Semantic HTML Tags

Semantic HTML is the use of HTML markup to reinforce the semantics, or meaning, of the information in webpages rather than merely define its presentation or look.

This is primarily accomplished by replacing DIVs with more descriptive tags.

Common Semantic Tags

<article>

<aside>

<figure>

<figcaption>

<footer>

<header>

<main>

<nav>

<section>

<header>

Defines the header of a document or section. It should contain introductory content. There can be multiple header elements within a document.

<footer>

Specifies a footer for a document or section. It should contain information about its containing element; author, copyright, contact info, etc. You can have multiple footer elements in one document.

<article>

Specifies independent, self-contained content that makes sense on its own. It could be read independently from the rest of the website (i.e. forum post, blog post, newspaper article).

<aside>

Defines some secondary content related to its surrounding content (but not directly related). Often equivalent to how we've been building sidebar DIVs.

<figure>

Contains separated content such as photos, diagrams, code, etc. Can have a figcaption element within it to contain a description.

<figcaption>

An optional tag, used within a figure element, to display a description.

<main>

Specifies the main content of a document. Does not contain common content from other pages (i.e. header, navigation, footer, etc.).

<nav>

Depicts the space for navigation links.

<section>

Defines separate sections that each contain their own content (often more structural than other semantic tags).







