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MADCAP FLARE 2024

Creating and Applying Styles

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CONTENTS

CHAPTER 6

APPENDIX

Welcome

Approximate Time: 20 minutes

Welcome to the Flare Styles Tutorial—Creating and Applying.

- **Tutorial Goal** Learning how to create new styles, and then apply the styles to content.
- **Key Concepts** Block-level elements, character-level elements, and generic classes for a project.

Styles.css

Stylesheet Editor

All Styles

- h2
  - No-Page-Break-Before
  - SecondaryColor
- h3
- h4
- h5
- h6
- hr
- html
- img
- li
- MadCap | breadcrumbsProxy
- MadCap | dropDown
- MadCap | dropDownBody
- MadCap | dropDownHotspot
- MadCap | expandingBody
- MadCap | expandingHead
- MadCap | glossaryProxy
- MadCap | indexProxy
- MadCap | tocProxy
- MadCap | xref
- ol
- p
- span
  - Emphasis
  - Emphasis-BoldItalic

Example of Block Style

Example of Character Style

New Topic.htm

Layout (Web) ▾ Medium (default) ▾ Page Layout ▾

span

New Topic

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. *Maecenas porttitor massa*.

Fusce posuere, magna sed pulvinar ultricies, purus lectus malesuada libero.

New Heading

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. *Maecenas porttitor massa*.

Fusce posuere, magna sed pulvinar ultricies, purus lectus malesuada libero.

Creating a Project From a Template

To start, let's create a new project based on Flare's Austin template.

> NOTE This is a standalone tutorial. However, if you have completed the previous styles tutorials, you can skip this topic since a project has already been created.

> NOTE If you plan to work with the project from the first styles tutorial, the images you see as you go through this tutorial will be slightly different. If you want the images to match, then it is recommended to create a new project for this tutorial.

How to Create a New Project From a Template

1. Select **File > New Project**. The Start New Project Wizard opens.

2. In the **Project name** field, give your project any name you want.

3. (Optional) In the **Project folder** field, you can enter a location where you want to save your project. By default, projects are saved in your Documents > My Projects folder.

4. Click **Next**.

5. Under **Factory Templates**, expand the **Tutorials** folder. Select the **Austin** template.
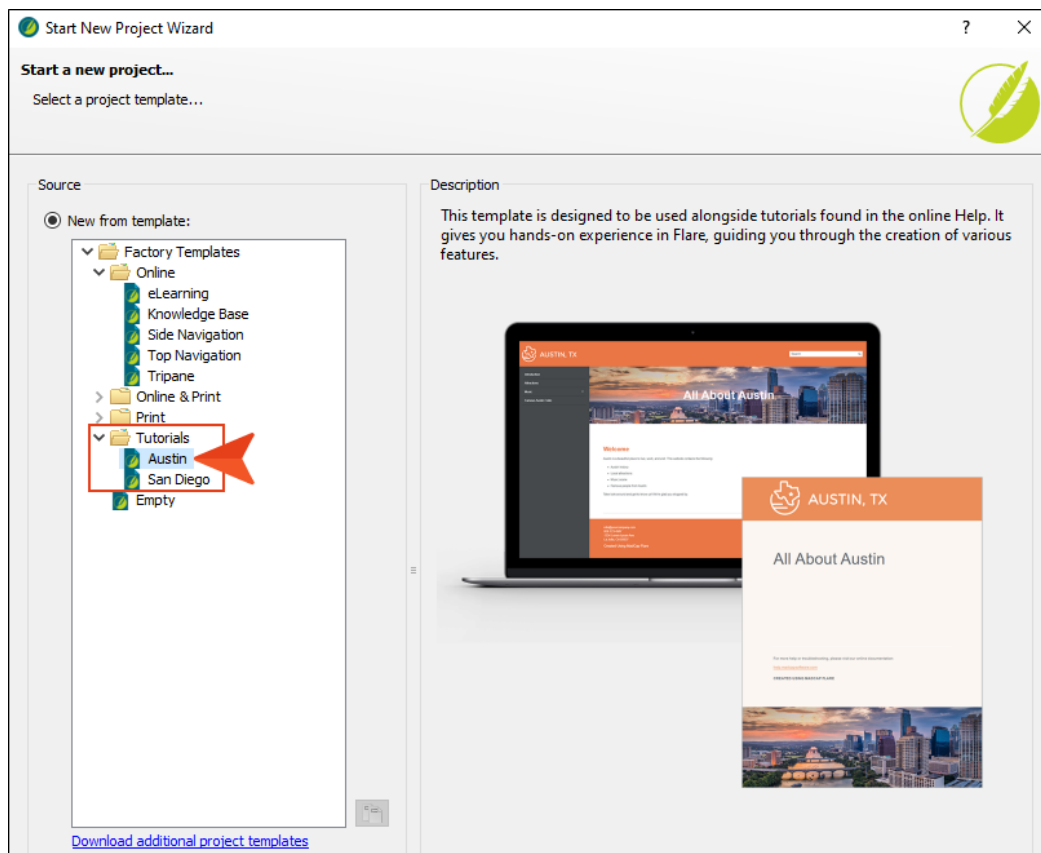
6. Click **Next**.

7. For branding, keep the default settings. (This is where you could customize your project's look with branding, such as colors and logo.) Click **Next**.

8. Click **Finish**. The project is created and loaded into Flare.

Creating and Applying Block-Level Styles

Stylesheets contain certain root (or parent) styles. When you add a new style, you are creating a new style class (i.e., a child of the parent style). Initially, the class inherits all of its property values from the root style, but you can then give the class different values so that it serves a unique purpose.

A block-level tag takes up the entire space of the line, but can contain other inline elements. Examples of block tags are <div>, <h1>, <li>, <ol>, <p>, <table>, and <ul>, which all have corresponding styles in a stylesheet.
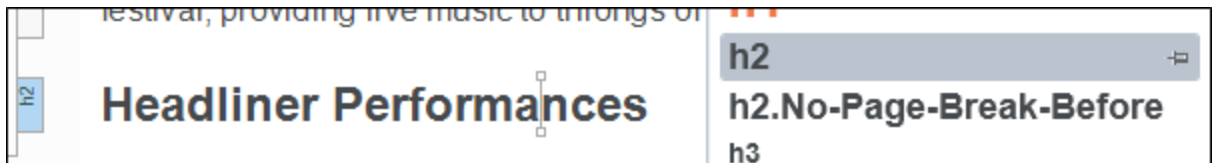
This chapter discusses the following:

❙ How to Apply a Parent Block Style

1. From the Content Explorer, open **South-by-Southwest.htm**.

2. Let's create a new heading. At the end of the existing content, create an empty paragraph.

3. Type `Headliner Performances`. Notice the position of your cursor. Since it is already within the paragraph (at the end of it), only styles applicable to block content display in the **Style** drop-down.

