

## Week 1:

This is a two-week assignment [Week 1 and Week 2].

There is no class on February 10th; I will be out of town at a conference.

You will have a presentation of this assignment on February 17th.

These topics are covered on webpages `classlinks_week1.html` and `classlinks_week2.html` in the handouts folders

### TOPICS:

Advantages of CSS; separating appearance from structure, semantic markup  
Browser issues: development browsers [MoSE, Mozilla/Opera/Safari]  
graceful degradation vs. progressive enhancement  
Using WebDeveloper and Firebug in Firefox, other Web tools  
The 'Zen Garden' approach: semantic documents, page hierarchy & the csszen unstyled doc  
**The Color Box Technique, step-by-step**

#### CSS REVIEW topics:

using a doctype, core XHTML page and basic CSS  
naming conventions, organizing files/folders, commenting code, ordering your CSS  
units of measure: px, %, em  
block level and inline elements: divs and spans  
CSS selector syntax  
stylesheets: import, link, internal  
The Box Model, collapsing margins  
the flow of the document, absolute and relative positioning  
typical 2 and 3 column fixed layouts [centered]

### ASSIGNMENT for WEEKS 1 & 2: COLOR BOX LAYOUT

use the Color Box method to create a new layout for the ZenCSS document text  
create a 2 or 3-column fixed-size design [background colors ONLY, NO images]  
FIRST: map your layout out on paper, showing dimensions and relationship of each DIV

**You must use the zencss html file; you can't add or remove any elements**  
**Use DIVS for the container, intro [page header, quicksummary, preamble], supporting-Text, and links following the nesting of the original document**

[go to <http://blog.html.it/layoutgala/> for help with column layouts]

- be sure that your XHTML file has a DOCTYPE declared
- use the **existing** ZenCSS DIV names to define your containers: don't add or subtract
- give containers **dimension** and **position**
- add a color background to the DIVS [and any other block level elements] to see the layout
- drop in the text content from the zen html document
- style the fonts [use only basic font styling]
- adjust sizes and positioning
- keep your styles in an internal style sheet in the html
- organize your CSS document following good practices with dividers and commenting

If you are having a problem with the complexity of the Zen CSS file use this file in the handouts: `csszen_strip1.html`. It's the same file with the access key formatting removed.

**test your page by viewing in 2 browsers**

**[Copy your page and .css file to your folder on the server for Week 3 BEFORE class**

### Links:

<http://www.csszengarden.com/>

<http://www.maxdesign.com.au/presentation/process/>

<http://www.dezwozhere.com/links.html>

<http://lorelle.wordpress.com/2005/10/10/html-css-php-and-more-cheat-sheets/>  
**pages of links/resources**

<http://www.hotdesign.com/seybold/>

**Why Tables for Layout are Stupid**

<http://tantek.com/presentations/2005/09/elements-of-xhtml>  
**Review HTML & CSS principles.**

**For live links to web resources, go to the class web page:**

<http://www.annetteweintraub.com/courses/49540/49540.html>

## Review the links on the Weeks 1 & 2 class links files

### Reading, CSS Missing Manual, Weeks 1 & 2:

**Introduction:** Benefits of CSS, document basics [HTML barebones, XHTML syntax and doc-types], pp 2-9; Versions of CSS p. 8

**Chapter 1** Writing HTML for CSS, pp.20-27  
structure, HTML to forget, Tips to Guide Your Way, the Doctype, quirks mode

**Chapter 2:** Creating Styles and Style Sheets: pp 31-38 + tutorial pp39-47  
Selector formats, Internal or external stylesheets [also p70], Linking or importing, validating CSS, Caching, Inline styles

### FOR REFERENCE/REVIEW of Web 1

**Chapter 3:** Selector Basics: Identifying What to Style: p 49-69 + Tutorial pp 70-80  
Tag selectors, Class selectors, Divs & Spans p 54, ID selectors, Descendent selectors, Styling groups of tags, Universal selector, Pseudo-classes p 61. Syntax for the selectors is in the tutorial section

**Chapter 7:** Margins, Padding and Borders pp 151-175 + tutorial pp 175-186  
Box Model, margin & padding, collapsing margins, negative margins, inline and block-level boxes, s, background color, width and height [including maximum and minimum], float, building a sidebar pp 181-184

### **Chapter 13:** Positioning Elements on a Web Page pp 355-385 + Tutorial pp386-392 **[Continued on weeks 3, 4, 5 and 6]**

absolute, relative, fixed and static positioning, when absolute positioning is relative, when and where to use relative positioning,  
stacking elements, visibility, positioning within an element,  
breaking an element out of a box,  
Creating CSS-style frames using fixed positioning

**See tutorial for examples of:** using a fixed element to break out of a box, adding a caption to a photo, absolute-positioned 3-column layout

**Chapter 15:** Improving your CSS habits, pp415-435  
comments, organizing styles and style sheets,  
using multiple classes on same tag, organize by grouping, tools [webdev],  
descendent selectors, compartmentalizing pages,  
identify the body [add class or ID to <body>  
progressive enhancement/designing for contemporary browsers first.