

## CS 328 CSS Coding Standards so far

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- You are expected to use **normalize.css** for your documents.
  - You may change that link from `html-template.html` to point to a different copy of `normalize.css`, however, if you prefer.
  - Place any additional **link** elements for additional external style sheet(s) **after** the **link** element for **normalize.css** (but still **within** the **head** element).
- Except for `normalize.css`, you may **not** use any CSS frameworks or predefined libraries unless you get **prior, explicit** approval. One of this course's purposes is to provide you with some practice with the basics of "plain" CSS.
- We will be focusing on **CSS external stylesheets** in CS 328. (You will get sufficient exposure to internal and inline styles in zyBooks exercises, and it is a good habit to get used to using external stylesheets instead.)
  - So note that, for CSS 328 non-zyBooks assignments, you may **not** use internal or inline CSS styles (unless you have a VERY good reason for which you have requested *prior, explicit* approval).
  - (If you do ever receive approval to use an internal CSS style, note that a `style` element is expected to be in the `head` element.)
- When using a CSS external stylesheet for a document, you are expected to use the following **link** element, placed within the `head` element:

```
<link href="url-of-css-file" type="text/css" rel="stylesheet" />
```

(It is perfectly fine to write this across more than 1 line if the external CSS file's URL is long.)
- You are expected to write valid CSS for CS 328.
  - Your external CSS files should validate using the W3C CSS Validator at <https://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/>.
- From **Homework 6** onward, you are expected to use foreground and background colors that are at least WCAG 2 AA Compliant based on the tester at: [https://snook.ca/technical/colour\\_contrast/colour.html](https://snook.ca/technical/colour_contrast/colour.html)
- Remember that CSS property names should always be all-lowercase.
- CS 328 CSS rule style standards:
  - no **property: value;** declaration(s) should be on the same line as a rule's selector(s)
  - each **property: value;** declaration within the rule should be indented by 3 or more spaces, and lined up even with the others within that rule
  - only put ONE **property: value;** declaration per line
  - even though it is not syntactically required, put a semicolon after the last **property: value;**

declaration within a rule

– for example:

```
p.centered
{
    text-align: center;
    color: red;
}
```

- If you give a value for property **font-family** in a rule, include a **generic** font family as one of the options. For example,

```
p.even_steven
{
    font-family: "Courier New", monospace;
}
```

- Because a class goal is to work toward responsive design, use relative units for sizes instead of absolute units -- for example, use units such as **em** or **%** instead of **px** or **pts**
  - (Note: this is not to imply that this is all there is to responsive design, by a long shot -- I understand there are whole books devoted to this -- BUT it is a small step in the right direction, I hope.)
- HTML forms should not use the `table` element for layout purposes -- CSS should be used for such layout instead. The `table` element should be only used for truly-tabular data.