> 📝 **NOTE** If you select part of the text by highlighting it with the cursor, you could accidentally miss a portion of it. In addition, if a piece of the text is wanted rather than a block of text, then only character styles are applicable. The **Style** drop-down would only show relevant character styles to choose from.

4. From the **Home** ribbon, **Style** drop-down, select **h2**. The default block-level style applies.
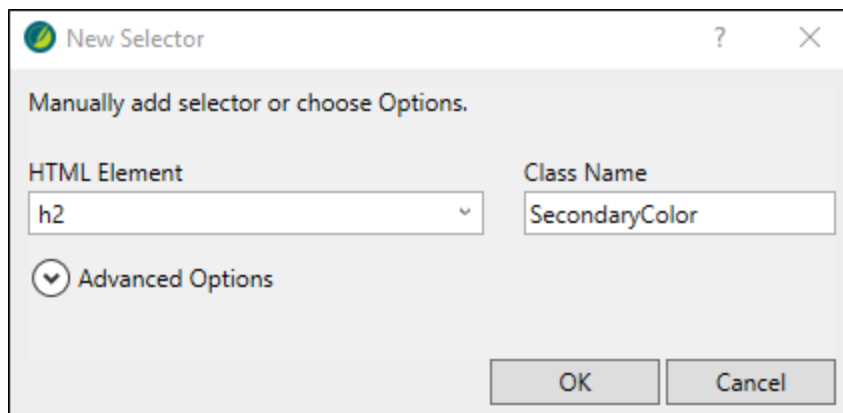

5. Click 🖫 to save your work.

▎How to Create a Block Style Class

We want to be able to apply a secondary heading style. Let's create a new style class for the h2 parent element.
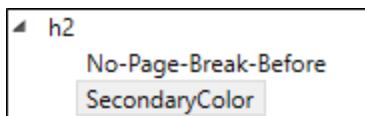
1. From the Content Explorer, expand **Resources > Stylesheets**, and double-click **Styles.css**.

2. From the **Styles** drop-down, select **Heading Styles**.

3. In the left pane tree structure, select the **h2** style.

4. From the local toolbar, click 🖫 Add Selector . The New Selector dialog opens.

   > 🗐 **NOTE** A selector is a way to associate XHTML content with style settings based on various information—most often its type, class, or ID. Sometimes the word "selector" is used interchangeably with the term "style," but a selector can be much more than just a simple style.

5. Make sure h2 displays as the HTML Element. In the **Class Name** field, type `SecondaryColor`. Click **OK**.

6. In the left pane tree structure, the new style class appears under the h2 element. Select it (if it is not selected already).
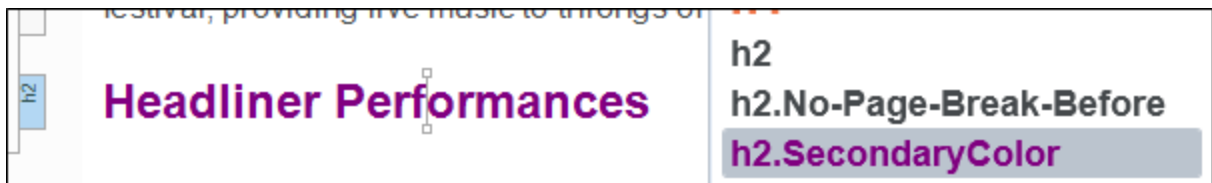

7. In the local toolbar, make sure the **Show** drop-down displays **Show: Set (Locally) Properties - properties set in this stylesheet**.

8. In the **Add Properties** drop-down, select **color**.

9. In the **Color Property** field, replace the default property "inherit," with a new value. Type `Purple`. Press **ENTER**.

10. Click 🖫 to save your work.

How to Apply a Child Block Style

1. Open **South-by-Southwest.htm**.

2. Click inside the h2 block.

3. From the **Home** ribbon, **Style** drop-down, select **h2.SecondaryColor**.

    The h2.SecondaryColor overrides the original color property with the assigned purple color. The style h2.SecondaryColor is, in effect, a child of the h2 parent style. It also inherits other values from the parent style. A period is added between the name of the parent style and the name of the class.

    Other topics in the project with an h2 style still show a black heading style, as expected.

4. Click 🖫 to save your work.

Creating and Applying Character-Level Styles

In contrast to the block-level element which takes up the full width of a line, the character-level element only applies to selected text and is used within a block element.
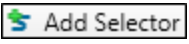
You can only create child styles classes of root (or parent) styles. There are many standard CSS character tags, such as <b>, <i>, <img>, <span>, and <sup>, which have corresponding styles in the stylesheet. The <span> style is often used for creating general character-level style classes (i.e., when there isn't already another character-level style that meets your needs).
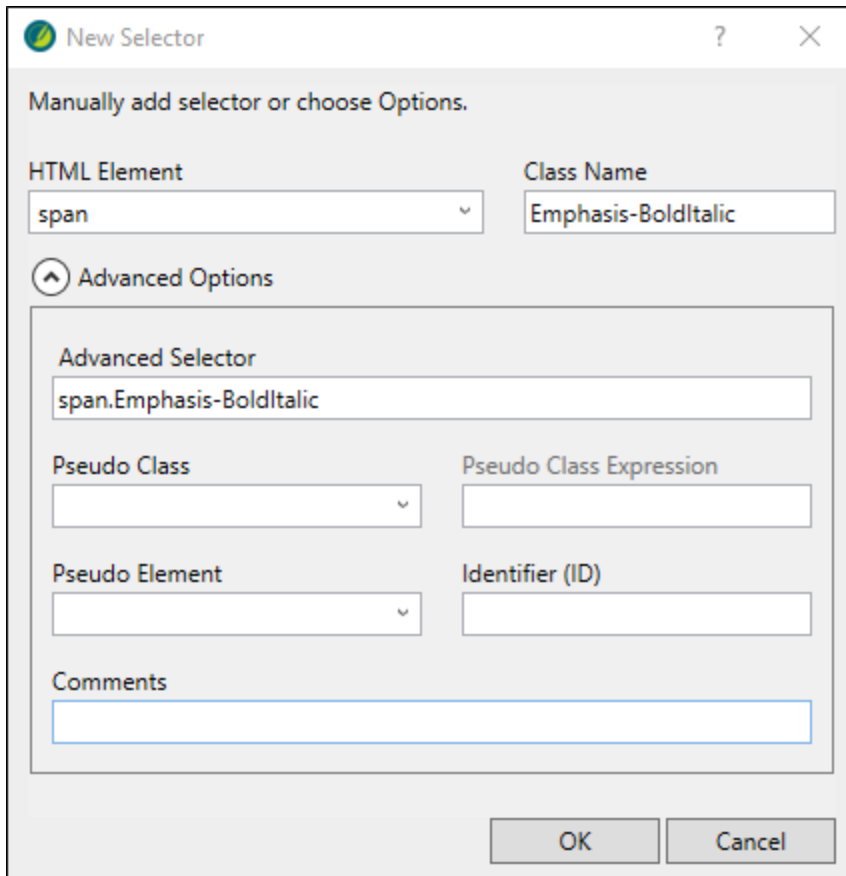
This chapter discusses the following:

▌How to Create a Character Style Class

Let's create a span class to emphasize text with bold and italic formatting.

