to let users know to which pages they are specifically navigating.

What's next? 2020 DSI Interns

Ensuring we can all participate

Share findings with relevant colleagues at Harvard Library

- a. Largely complete by the end of September 2020, though additional steps might become necessary, and we will be happy to continue sharing our work as it is useful to do so!

Share findings with the Scalar development community.

- a. Sharing real-world experience from users who understand the platform's strengths and want to see it become an even better service for communities of cultural heritage professionals.

We are open to suggestions for how best to share our findings with Scalar developers!

READING A FINDING AID

Continue

Thanks! Q & A

BEYOND PAPER IN FINDING AIDS

Digitized and Born-Digital Materials in Finding Aids