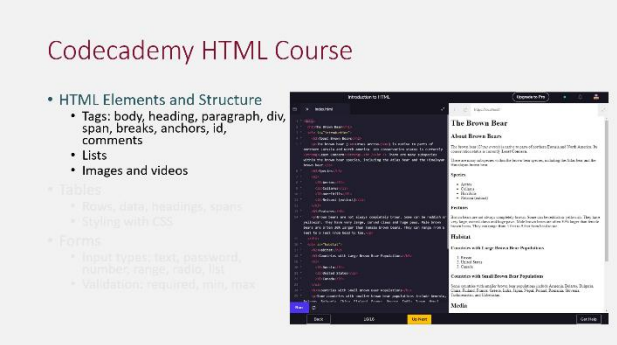
OLTD 509 ePortfolio Reflection #1

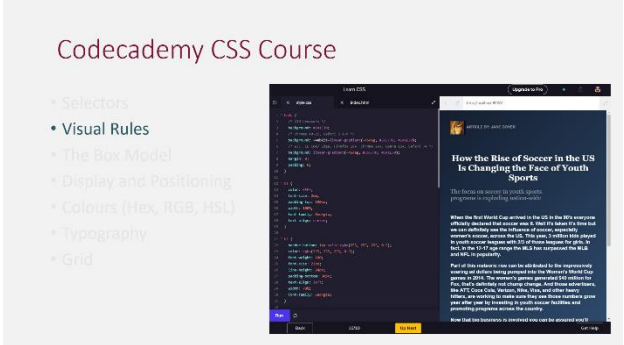
OLTD Program Learning Outcome(s):

- Develop practical and technical skills in all phases of concept, development, design, implementation, etc.
- Research and identify emerging technologies with educational applications not yet adopted by mainstream education or in early adoption phases.
- Consider potential design/implementation opportunities and challenges of emerging technologies/pedagogies.

Evidence:

Screencast explaining Codecademy.com HTML and CSS Coding Tutorials
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2monzTqD1k





Reflection:

The piece of evidence I have chosen to support the above learning outcomes is the self-directed quest on coding that I completed from January 6th to 25th 2019. For this self-directed quest I chose a learn-by-doing approach and spent over 8 hours completing Codecademy.com online courses on HTML and CSS coding basics. Once I completed these two courses, I used Microsoft PowerPoint, Screencast-O-Matic, and YouTube to create and upload a presentation summarizing what I had learned.

This learning experience gave me a much better understanding on how to read and write HTML and CSS code. After completing these online courses, I feel that I am capable of creating a basic website and also analysing code from an existing website. HTML is an acronym for HyperText Markup Language and is the basic structure and content on a webpage. In the first part of the Codecademy HTML course I learned how to create basic HTML elements and structure such as body, heading, paragraph, div, span, breaks, anchors, id, and comment tags. The second portion of the course was on creating tables to organize content, and the third portion of the course was on creating forms for users to input text, passwords,

numbers, and have them validated. CSS is an acronym for Cascading Style Sheets and, as the name suggests, they are used to provide style to the HTML content on a webpage. In the CSS course I learned how to modify the colours, fonts and positioning of elements on a webpage such as backgrounds, tables, text, and pictures. I also learned how to create CSS grids, which can be used to contain and organize content on a webpage. I think that the strength of this chosen piece of evidence is that it demonstrates that I have learned some technical and practical skills that have improved my ability to teach this subject. Completing this quest was an excellent professional development task for me.

Coding is an emerging topic in education that is rapidly becoming more mainstream each year. The BC Ministry of Education has actually mandated that all students in grades 8 and 9 learn coding under the new secondary school curriculum. I would argue that this a topic in the early phases of mainstream adoption because although it has been mandated, I think that the level to which it is being implemented at schools is quite inconsistent and dependant on the ability of staff members at individual schools to teach it. As the Business Education and Info. Tech. Department Head at my school I feel that I need to learn as much about coding as possible so that our school can deliver meaningful and quality learning to our students in this area. I will be able to implement what I have learned by completing this quest into my own teaching practice and hopefully help other staff members at my school with this topic.