1. Open **Styles.css**.

2. In the local toolbar, click ⟨ **Add Selector** ⟩.

3. In the New Selector dialog, from the **HTML Element** drop-down, select **span**.

4. In the **Class Name** field, type `Emphasis-BoldItalic`. Click **OK**.

📝 **NOTE** The image above shows the New Selector dialog with Advanced Options expanded. Notice the name of the selector is "span.Emphasis-BoldItalic." When creating a new style class, it is appended to the root (or parent) style, and separated by a period. In this case, "span" is the parent while "Emphasis-BoldItalic" is the child.

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5. From the **Styles** drop-down, select **Character Styles**.

6. In the left pane tree structure, make sure **span** is expanded, and **Emphasis-BoldItalic** is selected.

7. In the **Show** drop-down, select **Show: Assorted Relevant Properties**.

8. Expand the **Font** group.

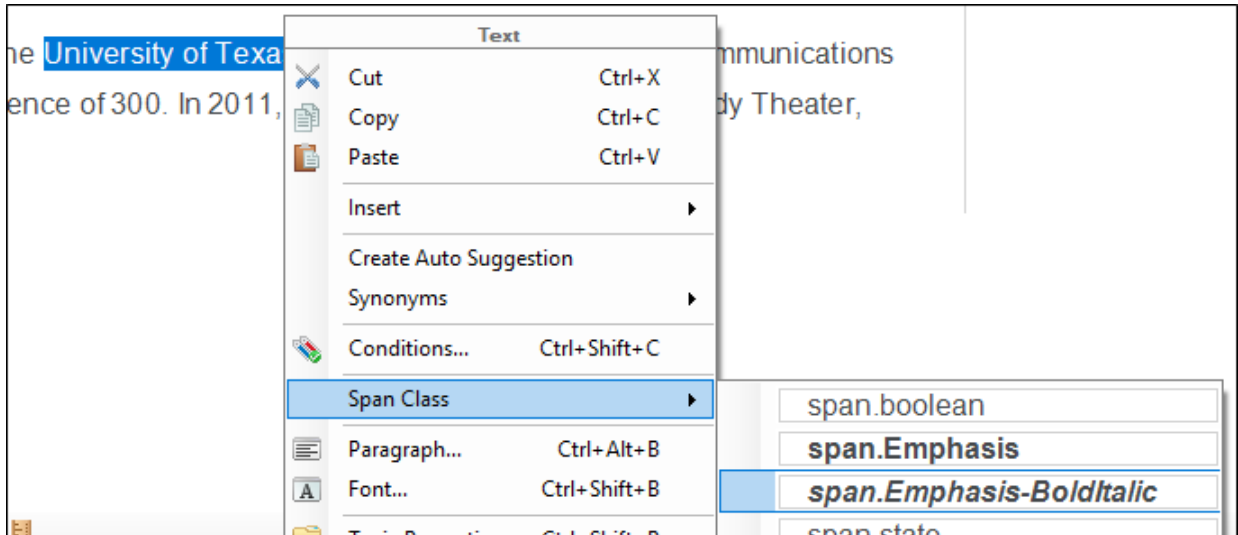9. Next to the **font-style** property, click ⬜, and select **italic**.

10. Next to the **font-weight** property, click ⬜, and select **bold**.
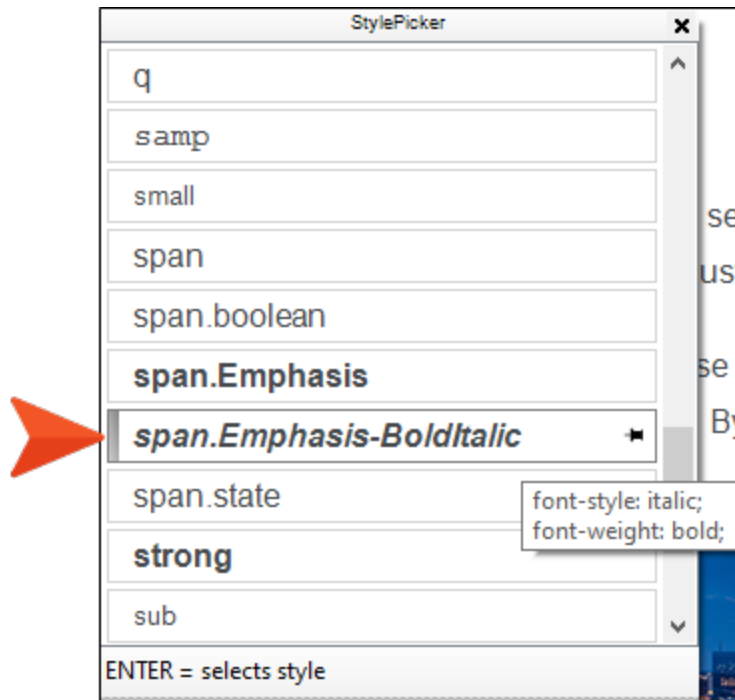

11. Click ⬜ to save your work.

▍How to Apply a Character Style Class

1. Open **Austin-City-Limits.htm**.

2. Select "University of Texas" in the last paragraph.

3. Right-click and from the context menu, select **Span Class > span.Emphasis-BoldItalic**.

4. Open **Introduction.htm**.

5. Select "University of Texas" in the second paragraph.

6. Press **CTRL+SHIFT+H**, and from the Style Picker, select **span.Emphasis-BoldItalic**.

7. Click ⊞ to save all files.

> 📝 **NOTE** Since this is a character-level style that might be used quite a bit, you can pin it to appear at the top of style lists for quick accessibility in the Style drop-down, Style Picker, or the Styles window.

