Web Technologies and Programming

Lecture 12

Introduction to Cascading Style-sheets (CSS)

Summary of previous lecture

- New attributes to existing form elements
  - The required attribute
  - The placeholder attribute
  - The pattern attribute (Writing Regular Expression)
  - The disabled attribute
  - The read only attribute
  - The autocomplete attribute
  - New form elements in HTML5

Summary of previous lecture

- **New form elements in HTML5**
  - **The datalist element**
  - **Email element**
  - **Date element**
  - **Number element**
  - **Color element**

- **XHTML is the strict form of HTML**

Outline

- **Understand the basics of CSS (Cascading Style Sheets)**
- **Understand the differences among inline, internal and external style sheets**
- **Understand the difference between ids and classes.**
- **Understand how to declare a style.**

1. Cascading style sheets

- CSS is a stylesheet language that describes the presentation of an HTML (or XML) document.

- CSS describes how elements must be rendered on screen, on paper, or in other media.

1. Cascading style sheets

- Created by Hakon Lie of MIT in 1994
- Has become the W3C standard for controlling visual presentation of web pages
- Cascading style-sheets are powerful mechanism to add style to web document
- Enforce standards and uniformity
- Create dynamic effects
- Works by allowing you to specify rules

1. Cascading Style Sheet

- All web pages can be broken down into bucketed content areas
- We can change the presentation styles of these areas.
- We can update these areas by changing the code on every page

- or -

- We can use cascading style sheets!

1. Cascading Style Sheet

- **CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) is a style sheet language that describes the presentation style of an HTML Page.**
- **It describes how HTML elements must be rendered/displayed on screen.**

1.1 Versions of CSS

- **CSS 1 - Released in 1996**
  - **Spotty Netscape 4.x support**
    - **Netscape pushed their own style sheet language**
  - **IE 4.x was fully CSS1 compliant**
  - **Result: if you have users using Netscape 4.x then use CSSes with care!**
    - **Always test with both browsers!**
  - **Limitations of CSS1**
    - **Has almost no support for tables**
    - **Makes no provision for downloadable fonts**
    - **Lack of media types**

1.1 Versions of CSS

- **CSS 2**
  - **Released in 1998**
  - Extends CSS1
  - **IE 5.x**+ supports most, but not all CSS2 features
  - **Netscape 6.x** claims “unsurpassed support” for CSS1 and CSS2
  - **Mozilla 1.x** is generally considered to have the best CSS support

1.1 Versions of CSS

- **CSS 3**
  - **Draft Published in 1999,** Released in 2012.
  - **Backward Compatible** with CSS2 and CSS1.
  - **CSS3 has been split into different modules.**
  - **It also contains Old CSS** Specification. But some old CSS tags has been removed in this version.
  - **Fully Supported** in only modern browsers like Google Chrome, Internet Explorer 11 etc.

1.2 Why use CSS ?

- **Separation of document from presentation.**
- **Saves time.**
- **Consistency**
- **Easy to change.**
- **Keep consistency.**
- **Rich Design and Layout**
- **Give you more control over layout.**
- **Accessibility.**
- **Use styles with JavaScript.**
- **Make it easy to create a common format for all the Web pages.**

1.2 Disadvantages of CSS ?

- **The only disadvantage that can be assigned to CSS is non-compatibility with all internet browsers**
- **Surveys says that today 85% of users are able to see pages that use CSS, while the others are not**

2. CSS Syntax

- The general syntax is:
  - selector {property: value}
  - or
  - selector, ..., selector {
    property: value;
    . . .
    property: value
    }
- where
- selector is the tag to be affected (the selector is case-sensitive if and only if the document language is case-sensitive)
- property and value describe the appearance of that tag
- spaces after colons and semicolons are optional
- a semicolon must be used between property:value pairs, but a semicolon after the last pair is optional
- if the value is multiple words, put quotes around the value

2. CSS Syntax

- **CSS syntax is very simple -- it's just a file containing a list of selectors (to choose tags) and descriptors (to tell what to do with them):**
  - **Example: h1 {color: green; font-family: Verdana} says that everything included in h1 (HTML heading level 1) tags should be in the Verdana font and colored green**
- **A CSS file is just a list of these selector/descriptor pairs**
  - **Selectors may be simple HTML tags or XML tags, but CSS also defines some ways to combine tags**
  - **Descriptors are defined in CSS itself, and there is quite a long list of them**

2. CSS Syntax (Examples)

- /* This is a comment */
- h1,h2,h3 {font-family: Arial, sans-serif;} /* use 1st available font */
- p, table, li, address { /* apply to all these tags */
  font-family: "Courier New"; /* quote values containing spaces */
  */
  margin-left: 15pt; /* specify indentation */
  }
- p, li, th, td {font-size: 80%;} /* 80% of size in containing element */
- th {background-color:#FAEBD7} /* colors can be specified in hex */
- body { background-color: #ffffff;}
- h1,h2,h3,hr {color:brown;} /* adds to what we said before */
- a:link {color:darkred} /* an unvisited link */
- a:visited {color:darkred} /* a link that has been visited */
- a:active {color:red} /* a link now being visited */
- a:hover {color:red} /* when the mouse hovers over it */

