

# STEP BY STEP FLOW CHART

DVD 1

## 1: The Big Picture

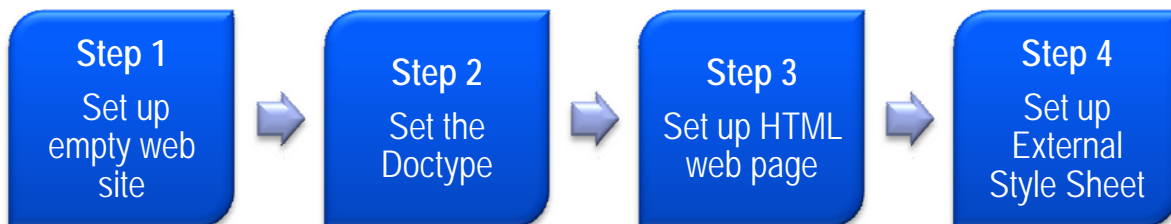
Overview of the "Game Plan" and Main Objective

Video 1: The Big Picture

Main Objective: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2: Getting Started Steps



### WATCH THE GETTING STARTED VIDEOS

- Set up an Empty Web Site
- Set the Doctype
- Set up HTML Web Page
- Set up External Style Sheet

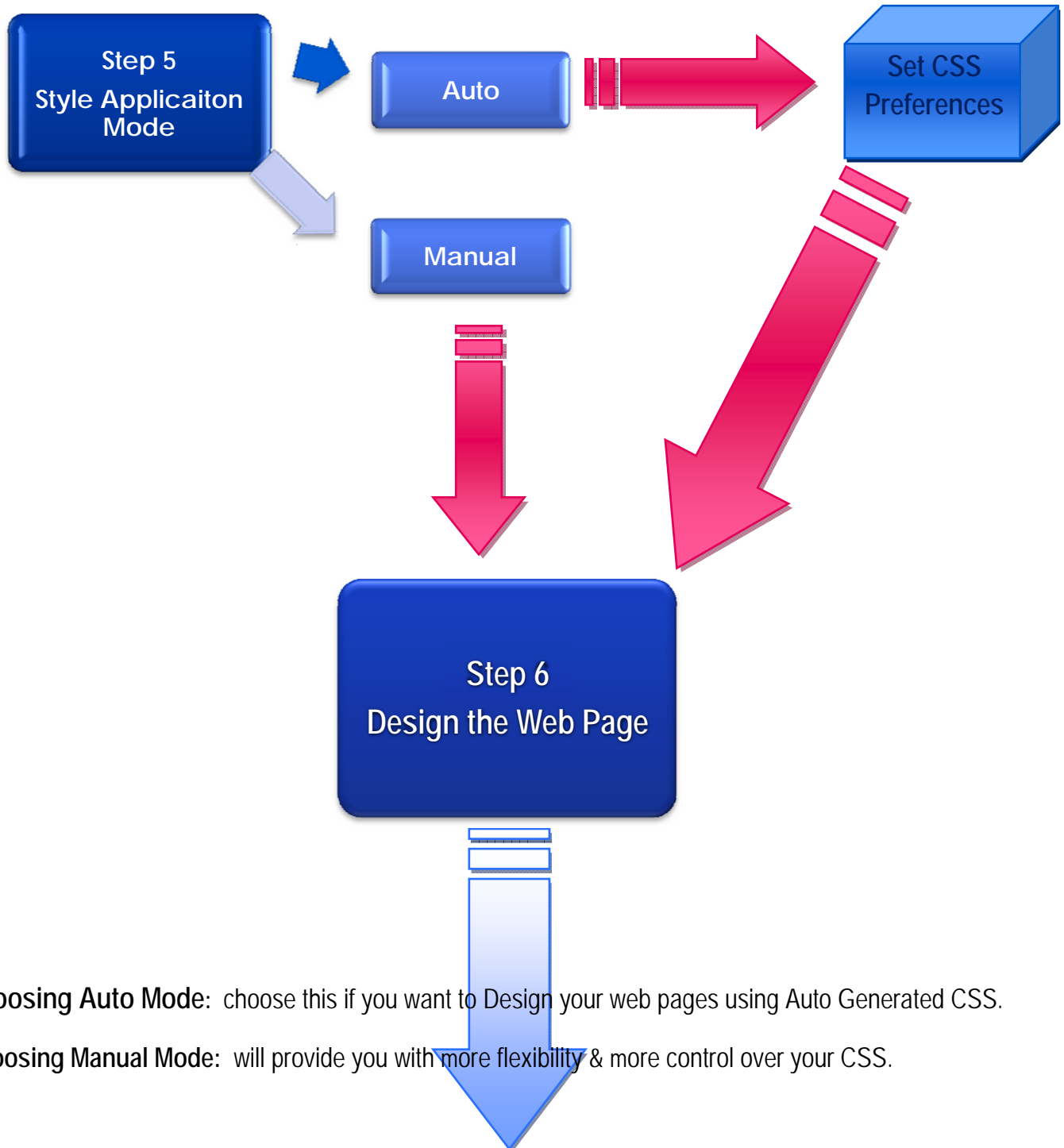
Note: There is an additional Video for FrontPage users transitioning to Expression Web 3.