Creating and Applying Generic Style Classes

In addition to creating classes that are specifically associated with parent styles, you can create generic classes. These are standalone classes that can be used with any parent style.

A generic class can be very useful if you need to apply the same formatting to several pieces of content, even if they have different HTML elements (parent styles).
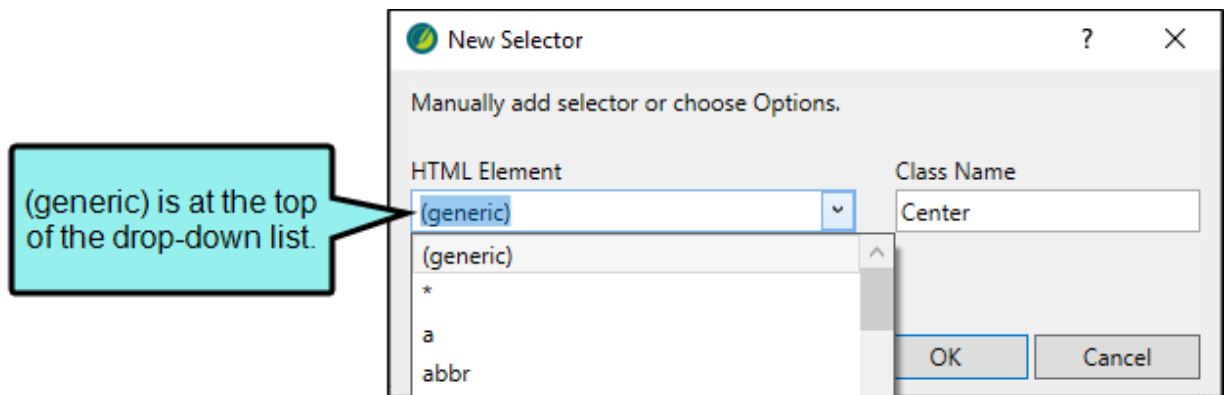
This chapter discusses the following:

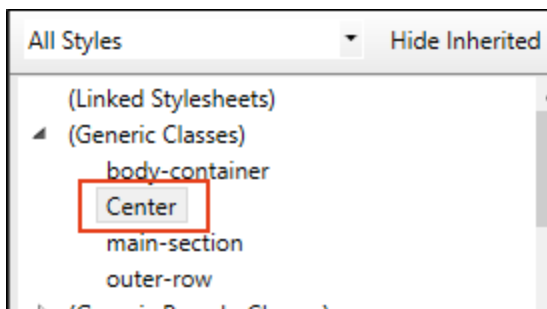# ▎How to Center Content With a Generic Style Class

Let's create a generic class selector for centering content. This type of style can be used only on a block element.

1. Open **Styles.css**.

2. In the local toolbar, click 🔧 Add Selector .

3. In the New Selector dialog, from the **HTML Element** drop-down, select **(generic)**. Then in the **Class Name** field, type `Center`. Click **OK**.
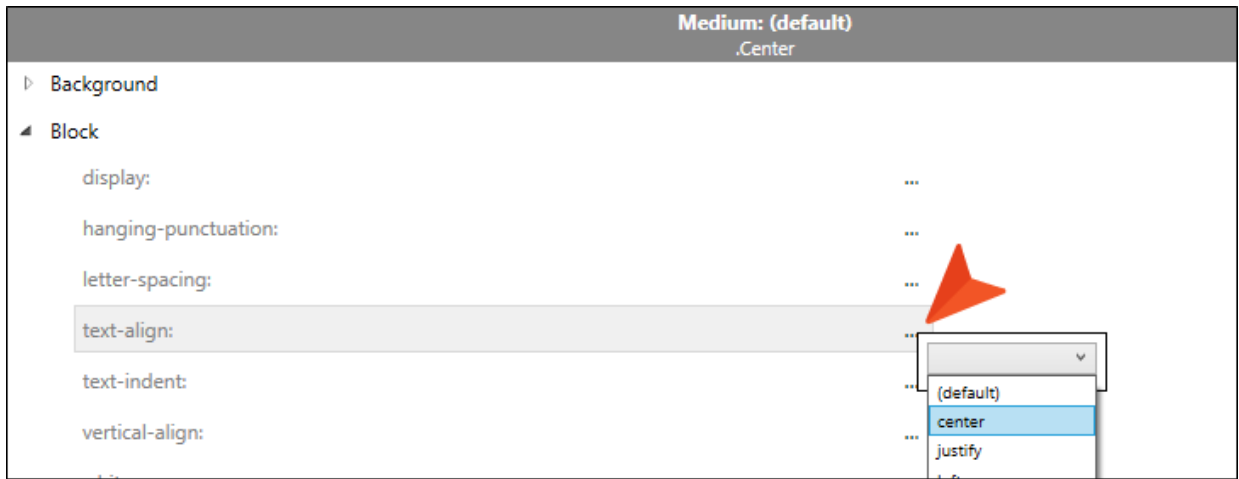

> 🗒 **NOTE** Alternatively, when using the New Selector dialog to add a new selector, you can leave the HTML Element field empty. If left blank, the new style class defaults to "generic," and is placed under the "Generic Classes" section in the stylesheet.