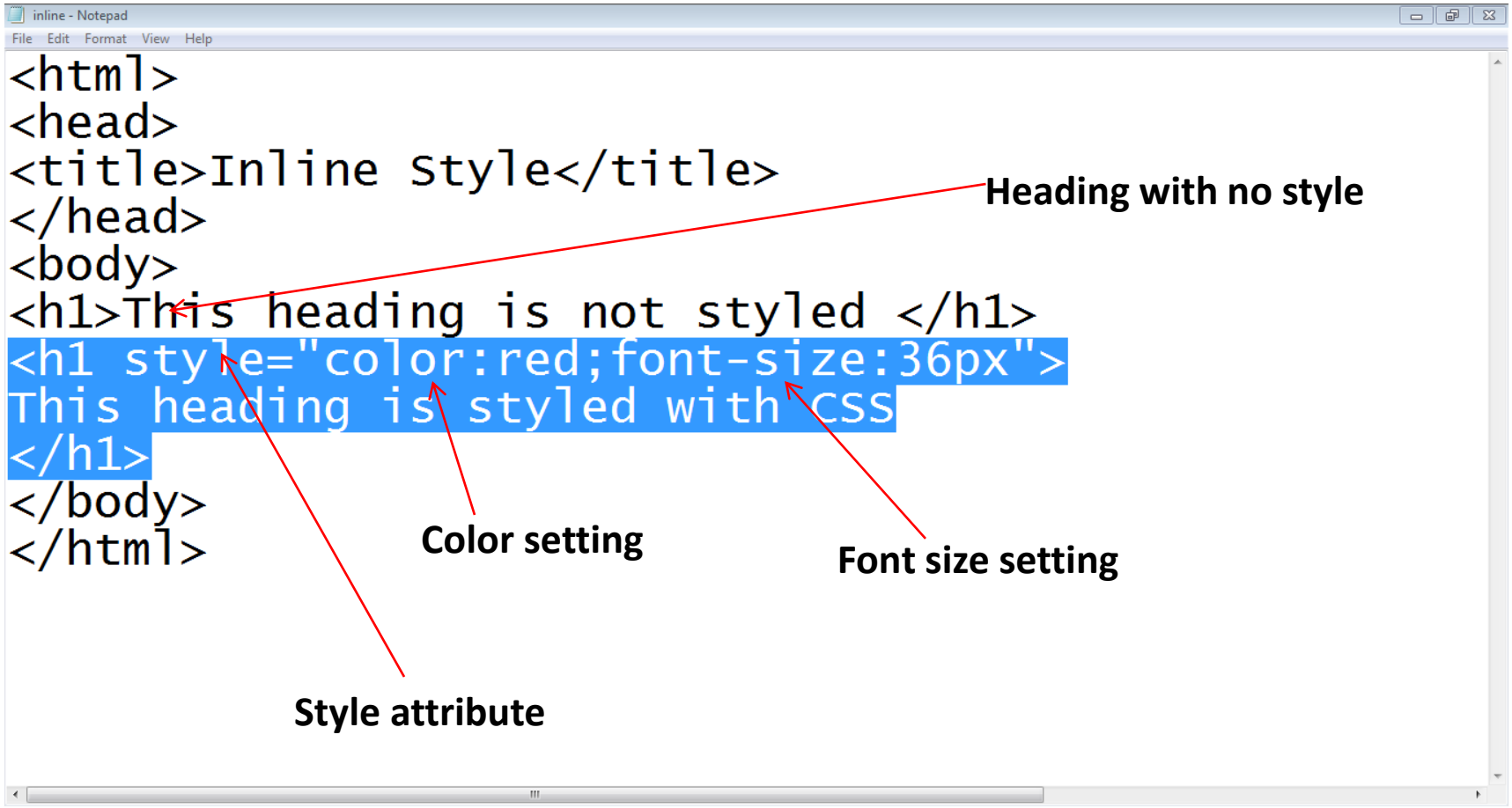
3. Writing Style Sheets

- **In-line styles**
- **Embedded/internal styles**
- **External style sheet**

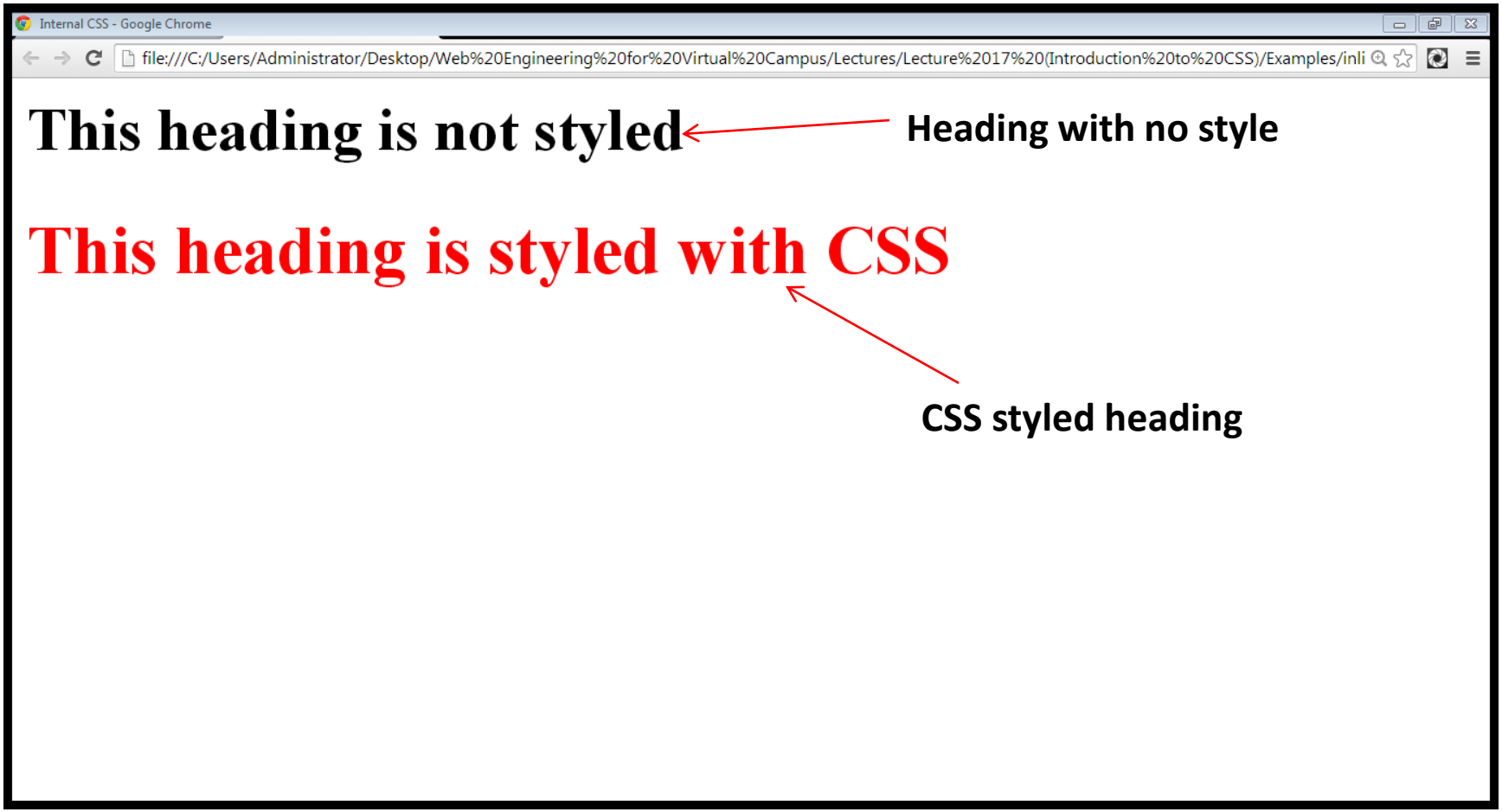
3.1 In-line Styles

- **Inline styles**
  - **Add styles to each tag within the HTML file**
  - **Use it when you need to format just a single section in a web page**
  - **Style attribute is used to add style**
- **Example**
  - **<h1 style="color:red; font-family: sans-sarif" > IU </h1>**

3.1 In-line Styles…



3.1 In-line Styles…



3.1 In-line Styles

- **Advantage:**
  - **Useful if you only want a small amount of markup**
- **Disadvantages:**
  - **Mixes display information into HTML**
  - **Clutters (mixed) up HTML code**
  - **Can't use full range of CSS features since contextual selectors, for example, like lib{color:green} may not be specifiable inline.**

