DMIT 1530

Week 1 CSS Refresher HTML on its own is ... functional, but not great. HTML is a glorified labelling system. All it does is tell a browser what things are. CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) is a bunch of rules that tells the browser how all of those things should look and how they should be laid out.

CSS Basics

cf. CSS acids

There are a few ways we can include CSS in our code. However, only one of them isn't trash.

We'll be using external stylesheets for this course.

External stylesheets are a separate file that we point to in the <head> of our HTML.

It's cleaner, easier to maintain, and allows us to control the look and feel of multiple pages at once.

But what about the CSS itself?

In CSS, we need to select it to affect it. All we're doing is selecting something we want to change and then applying some rules to it.

p { color: red; }

/* This selects every paragraph
element in the document and makes
 the text colour red. */

selector The thing we want to affect with our rule.

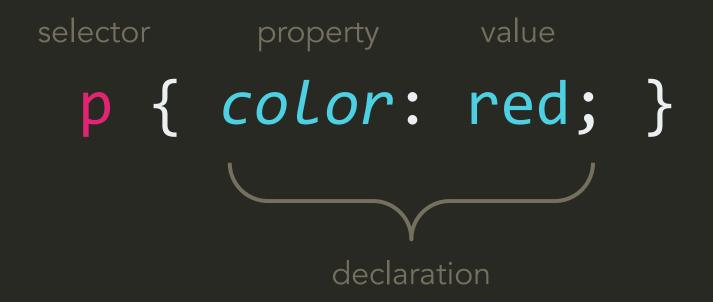
property The characteristic about the selector we want to change.

value

What we want to set the property to.

declaration

Together, the property and its value make a declaration. You need to include both things for your rule to work.



Syntax Matters

After your selector, everything needs to be inside opening and closing { curly braces }.

The property and value must be separated by a colon.

Every declaration must end in a semicolon.

Selector Types

It turns out that I have a lot of types, but others are a little more selective.

multiple element selectors

Just like the name implies, these bad boys select more than one thing at once. This can keep you from repeating the same rules over and over again.

All you need to do is add a comma between your selectors.

```
h1, h2 {
   font-family: 'Avenir', sans-serif;
}
```

descendant selectors

Descendant selectors let you target a nested element. Starting with the outermost element, work all the way down to the innermost element.

If you add a space between your elements, your browser will assume that the element is a child of the previous one.

```
header nav ul li a {
    text-decoration: none;
}
```

class selectors

Class selectors target an element with a specified class applied to it. In the example below, only paragraphs with a class called 'intro' will be bolded.

```
p.intro {
    font-weight: 800;
}
```

pseudo-class selectors

Pseudo-class selectors will affect an element only when a certain condition has been met. For example, this condition can something that the user does.

```
a:hover {
    text-decoration: underline;
}
```

nth-child() pseudo-class selector

The nth-child pseudo-class selector targets an element based upon the order that it's in. In the example below, the third list item will turn blue.

```
li:nth-child(3) {
    color: blue;
}
```

The Cascade

I really feel for students who haven't had me before and aren't prepared for the barrage of dad jokes. What is the cascade part of Cascading Style Sheets?

Some designers like to think of it like a waterfall, where everything at the bottom takes precedence.

The cascade means that when there are conflicting rules, the rule written last will be rendered last.

The last rule written is the last rule standing.

However, the specificity of a selector can override the cascade.



I like to think of all of this as a <u>Battle Royale</u>.