4. From the **Styles** drop-down, select **All Styles**.

5. In the left pane tree structure, expand **(Generic Classes)**, and select **Center**.
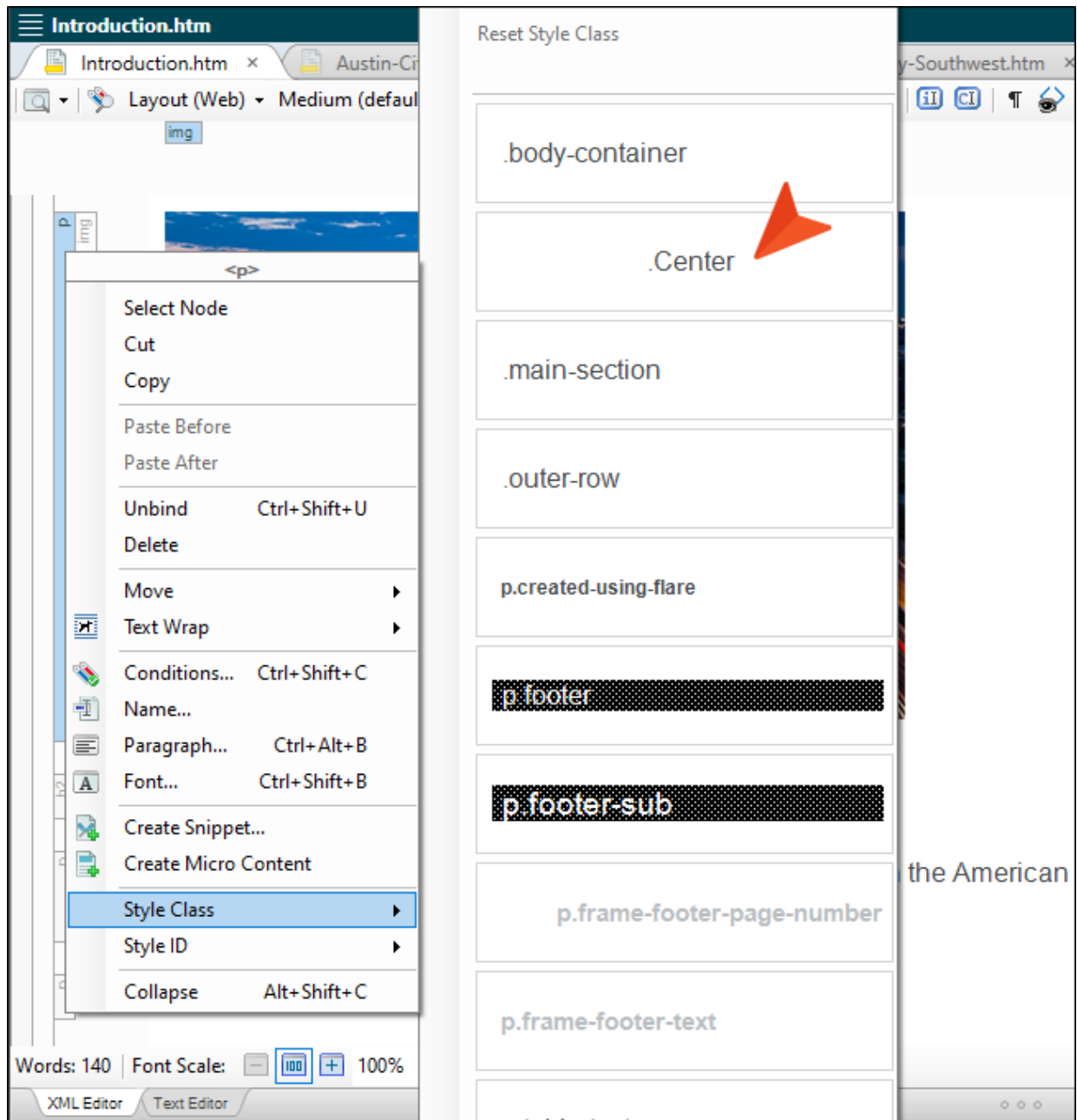
6. In the **Show** drop-down, select **Show: All Properties**.

7. Expand the **Block** group.

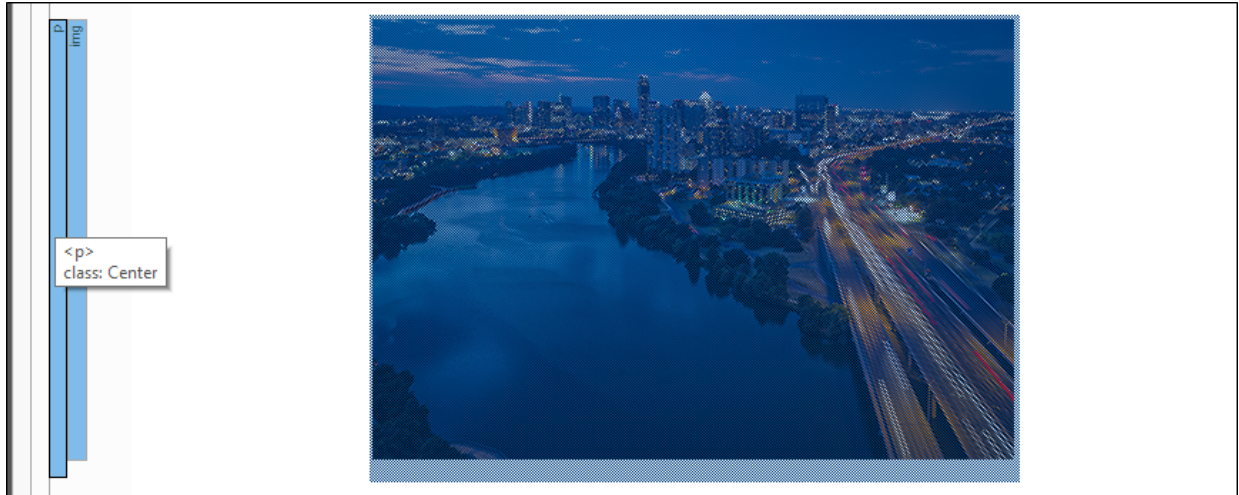8. Next to the **text-align** property, click ⊡, and select **center**.

9. Click 🖫 to save your work.

10. Open **Introduction.htm**.

11. Right-click the **p** structure bar to the left of the image, and from the context menu select **Style Class** > .Center.

> **NOTE** The <img> tag uses a character-level style, so the image can't be centered itself. In this case, the image is within the block-level <p> tag, so we can apply the style class to the p element (p.Center).
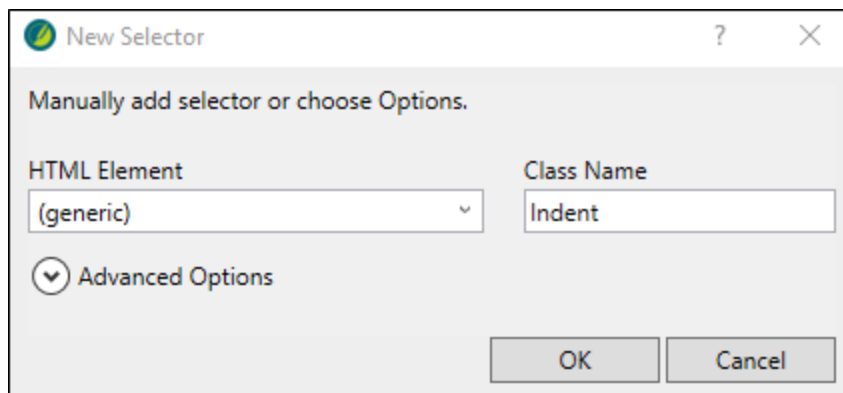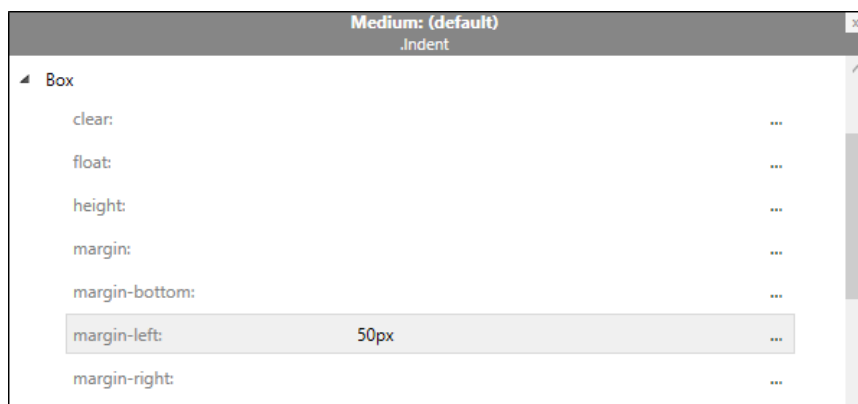

12. Click 🖫 to save your work.

▌How to Indent Content With a Generic Style Class

Let's create another generic style class for indenting text.