3.1 In-line Styles

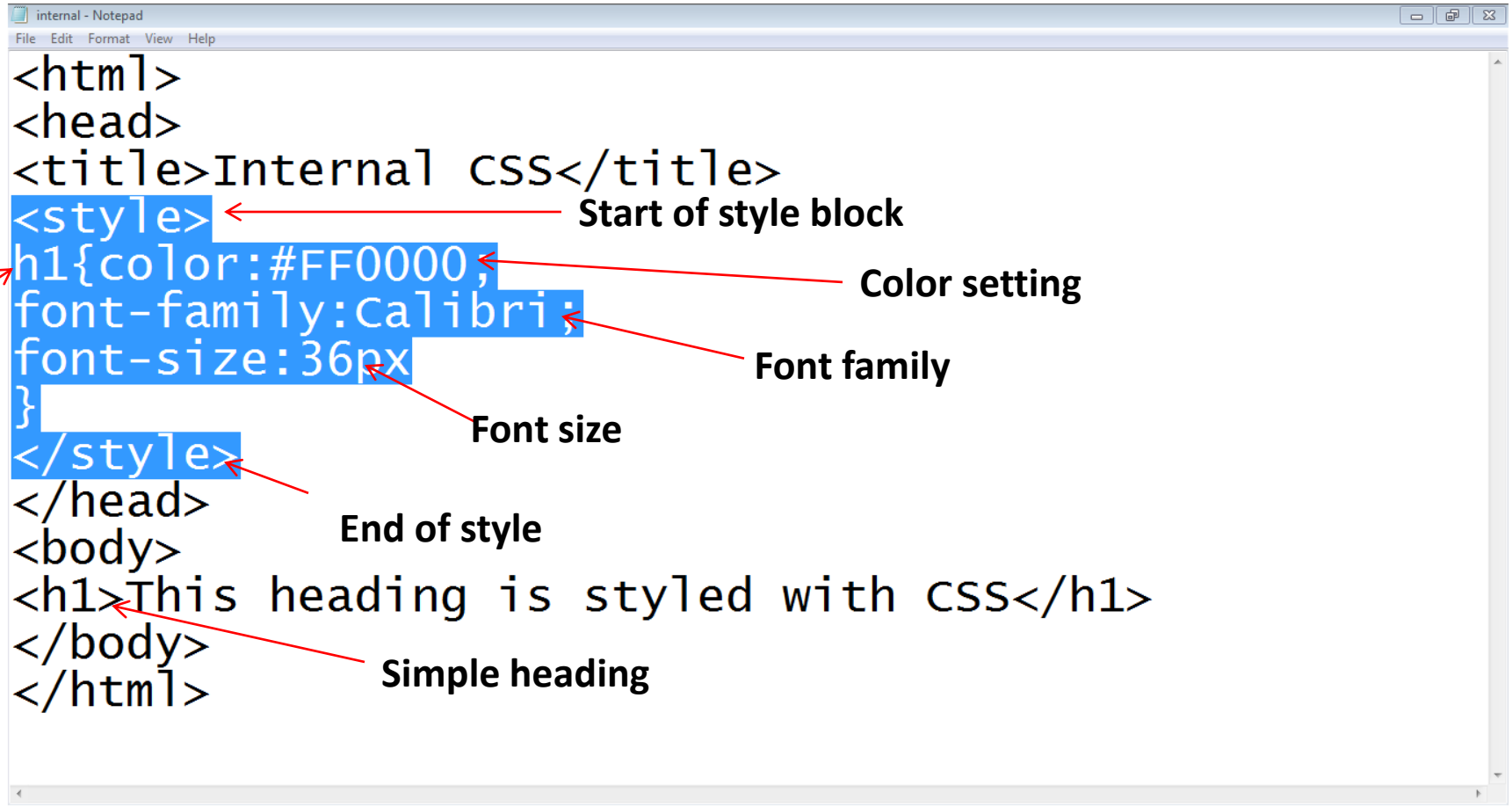
- **Disadvantages:**
  - **Handling multiple attributes**
    - **HTML: Use one or more spaces or lines to separate attributes in the same tag**
    - **CSS: Separate attributes with a single semicolon (spaces and extra lines optional)**
  - **Linking attributes with their values**
    - **HTML: attribute="attribute-value"**
    - **CSS: attribute:attribute-value**

3.2 Internal Styles

- A style is applied to the entire HTML file
- Use it when you need to modify all instances of particular element (e.g., h1) in a web page
- Example

```
<style>
 h1 {color:red; font-family:sans-serif}
</style>
```

3.2 Internal Styles…



3.2 Internal Styles…

3.2 Internal Styles…

Must be inside <head> section

```
<head>
   <title>Cascading Style Sheets</title>
   <style>
      h2,h3 {color:green; font-family:sans-serif}
      h4,h5,h6 {color:blue; font-family:sans-serif}
   </style>
</head>
```

Note use of brackets

Allows one style to be applied simultaneously to many tags

3.3 External Styles

- An external style sheet is a text file containing the style definition (declaration)
- Use it when you need to control the style for an entire web site
- Advantage: allows you to apply the same style easily to multiple HTML files
  - A convenient way to give a site a standard "look and feel"

