

KEY IN-CLASS STUDENT ACTIVITY 3.3: MANAGE THE FLOW OF TEXT CONTENT BY USING CS

Lesson Objective 3.3:

Manage the flow of text content by using CSS.

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

1. Microsoft® Expression® Web 4 (preferred), Microsoft Visual Studio®, or Notepad. If available, use a different browser, such as Firefox or Safari, that supports most of the new CSS3 properties. (These properties are scheduled to be included in Microsoft Internet® Explorer 10.)

Guiding questions:

1. **How can a website with Cascading Style Sheets 3 (CSS3) be used to display text for an online magazine or newspaper?** CSS3 provides new styling techniques that allow the developer to separate the content from the container and only combine them for presentation. This is done by using regions and multi-column display. The developer must provide an HTML page with the content, which is then merged with an HTML page that has regions defined as the receiving containers on the page. This automatically resizes based on the user's graphics device.
2. **Without using the new region or multi-column properties, how can a developer get continuous text to display in multiple columns?** The developer must manually place the text in each layer or table column on the page, causing the text to be static in that cell or layer. This can cause problems when the user wants to zoom in or if the user does not have the correct fonts installed.
3. **What new CSS3 properties can help when the words are too long to fit in the content container?** Using the new hyphenation properties allows the developer to work without concern for where words are split on the page. Instead, the browser uses a built-in dictionary and provides hyphenation when needed.

Student activity:

Directions to the student:

Read the following scenario, answer the questions, and use the new CSS region and multi-column styles to create a fluid web page. Verify your answers with the instructor.

Scenario:

Diane Forsyth and Ann Wallace, who are seniors in high school, have just finished learning about HTML5. Part of their final project was to create a lesson on some of the new and exciting HTML5 tags.

Both Diane and Ann are on the school newspaper staff. The paper includes articles from the journalism class and photos from the digital photography club. The paper is created only four times a year due to the high cost of printing copies for every student.

After finishing their web development class, Diane and Ann proposed to the newspaper editor that the school paper become an online newspaper. The new format would allow it be updated more frequently and made available to students, parents, and the community.

Content:

1. Create a master page that includes the layout for the newspaper content with regions for the articles and images.

Answers may vary – use the demonstration files as a starting point.

2. Use events happening at your own school to create the HTML content page.

Answers may vary.

3. Use the new CSS3 properties to set up the newspaper online. Use region selectors or columns to organize the data on the page.

Answers may vary.

4. Test and make changes as necessary until the newspaper is ready to go live.

Answers may vary, but the user should be able to resize the screen, and the text should automatically move to and from other regions.