1. Open **Styles.css**.

2. In the local toolbar, select click ![Add Selector].

3. In the New Selector dialog, from the **HTML Element** drop-down, select **(generic)**. Then in the **Class Name** field, type `Indent`. Click **OK**.
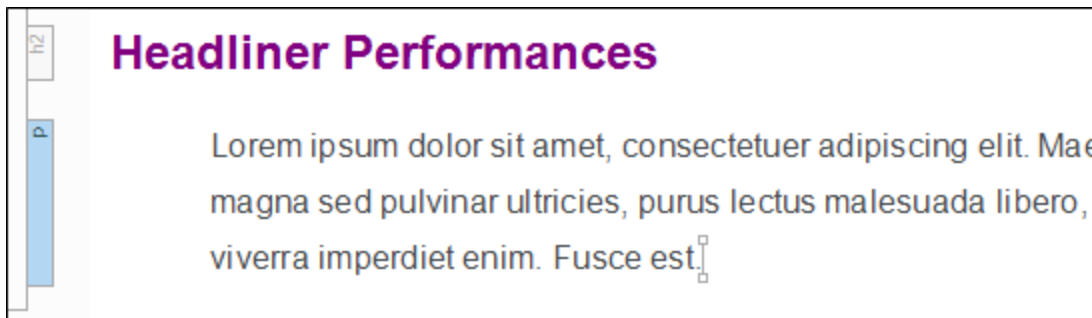

4. In the left pane tree structure, make sure **(Generic Classes)** is expanded, and **Indent** is selected.

5. In the **Show** drop-down, make sure **Show: All Properties** is selected.

6. Expand the **Box** group.

7. In the **margin-left** property field, type `50px`. Press **ENTER**.

8. Click 🖫 to save your work.

9. Open **South-by-Southwest.htm**.

10. At the end of the existing content, create an empty paragraph.

11. Copy and paste this example text to the line:

```
Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Maecenas
porttitor congue massa. Fusce posuere, magna sed pulvinar ultricies,
purus lectus malesuada libero, sit amet commodo magna eros quis
urna. Nunc viverra imperdiet enim. Fusce est.
```

12. From the **Home** ribbon, **Style** drop-down, select **.Indent**. The text indents.

13. Click 🖫 to save your work.

14. From the **Window** ribbon, select **Close All Documents**.

> 📝 **NOTE** This tutorial covers a few basic styles. Keep in mind that when creating a style class there are multiple ways to do it. Ask yourself what the style is that you need, and how often do you plan to use it? For example, if you plan to apply a bold font property to character-level content only, then creating a specific span element might work. But if you plan to apply bold font at the block-level too, then creating a generic style class might make more sense. How you go about creating a style really depends on what you are trying to accomplish.

Creating a Container (Div) for Special Information

Let's create a container with a border for placing historical facts about Austin—the content will stand out better. To do this, we'll need to create some new styles in the project's stylesheet.
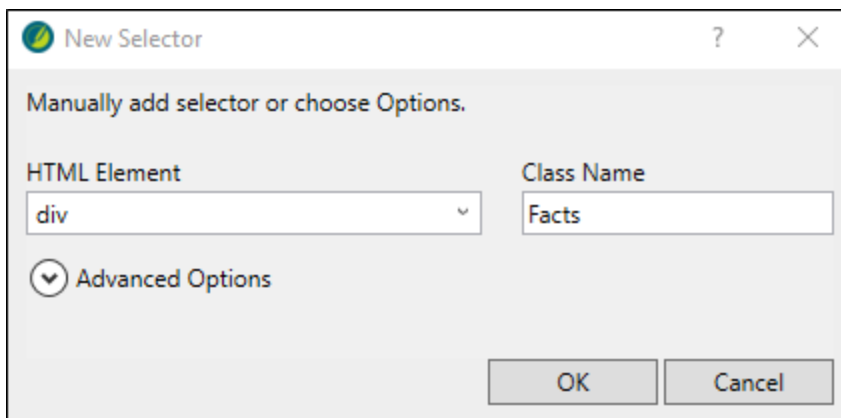
This chapter discusses the following:

❙ How to Create a Container

Creating a div selector is a good option for making a container.

1. From the Content Explorer, expand **Resources > Stylesheets**, and double-click **Styles.css**.

2. From the Stylesheet Editor's local toolbar, make sure the first button is labeled **View: Advanced**.

3. In the local toolbar, click [🖻 Add Selector].

4. In the New Selector dialog, from the **HTML Element** drop-down, select **div**.

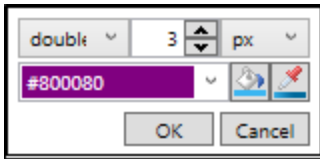5. In the **Class Name** field, type `Facts`. Click **OK**.