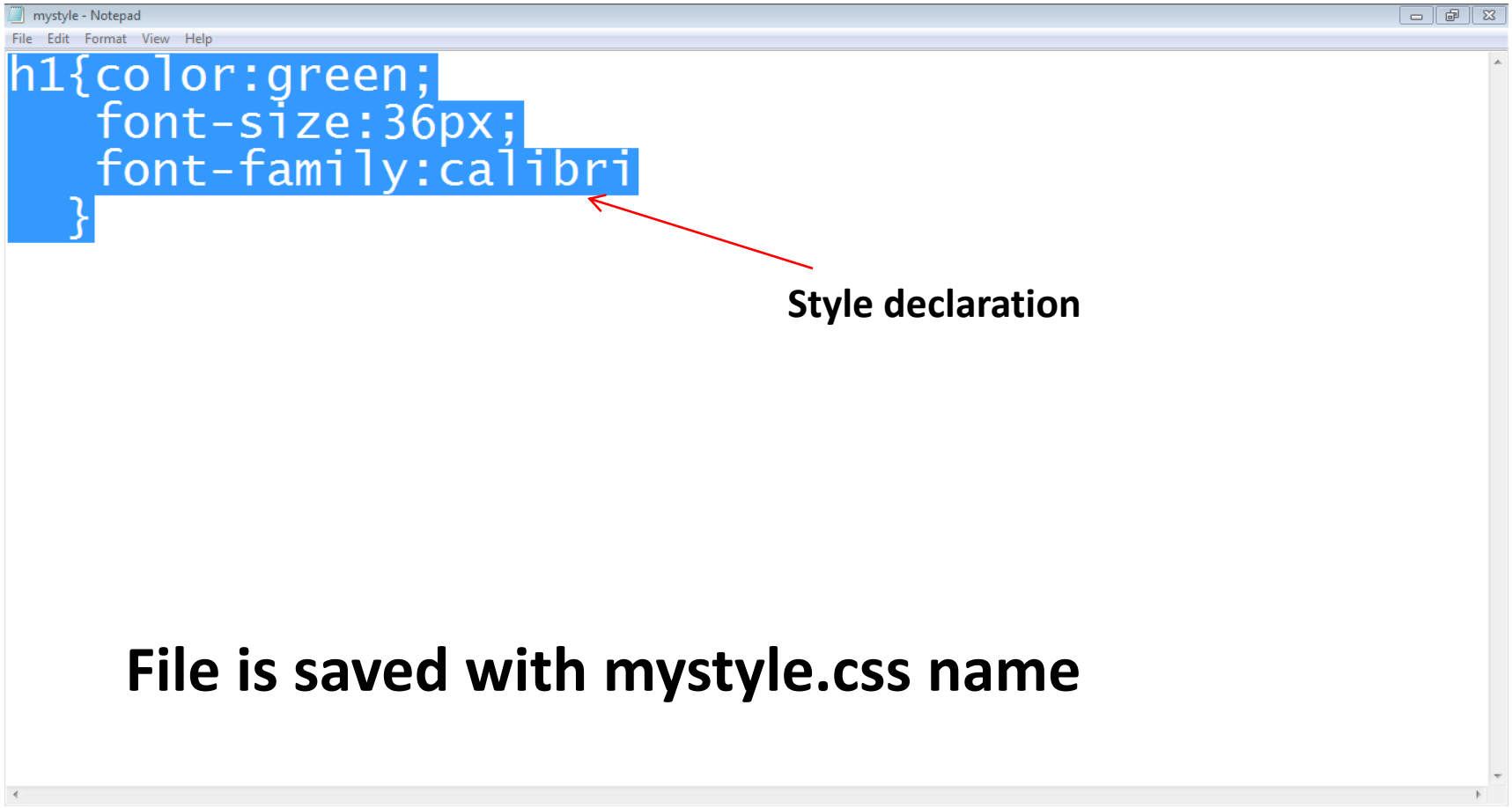
3.3 External Styles…

- Open a new blank document in Notepad
- Type style declarations
  - h1 {color:red; font-family:calibri;}
- Do not include <style> tags
- Save the document as <filename>.css

3.3 External Styles…

- Open an HTML file
- Between <head> and </head> add
  - <link href=URL rel="relation_type" type="link_type">
    - URL is the file.css
    - Relation_type="stylesheet"
    - Link_type="text/css"
- Save this file and the .css file in the same web server directory