# GETTING READY TO DESIGN THE WEB PAGE

Before we can begin making the layout, we have a decision we need to make.

HOW DO YOU WANT TO USE CSS WITHIN EXPRESSION WEB?

1. Auto
2. Manual



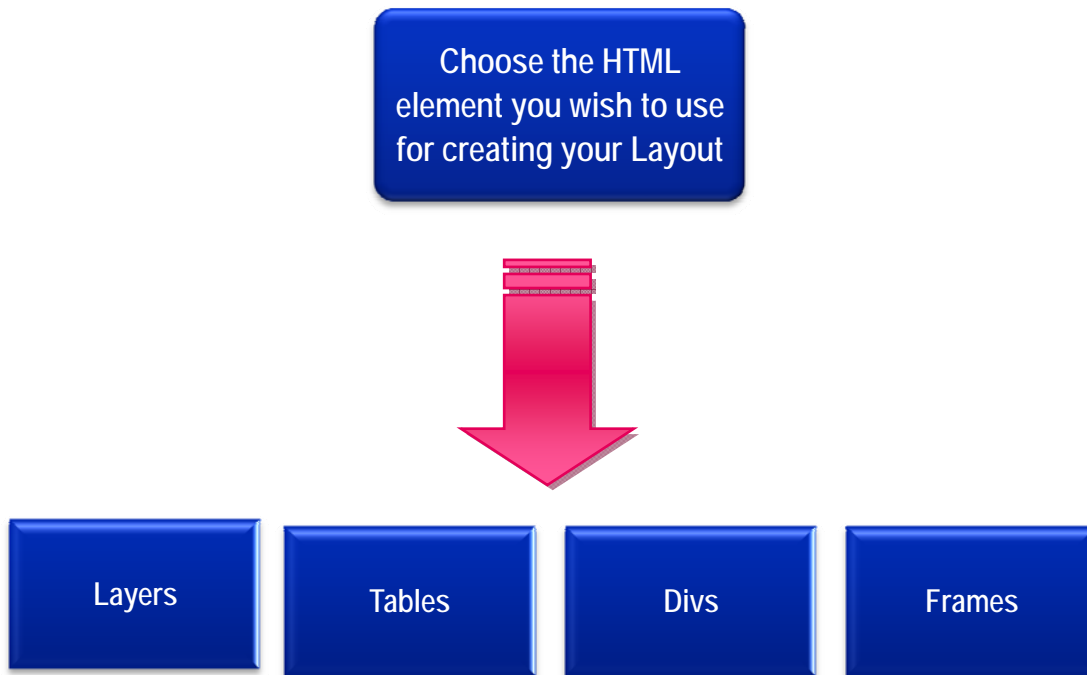
**Choosing Auto Mode:** choose this if you want to Design your web pages using Auto Generated CSS.