6. In the left pane tree structure, make sure **div** is expanded, and **Facts** is selected.

7. In the **Show** drop-down, select **Show: Assorted Relevant Properties**.

8. Expand the **Font** group, and at the **color** property, type `Gray`. Press **ENTER**.
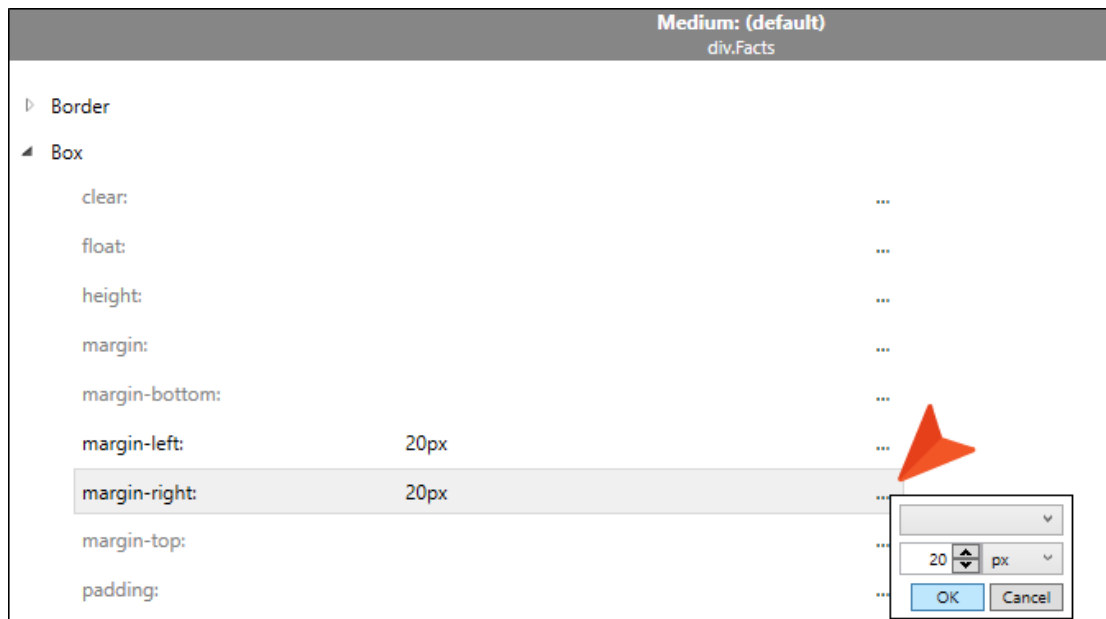
> 📝 **NOTE** If you completed the Nested Tags topic from the Styles Tutorial—
> Understanding the Basics, remember that the div font was set to display in purple.
> Just update the value to gray.

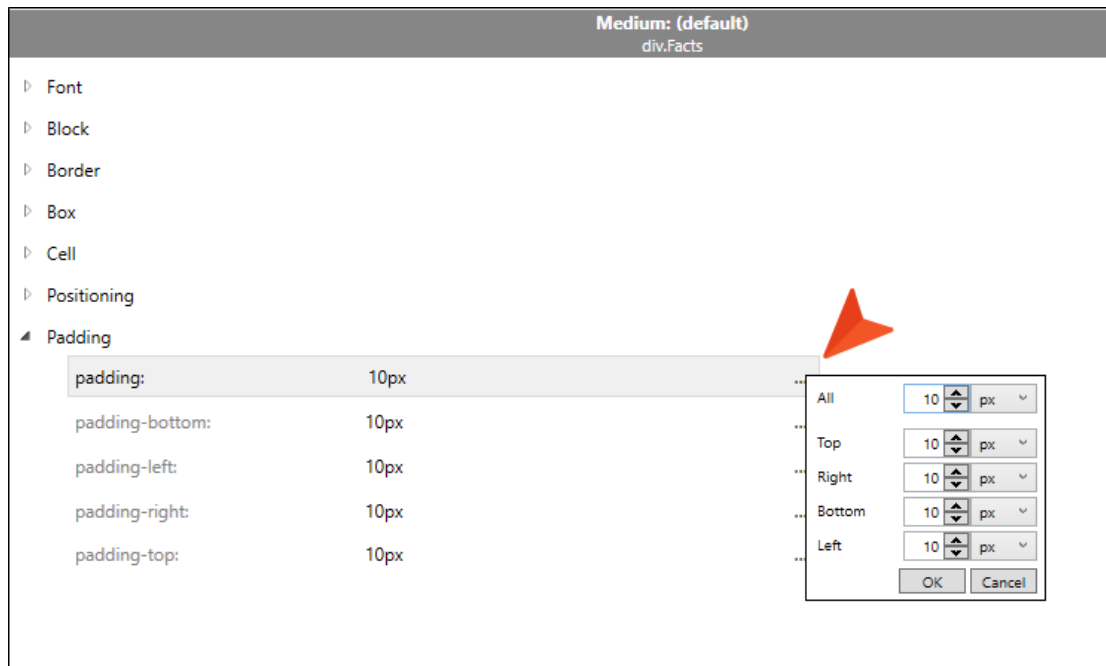9. Expand the **Border** group, and at the **border** property, click ▭.

10. In the pop-up menu type `Purple`. From the **border type** drop-down, select **double**. Type or select `3` pixels to increase the border width. Click **OK**. (The hex color code auto-populates in the color drop-down.)
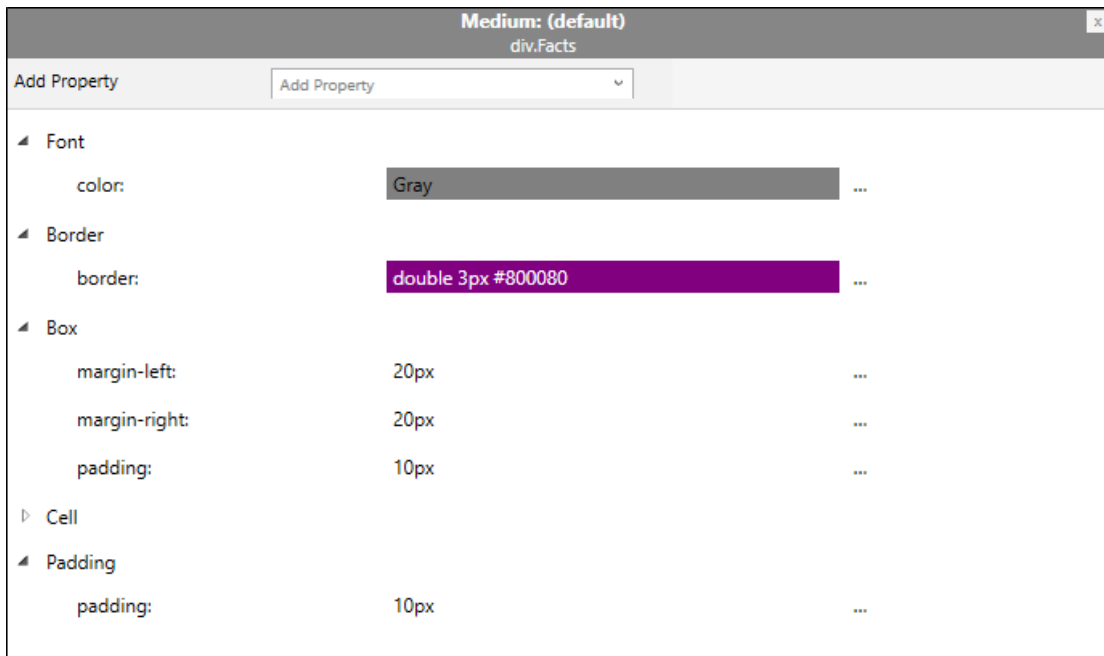

11. Expand the **Box** group, and at the **margin-left** and **margin-right** properties, click ▭ (one at a time). Type or select `20` pixels for both properties, and click **OK**.