3.3 External Styles…



File is saved with mystyle.css name

3.3 External Styles…

external - Notepad

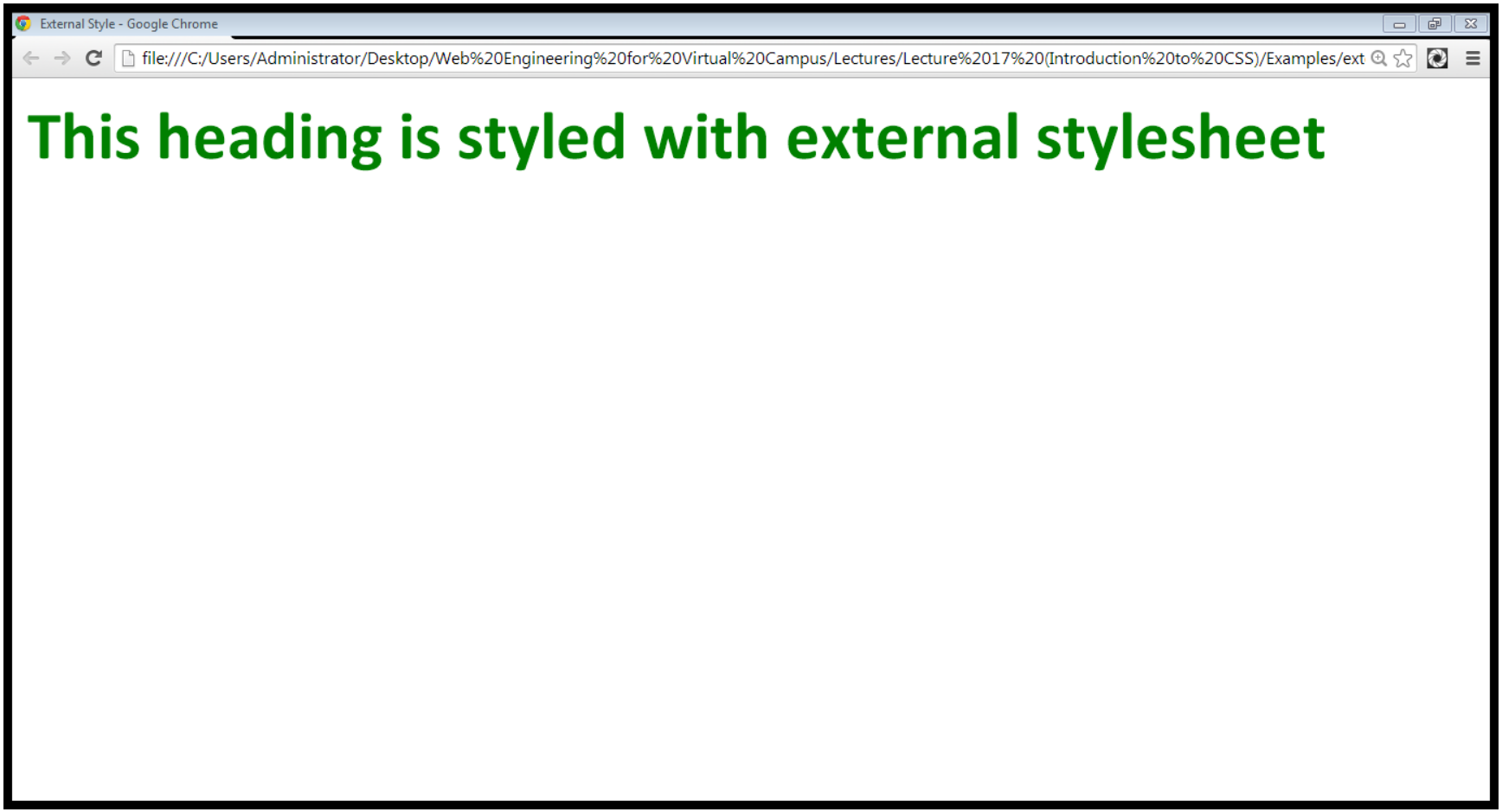
File Edit Format View Help

```
<html>
<head>
<title>External Style</title>
<link href="mystyle.css" rel="stylesheet"
type="text/css">
</head>
<body>
<h1>This heading is styled with external
stylesheet</h1>
</body>
</html>
```

Style-sheet is included

Heading

3.3 External Styles…



3.4 External Styles Referencing…

- **Reference in your HTML**
  - `<link>` : HTML Tag
  - `@import` : A Command

3.4.1 Reference With <Link>

- **<link> can be used to reference external files other than a CSS**
- **Link syntax:**
  - <link href="url" rel="relation_type" type="link_type"> … </link>
- **Link attributes**
  - href: location of the external file
  - rel: must be "stylesheet" to tell HTML the link is for a stylesheet
  - type: usually "text/css", the MIME type needed to download the file

3.4.1 Reference With <Link>

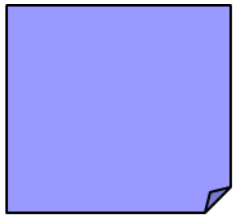
```
<head>
        <title>Cascading Style Sheets</title>
        <link href="css-2.css" rel="stylesheet"
        type="text/css" />
</head>
```

3.4.2 Reference With @import

- Can be used in the <style> tag, or used in a .css file by itself as a CSS command
- **Essentially allows for multiple inheritance of style sheets attributes**
  - **For example**, a subside style sheet may override a general site style sheet
  - An HTML page may override the sub site's style sheet
- **Can’t be used with Netscape 4.x**
  - Supported by HTML 4.0 browsers only

3.4.2 Reference With @import

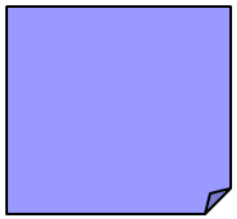
Site.css



```
h1 {color:brown; font-family:sans-serif}
… other styles ...
```

inherit

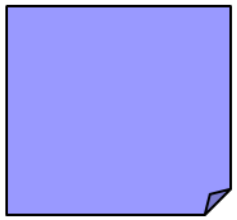
Subsite.css
(Inherits styles and overrides some styles)



```
@import url(Site.css)
h1 {color:green; font-family:Monotype}
… other styles ...
```

inherit

MyHTML.htm
(Inherits Subsite.css styles and overrides some styles)



```
<style>
   @import url(Subsite.css)
   h1 {color:red; font-family:cursive}
</style>
```

4. CSS Precedence Order.

- **What style will be used when there is more than one style specified for an HTML element?**
  - **styles will "cascade" into a new "virtual" Style Sheet by the following rules (number four has the highest priority):**
    - **Browser default**
    - **External Style Sheet**
    - **Internal Style Sheet**
    - **Inline Style**

