Assessment 3 Context

So far, we have been developing our Web pages using HTML5 and then stylizing the content using CSS3. The last step is to focus on positioning our HTML elements on our Web page how we would like them to be. However, it is important that we consider all of our users as we design our layouts. Using a fixed width layout in which all of the elements and containers have a specific width can be too limiting.

Liquid layouts are a series of rules that we can apply to rules on the page until we change the Web page size. They also come into effect when our visitors may use different mobile devices, tablets, laptops, and desktops to visit our site. We cannot predict what our visitors will be navigating our site with so we cannot simply design for one optimal page size for all users.

Being that there are so many varying browser widths that can be displayed, if we used a fixed width that is too large, some visitors will have to scroll horizontally on the page just to read content. On the other hand, if we set the fixed width to be too small, visitors on larger browsers will only have their content displayed on a small section of the page. To get around this, we will apply liquid layouts using CSS on our page.

The liquid layout will help expand or contract all of the elements of the page to the entire width that the browser window is sized to. To do this, all of the containers on the page should have their widths defined using percentages rather than fixed widths (px). By giving our visitors a bit more control of the layout of the page, it will make our user interface to be more flexible.

CSS3 has a new layout mode that uses this liquid layout model that you can also use although it is a bit more complex to apply. It may be an option that you will want to explore further.

In your content areas, typically we want to use tags to add in content to arrange your layout. The tags are block-level elements so by default, they will take up 100 percent of the available width within the container that it is located in. Using CSS, we will be able to control how they are stacked together in terms of columns and rows.