**Choosing Manual Mode:** will provide you with more flexibility & more control over your CSS.

## Set the Style Application Mode – Please Choose Manual

### VIDEO – STEP 5: STYLE APPLICATION MODE

*(I will review how to use Generated CSS Styles in a later section)*



Let's add to our **Main Objective** just a bit. This will help us decide upon the best HTML element to utilize in creating our web pages (layouts). Earlier, we said the Main Objective was to design one web page, then save that web page as a DWT (template). This way, we can create many web pages quickly from the DWT instead of making each page from scratch.

We also need to follow the current Web Standards set forth by the W3C (see <http://w3c.org>). And Expression Web really makes this easy. EW is actually designed specifically around these web standards. Therefore, we need to strive towards meeting web standards and accessibility standards as much as possible. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Objective will be just that: ***build valid and compliant web sites based on today's web standards.***

**Main Objective 1:** *Design Web Page, Save as DWT, Easily create more web pages*

**Main Objective 2:** *Create Web Sites and Web Pages by adhering to the current W3C Recommendations (Web Standards)*

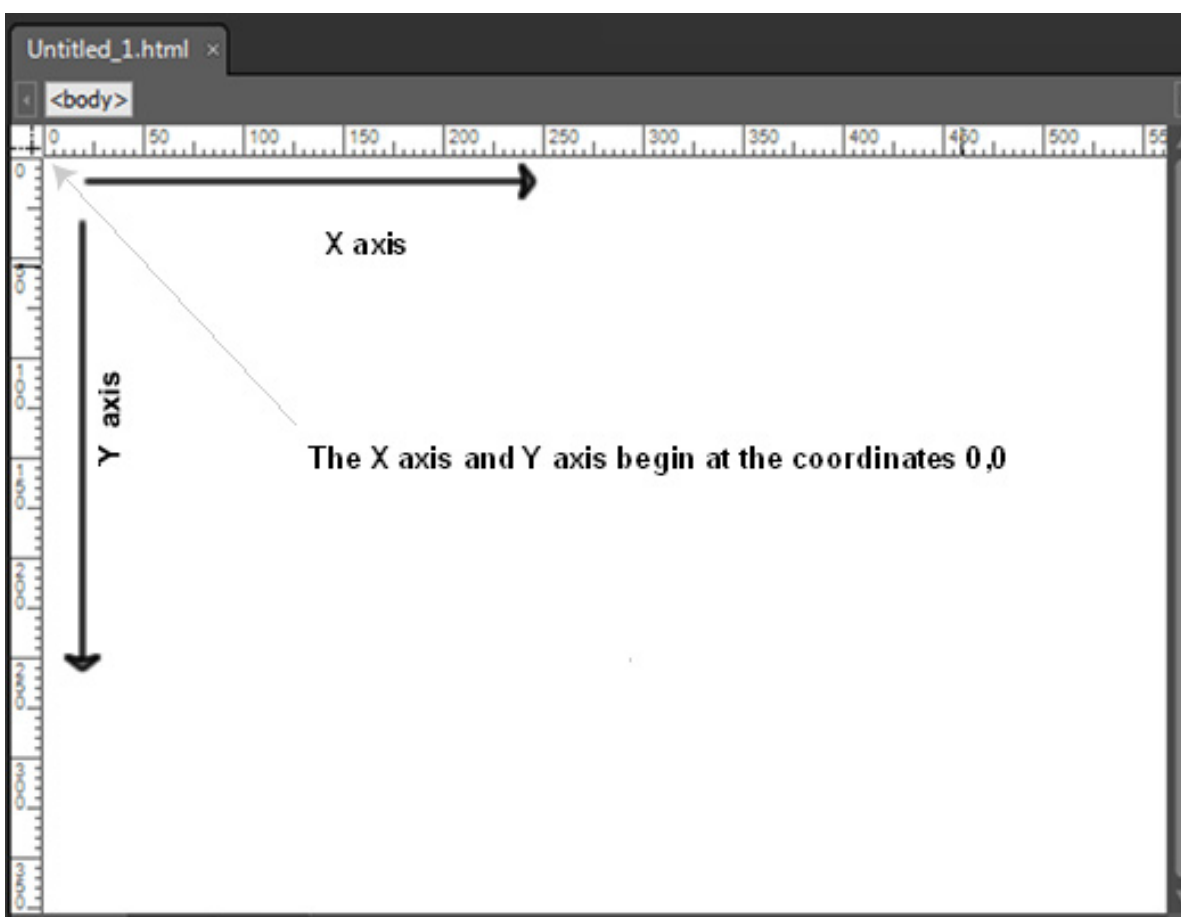
Next, "The HTML Web Page" and the Pros and Cons of Tables, Frames, Divs, and Layers.