5. Using Ides

- **Use an id to distinguish something, like a paragraph, from the others in a document**

- **The id selector is used to specify a style for a single, unique element**

6. Using Ides…

- **Create a style Id:**
  - **#iDonate {style attributes and values}**

- **Use a style Id:**
  - **<tag ID=id_name>**

6. Using Id,s…

id - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Using ID</title>
<style>
p{color:red}
#p1{color:blue}
</style>
</head>
<body>
<p>This paragraph does not use Id</p>
<p id="p1">This paragraph uses Id</p>
</body>
</html>
```

6. Using Id,s…


Using ID - Google Chrome
file:///C:/Users/Administrator/Desktop/Web%20Engineering%20for%20Virtual%20Campus/Lectures/Lecture%2017%20(Introduction%20to%20CSS)/Examples/id.h
This paragraph does not use Id
This paragraph uses Id

7. Using Classes

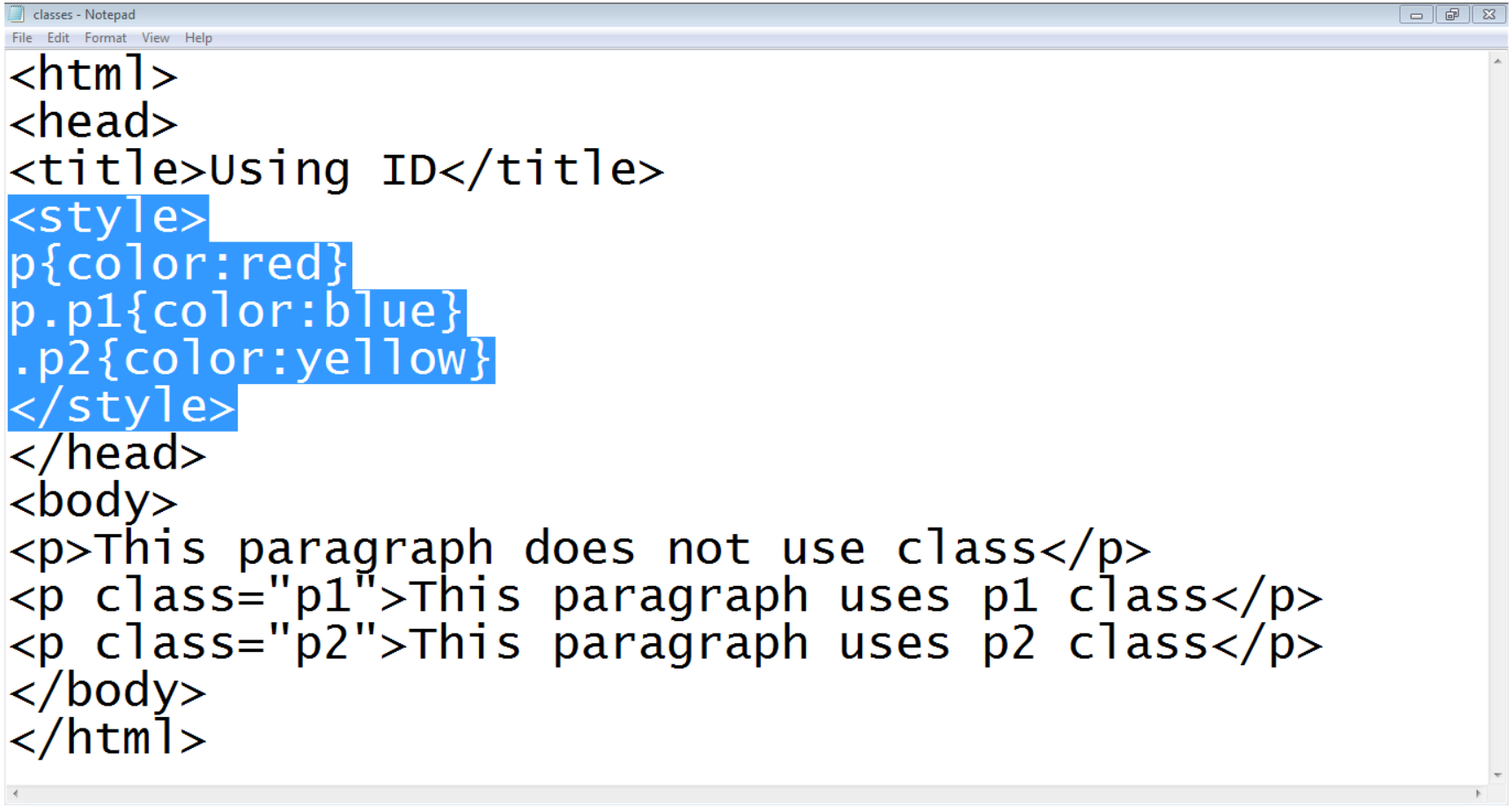
- **HTML and XHTML require each id be unique– therefore an id value can only be used once in a document**

- **You can mark a group of elements with a common identifier using the class attribute**

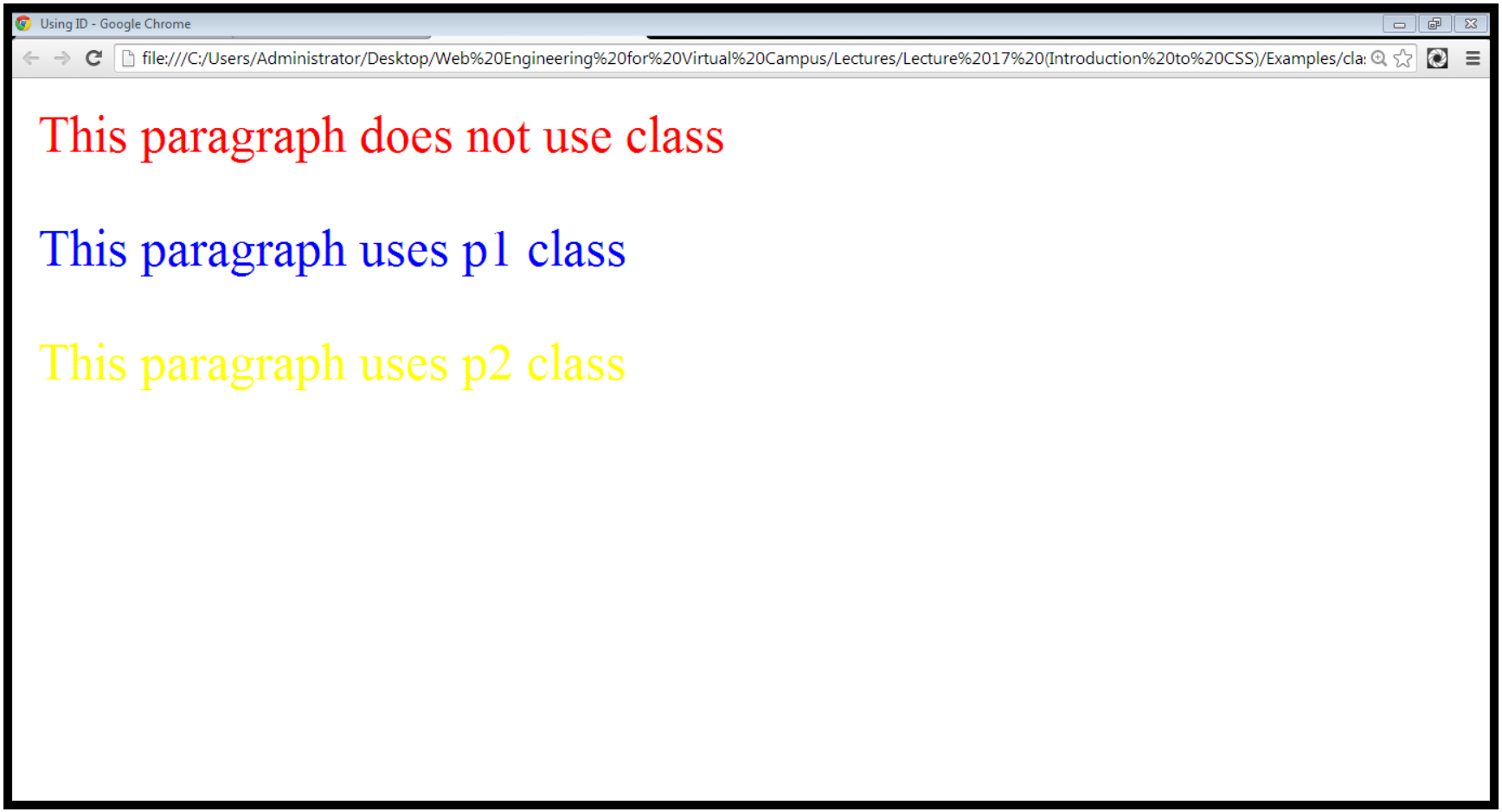
7. Using Classes…

- **To create a class**
  - **tag.class_name {style attributes} or**
  - **.class_name {style attributes}**
- **To apply a style**
  - **<tag CLASS=class_name>**
    - **<h1 CLASS=FirstHeader>IU</h1>**

7. Using Classes…



7. Using Classes…



8. Difference between classes and Id,s

- You can’t have more than one tag with the same ID value
- You can apply the same Class value to multiple document tags
- Classes or Id?
  - use ID's for any elements that are simply used once on a page

OR

  - only use classes to style websites, but, when you have to use an element in JavaScript, use an identifier

Summary

- **CSS stands for Cascading Style Sheets**
- **CSS describes how HTML elements are to be displayed on screen, paper, or in other media**
- **CSS saves a lot of work. It can control the layout of multiple web pages all at once**
- **External stylesheets are stored in CSS files**
- **CSS is used to define styles for your web pages, including the design, layout and variations in display for different devices and screen sizes.**

Summary

- **CSS basics**
- **Versions of CSS**
- **Advantages/Disadvantages of CSS**
- **CSS writing option**
    - External style sheet
    - Internal style sheet
    - Inline style
- **CSS rules**
- **Id,s and Classes**

THANK YOU