12. Expand the **Padding** group, at the **padding** property, click ⬚. Type or select 10 pixels to increase padding for all sides. Click **OK**.
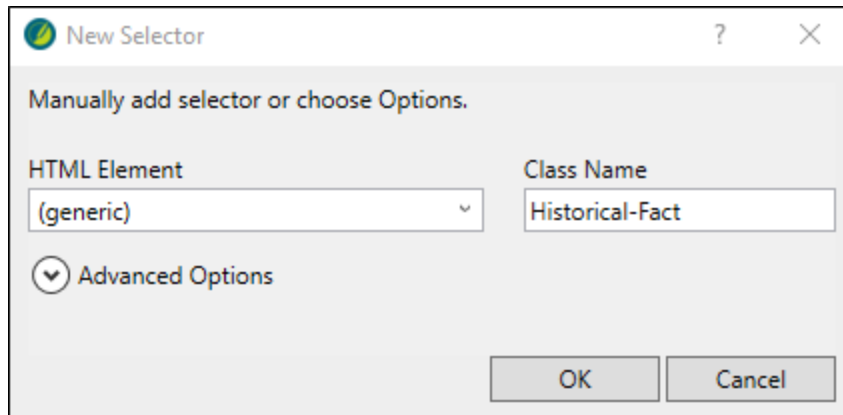
13. In the **Show** drop-down, select **Show: Set (Locally) Properties - properties set in this stylesheet** to see all of your settings.

14. Click 🖫 to save your work.

▎How to Create a Label for a Container

1. In the local toolbar, click ⚡ Add Selector .

2. In the New Selector dialog, from the **HTML Element** drop-down, select **(generic)**.

3. In the **Class Name** field, type `Historical-Fact`. Click **OK**.

4. In the left pane tree structure, make sure **(Generic Classes)** is expanded, and **Historical-Fact** is selected.

5. In the **Show** drop-down, select **Show: All Properties**.

6. Expand the **AutoNumber** group.

7. Next to the **mc-auto-number-format** property, click ⬚.

8. In the Auto-Number Format dialog, copy and paste the following format into the **Enter format** field:

    ```
    {b}{color #800080}Historical Fact: {/color}{/b}
    ```


9. Click **OK**.

10. Click ![save icon] to save all files.

> 📝 **NOTE** You might notice the mc-auto-number-format property begins with "mc." This is an indication that it is a MadCap-specific property.

How to Apply Information for a Container

1. From the Content Explorer, open the **Attractions.htm** file.

2. Create an empty paragraph after the last image.

3. Type the following:

   ```
   Austin has the largest urban bat colony in North America.
   ```

4. From the **Home** ribbon, click 📋. This groups selected items.

5. From the Create Group dialog, select **div.Facts**. Click **OK**.

6. From the **Home** ribbon, **Styles** drop-down, select **.Historical-Fact**.

7. Open **Introduction.htm**.

8. Under the "Climate" section, create an empty paragraph after the first sentence.
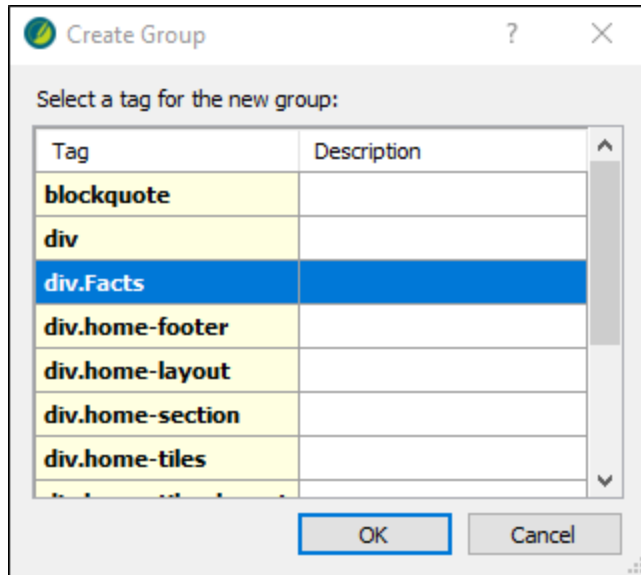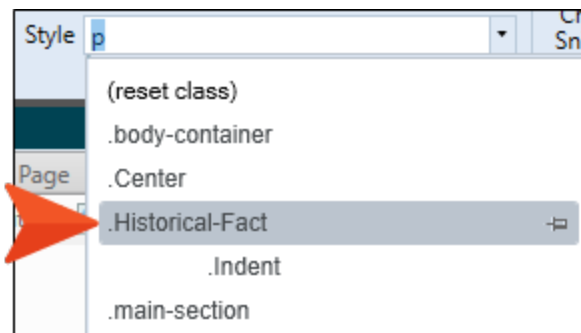
9. Copy and paste the following content:

```
Austin's hottest day in recorded history was 112 degrees on 9/5/2000
and again on 8/28/2011. The coldest day on record for Austin dropped
to -2 degrees on 1/31/1949.
```

10. From the **Home** ribbon, click ▤.

11. From the Create Group dialog, select **div.Facts**. Click **OK**.

12. From the **Home** ribbon, **Styles** drop-down, select **.Historical-Fact**.

> **Historical Fact:** Austin's hottest day in recorded history was 112 degrees on 9/5/2000 and again on 8/28/2011. The coldest day on record for Austin dropped to -2 degrees on 1/31/1949.

13. Click ▦ to save all files.

14. From the **Window** ribbon, select **Close All Documents**.

PDFs

The following PDFs are available for download from the online Help.

❚ Tutorials

Getting Started Tutorial

Autonumbers Tutorial

Back-to-Top Button Tutorial

Context-Sensitive Help Tutorial

Custom Toolbar Tutorial

eLearning Tutorial—Basic

eLearning Tutorial—Advanced

Image Tooltips Tutorial

Lists Tutorial

Meta Tags Tutorial

Micro Content Tutorial—Basic

Micro Content Tutorial—Advanced

Responsive Output Tutorial

Single-Sourcing Tutorial

Snippet Conditions Tutorial

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Learning & Development Cheat Sheet

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Micro Content Cheat Sheet

Print-Based Output Cheat Sheet

Search Cheat Sheet

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