

## KEY IN-CLASS STUDENT ACTIVITY 3.1: UNDERSTAND THE CORE CSS CONCEPTS

### Lesson Objective 3.1:

Understand the core CSS concepts.

### Resources, software, and additional files needed for this lesson:

1. None.

### Guiding questions:

1. **Why is it important to separate style from content?** Separating style from content drastically reduces the developer's work in ensuring consistency and repetition in a website. It allows for font, color, positioning, and other styles to be changed in one place and reflected on all of the pages in the site.
2. **How does CSS manage positioning elements on a page?** When CSS is used to define the position of elements on a web page, it uses the CSS Box Model to define the padding, border, and margin. CSS also defines whether the elements are placed in an absolute position or a relative position.
3. **How does CSS apply presentation to content?** CSS uses both HTML tag names and ids to work together to apply style to the HTML content.

### Student activity:

#### Directions to the student:

Read the following scenario and answer the questions. Verify your answers with the instructor.

#### Scenario:

The local school system just finished a feasibility study and is planning to combine the two existing high schools into one new high school. The new school name, school colors, and school mascot will be selected by the students.

Nevon Sokec, a self-employed web developer, was contacted by the school to provide a cost estimate for updating the style of the school website. Nevon knows that the work involved in redesigning the website should not be difficult or time consuming if the original webmaster used external Cascading Style Sheets. Nevon has a meeting next week to get more information so he can provide an accurate estimate.

#### Content:

1. Why is it important to find out if the current site was developed using external Cascading Style Sheets?  
**If the style is not separated from the content, every page on the website will have to update for the new name, color scheme, and font.**
2. What other questions should Nevon ask at the meeting?

**Answers will vary, but they should include:**

**How many pages are in the site?**

**What is the timeframe for completing the work?**

3. If the current website does not separate content from style, what basic CSS style elements should Nevon start with when redesigning the site?

**Answers will vary, but should include the basic formatting tags such as body and heading tags (h1-h6). He should also review pages for any inline styles or internal style sheets (located in the head section of the page).**

4. Create a web page that provides a book review of a book you have read recently. Do not add any inline styles to the page. Include at least a header, section, and footer tag in the HTML.
5. Attach an external CSS file that provides a background color for the page; add header, section, and footer selectors that change the font to a sans-serif font and an appropriate color given the new background.

**Answers will vary. Evaluate upon correct CSS formatting.**