**Front-end Web Design**

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Assignment 2: CSS Rationale

This assessment piece was my first encounter with using CSS to style html content on a website. One of the first realizations I had regarding this task after the submission of the first assignment was that, due to the use of a Meyer on a separate CSS stylesheet, any of the spacing or stylistic choices made in html were erased, leaving a blank canvas of content. This initially posed a challenge in learning how to position and create space around elements and tags by using selectors, and consequently engaging in the use of margins, padding and borders. By changing the properties and values of selectors in CSS, I was able to transform what was a very blocky and dense page of information into something more navigable, aesthetically sound and user friendly. Another stylistic choice for the page was to make the text sans-serif to increase readability.

While it was not used in the first assessment for the purpose of keeping the html semantically accurate, <div> tags were added to the html sheet during this task to allocate containers or wrappers to specific blocks of information. This is what allowed me to float images and captions to the right of body paragraph text, and vary the stylistic qualities of elements due to the cascading format of CSS. An example of this is the inclusion of the property and value ‘text-align: justify’ within the *main* selector in order to have the paragraphs in the body of the website fit to the designated 960px, which is overridden in a container lower on the CSS page in ‘.img\_to\_right p’ selector to avoid line breaks and hyphenation in the text.

A challenge that I faced during this task was continuing to identify the difference between class and id attributes in order to create selectors in CSS, and making sure not to have these confused with the id’s already created during previous weeks for the sake of having href attributes for the menu bar in the header of the web page. This was something that I was continually conscious of throughout the completion of the task, and will carry into future work with web design, and made me realise the importance of placing notes for the creator into the sheets.

There were a few goals that I set out for the creation of this site that I worked to achieve. These included varying the weight, style and colour text to make the site easier to read, and give headings their appropriate size percentage, using a colour consistent colour scheme, and setting the menu bar horizontally to sit within the header of the page.

**Some additional resources that helped me in the development of the CSS task are included below:**

* Coyier, C. (2008). *The Difference Between ID and Class*. Retrieved from <https://css-tricks.com/the-difference-between-id-and-class/>
* W3schools. (2019). *CSS layout – float and clear*. Retrieved from <https://www.w3schools.com/css/css_float.asp>