# THE HTML WEB PAGE

## THE MAIN EDITING WINDOW (THE CANVAS)

The Layout will be made in the Main Editing window of Expression Web. We will call this main editing window “the canvas”, for now. Here, I will go over the concept called “The Normal Flow of the Page”, or just “Normal Flow”. To understand the Normal Flow, we must first discuss the x,y, and z axes.

Here, it is my hope that you will better understand how the various HTML elements (like tables, layers and divs) ‘flow’ when they are positioned on the canvas and manipulated with CSS Styles.



X axis: begins at zero, flows left to right

y axis: begins at zero, flows top to bottom

z axis: stacks front to back (or top to bottom)

## OVERVIEW OF DIVS, LAYERS, & TABLES AS THEY PERTAIN TO THE FLOW OF THE PAGE AND APPROPRIATENESS FOR THE LAYOUT

### LAYERS

- A Layer is a <div> tag that is Positioned "Absolute".
  - when a layer is placed on the page in EW, the code generated is the following:

```
<div id="layer1" class="style1"></div>
```

\*\* And .style1 has the following css properties already assigned to the layer:

```
.style1 {position: absolute; width: 350px; height: 100px; z-index: 1; top: 235px; left: 420px;}
```



The *position* property has a value of "*absolute*". It is this value that makes a div a layer.

- A Layer is not positioned according to the Normal Flow. In fact, we say **that the layer is "removed from the normal flow"**.
- A layer is positioned relative the top-left and/or right edges of a browser or of the canvas.
- We can use top, left, right, and bottom values to control the positioning of a layer. (This is covered with the Layers Videos on DVD 3.
- **Layers are really meant to be stacked or overlapped with one another.**
- **Use the z- index to control a layers position in the stacking order. The higher the z-index.**



**\*\*YOU CANNOT FLOAT A LAYER, NOR CAN YOU CENTER A LAYER**

*You can float a div, and you can center a div. (I am referring to a static default div)*

## TABLES

### TABLES

- Tables cannot be centered unless you first place the table inside a div tag, and then center the div tag.
- Tables are **not "Accessible"**, meaning the content is not easily accessible to those using an alternative web browser (due to physical impairment), as well as not accessible to search engines.
- A Table can almost always be replaced with divs and CSS.
- Tables are NOT a W3C Recommendation (web standard).
- You can use tables to present tabular data, such as data in a spreadsheet. Yet, CSS is still a viable option. (see tutorial on making a product page for an ecommerce web site.)



## DIV TAG

- A <div> tag is used to *div-ide* a web page into various sections.
- The Div is the recommended HTML Element for creating Layouts.
- By default, the typical <div> tag is Static. In other words, the <div> is positioned in the Normal Flow of the Page. A Layer, on the other hand, is Positioned: absolute. This means the layer is not a part of the normal flow of the page. This is an important distinction.
- A Static Div can be floated and centered with ease.
- Static Divs are also far more flexible than Absolute Divs.

### UNDERSTANDING VARIOUS POSITIONING SCHEMES

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HTML Elements can be assigned one of the following position properties:

1. Static (this is the default. therefore, we do not need to specify this.)
2. Absolute
3. Relative
4. Fixed