

## WDD 231

[Home](#)[W1](#)[W2](#)[W3](#)[W4](#)[W5](#)[W6](#)[W7](#)

# W01 Learning Activity: CSS Normalization

## Overview

Every browser and other user agents (such as bots or other programs) have default CSS properties for HTML elements. The goal with a **normalize** or **reset** CSS reference is to reduce browser inconsistencies in the default styling.

"Normalize.css makes browsers render all elements more consistently and in line with modern standards. It precisely targets only the styles that need normalizing."  
– Nicolas Gallagher, creator of Normalize.css

## Prepare

### Historically

CSS resets have been around for a long time. The first reset CSS file was created by Eric Meyer in 2007. It was a simple file that removed all default browser styling. Since then, many developers have created their own variations of reset CSS files. The most popular of these is **normalize.css**, created by Nicolas Gallagher in 2011. Normalize.css is a modern alternative to CSS resets that preserves useful default styles rather than just removing them.

### Current State

Browsers have come a long way in adhering to web standards. Default styles are more consistent across modern browsers.

Normalize.css is still relevant as it doesn't completely wipe out default styles, but rather normalizes them across browsers, preserving useful defaults.

Many CSS frameworks like Bootstrap and Tailwind CSS use some form of normalize or reset styles.

### Summary

The use of CSS normalization and reset is **opinionated**. This means its benefits and shortcomings can be debated among professionals. Depending upon the application, some level of using normalization or reset may be beneficial. You may

need to support legacy browsers or you may have highly customized designs that need pixel-perfect control and cross-browser consistency.

Watch [CSS Normalization and Reset](#)

How does [newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org](https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org) use CSS normalization/reset.

## Activity Instructions

In this activity, you will create your own normalize CSS file and include it on your site.


1. Create a **normalize.css** file located in your wdd231 root **styles** folder.
2. Use the following code reference and copy the CSS into your file. [Nicolas Gallagher's – normalize.css](#)
3. Apply the CSS by including the **link** in the **head** of a page. For example, this line of code would be included before any other CSS link reference.

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

► **IMPORTANT CONCEPT: Why should this CSS reference precede all the other CSS references?**

4. An **alternative** to hosting your own normalize or reset CSS file is to use a content delivery network (CDN) reference.  
This particular reference has minimized the "normalize.css" file as indicated by the .min in the file name.

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="https://cdnjs.cloudflare.com/ajax/libs/norm
```

◀  ▶  
[Take a look at the file](#) and see how difficult it is to read for humans but completely usable by the browser.

► **What does minimizing mean when it comes to web file optimization?**

## Optional Resources

[CSS Cascade and Inheritance](#) – MDN

[What is a CDN \(Content Delivery Network\)?](#) - AWS

**Back**

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