# Ten Checkpoints of a Web Standards Based Curriculum

Virginia DeBolt
www.webteacher.ws

# What are standards

- W3C standards
  - HTML and XHTML
  - CSS
  - DOM
- ECMA standards
  - ECMAScript

# What happens with standards?

- DOCTYPE for standards mode
- Separate content from presentation
  - Accessible
    - To people
    - To software
    - To search engines
  - Device independent
- Stable over time
- Ready for internationalization

# 1. Dig into DOCTYPES

- Know what DOCTYPES are and how to choose the best one
- Use the W3C specs for the DOCTYPE you choose

# 2. Go Behind WYSIWYG

- Learn the building blocks
- Know what code is created by actions in WYSIWYG views

# 3. Separate Content from Presentation

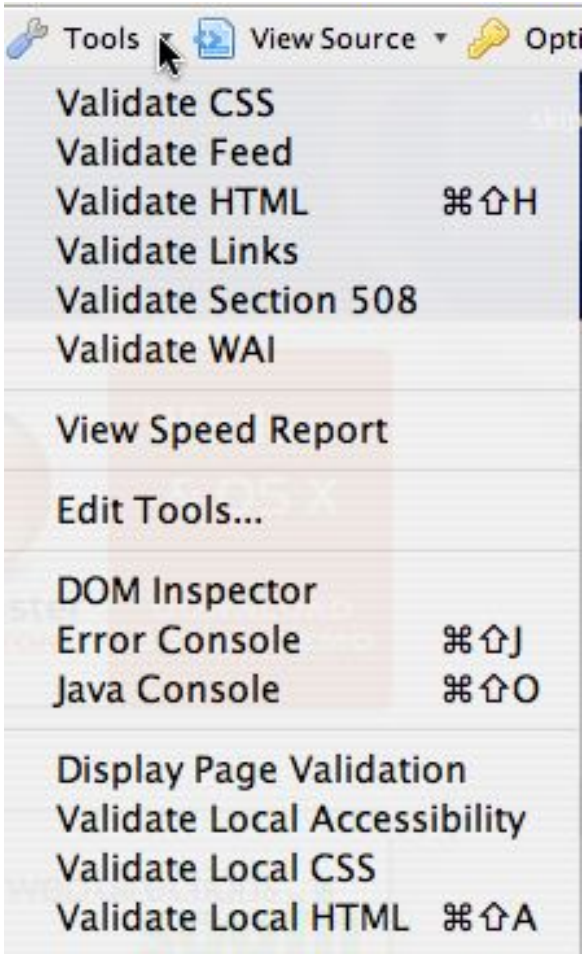
- Presentation is all in the CSS
- Content uses semantic structure
  - Semantic markup is understood by all
  - Web pages are accessible
  - Web pages work on all devices

# 4. Use Unobtrusive JavaScript

- Separate behavior from content and presentation
- JavaScript as an enhancement, but site must still usable without the behaviors
- Scripts, like CSS, go in external files

# 5. Validate

- Validate both HTML and CSS as part of the design process
- Learn to use tools and software to validate and debug pages



# 6. Test

- Testing knowledge needed includes:
  - Accessibility
  - Usability
  - Color contrast
- Browser testing on multiple browsers
- Screen reader testing

# 7. Accessible Flash/Multimedia

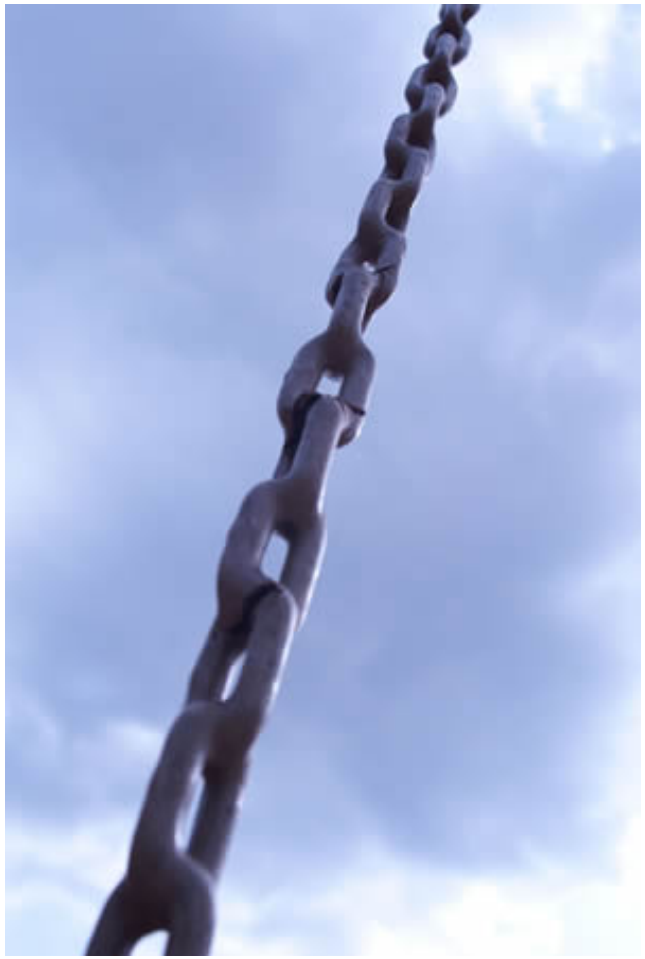
- Captioning
- No strobing content
- Keyboard accessible
- Screen reader accessible

# 8. Eliminate the Deprecated

- Deprecated methods such as using tables-based layouts and frames, styling with font tags, and all obsolete technology is *not taught*.
- Students don't have to *unlearn* for top industries or jobs

# 9. Coherence

- There is a coherent strategy for all the classes over the entire range of course work
  - Design & Illustration
  - HTML & CSS
  - Programming
  - Multimedia



# 10. Teach the Teachers

- Teachers get constant updates and retraining to keep up with the technology
- Teachers don't live in a Web 1.0 world when everyone else is looking forward to Web 3.0.