APPLY Your Knowledge

*20.*

*a.) In step 7, you entered a comment <!--close outerwrapper--> after the closing </div> tag. Why is a comment especially useful after a closing </div> tag?*

The <div> tag is a generic container. It is nonsemantic in that the tag itself does not carry meaning. As such, it is almost always accompanied by an id="something" attribute to identify its purpose and provide a means to style that individual <div> element. Adding a comment to the closing </div> tag that identifies the id attribute value helps the coder stay organized, and also makes the code easier to read and analyze.

*b.) What is the primary advantage of using an external versus embedded style sheet for the majority of your website styles?*

External styles can be linked to as many webpages as desired. By storing the majority of your styles in one external style sheet, updates and changes to the look and feel of the website can be quickly and accurately accomplished because only one file needs to be updated to change many pages.

*c.) In step 15, two <span> tags were given the same inline style. Why would you use inline styles versus embedded or external styles?*

Given the style applies to only two small spans on one page, either inline styles or a style written in the embedded style sheet would have worked in this situation. Generally speaking, however, if the style is specific to only one element on one page, an inline style is appropriate. If the style may be applied to more tags on the same page in the future, it would be more productive to code the style in the embedded style sheet of that page. If the style might be applied to more content on other webpages, it should be placed in the external style sheet.

EXTEND Your Knowledge

*19. [CT] In step 10 you modified the rules for the header as follows:*

nav, #content, footer { background-color: #4CA6FF;

padding: 10px;

}

header { background-color: #4CA6FF;

padding: 0 2% 2% 0; }

*Given that the same background-color rule is found in two areas, rewrite these rules so that the background-color property is referenced only once. (Hint: You will need to create three selectors to do this.).*

nav, #content, footer, header { background-color: #4CA6FF;}

nav, #content, footer { padding: 10px; }

header { padding: 0 2% 2% 0; }

*What is the benefit of listing the same declaration only once?*

The biggest benefit of listing the same declaration only once is that it is easier to maintain given the rule is listed only once and therefore if you wanted to change the color you would have to change it in only once place. Some would say that listing the same declaration only once also makes the code easier to read and analyze.

ANALYZE, CORRECT, IMPROVE

*After reviewing the 20 "best practices," comment on which of these practices you would like to understand better and why.*

Answers will vary, of course, but use these answers for lively in-class or online discussions, as a graded homework assignment, or as an interesting group project.

*After reviewing the links in the "Never stop learning" list item, comment on which of these sites you would like to explore further and why.*

As in the previous question, answers will vary, but use them for lively in-class or online discussions, as a graded homework assignment, or as an interesting group project.

In the Lab

Lab 1

*19. [CT] In step 13, you inserted class="floatleft" and class="floatright" attributes in your html page instead of id="floatleft" and id="floatright". Why?*

While either approach could have worked for this exercise, the use of the class attribute versus the id attribute is more appropriate because class="floatleft" can be inserted into many opening element tags whereas id="floatleft" can be used only once per page. If the webpage is updated down the road and you want or need to float other content, the two classes of floatleft and floatright are already available to use.

Lab 2

*18. [CT] Compare the selector of nav ul (step 11) to the selector of .boldtext, dt (step 13). One contains a comma and one does not. What is the significance of the comma?*

A selector with a comma applies the declarations to every item in the selector equally. In step 13, the font-weight:bold; declaration is applied equally to all content marked up by the class="boldtext" attribute or the dt element.

A selector without a comma is called a descendant selector. The nav ul selector means that only the ul content within the nav will be styled.

Lab 3

This exercise provides a summarized CSS "Cheat sheet" that students can refer to going forward.

Answers will vary but the student should write a sentence or two regarding each of the four webpages in this exercise. Answers might include insights or issues that you as the instructor may want to discuss further in class. Answers do not need to be extensive, but enough to prove that they have read and considered the subject of the webpage. Sample answers are shown below:

# Terminology

Is there a technical difference between the terms rule, style, and declaration?

# Syntax

I would like to learn more about reset code, especially as it relates to setting the margins of block content the same in all browsers.

# Declarations

I would like to know more about the best font names to use for various types of content on a webpage.

# Block Versus Inline

I would like to know more about how to position floated content to create multi-column webpages.

Consider this: your turn

Personal

*Go to* [*www.csszengarden.com*](http://www.csszengarden.com)*.*

Answers will vary, of course, but answers should show that the student navigated through several styles at [www.csszengarden.com](http://www.csszengarden.com) and downloaded both the html and at least one css file to study. You might have them turn in the html file and css file just to prove that they actually downloaded them.

Discussing what they learned could be an excellent in-class discussion. Answers might include:

* the extensive use of comments in both files
* the use of CSS3
* the use of the HTML5 <!DOCTYPE html> statement
* how the author grants permission (or not) to use the css file
* the use of a <div id="outerwrapper"> or <div id="page-wrapper"> outer container

Discussing what they still want to learn would also be an excellent in-class discussion. Answers might include:

* how to switch css files when the style name hyperlink is clicked.
* the use of new html5 elements such as article, aside, figure
* the use of new html5 attributes such as role
* the use of scripts in the html file
* the many meta tags in the head section
* the use of pseudoclasses such as a:link and a:hover in the css file
* the organization of the rules in the css file

Professional

*Why is it considered a "good practice" to add some sort of navigation bar to the bottom of web pages?*

A navigation bar at the bottom of webpages will help minimize scrolling for the user. This is especially important when the user is viewing the webpage through a smaller device such as a phone.

Collaboration

*Build a final external style sheet that includes the best features from each member of your team. Note the features you chose from each member.*

Answers will vary, of course, but the students should show that they analyzed and gave consideration to each team member's stylesheet. For example, the final external style sheet should include comments that show which rules came from each member of the team. For example: (See dogstyles04-solution.css)

Student 1: font face

Student 2: background and text colors

Student 3: floats, margins, centering

Student 4: horizontal nav bar