



Corporate Flow



Illustration



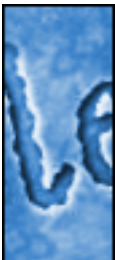
Image Editing



Automation



Web



Text Effects

Canvas Tips and Techniques



Creative Department

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Advanced Web Techniques



Advanced Web Techniques

Learn the secrets of creating professional looking Web documents in Canvas 8. With more and more people going online everyday wouldn't it make sense to have your presentations and graphics available to colleagues, friends, and family member? In the following tutorial, we will show you how to keep text from rendering, how to link pages, and how to use Canvas' built in FTP feature to upload your documents.

Here is the scenario. It's 7:20 PM Thursday evening and you're concentrating on sending out a few last-minute, yet important, e-mail messages to some of your clients, thus putting a final cap on your hectic workday. Anxiously, you glance at the clock. With luck, you'll be able to dash out of your cubicle, run quickly to your car, exit the parking garage unscathed, and weave through traffic so that you'll arrive home by 8 PM, just in time to watch Wrestling! It's an important show tonight. The Rock was viciously attacked last week by Hollywood Hulk Hogan using Semi Truck. Tonight The Rock seeks revenge for the humiliating attack.

As rotten luck would have it, just as you're wrapping things up, you hear the familiar squeaky footsteps of your boss approaching your work area. Hopes of an escape into Wrestling Nirvana are dashed when his shiny-pink face peeks over the rim of your cubicle, and he proceeds to explain to you that his son-in-law has located a hot prospective customer in Montana. You could care less about making the poster child for nepotism into a hero; however, landing this big account could pump much-needed revenue into your firm, thus, significantly reducing the possibility of a pink-slip suddenly appearing in your message box.

The presentation hinges on showing the oil and cattle-rich prospective client a three page brochure that you've finished up a few days ago. Due to his remote location in "Big Sky Country," the pin-head son-in-law insists that it be made available online as soon as possible. Naturally, the technology inhibited future CEO insists that you should post it immediately on the corporate Web site since you created the brochure. Gulp! "So," your boss says with a little smirk on his face, "we need to have this up like...yesterday."

As the squeek of his Florshiem's fade into the corridor, your mind races for a solution. How to complete this project, gain the firm an important client, and yet be able to enjoy the sight of the Hulk getting his just reward? With 10 minutes to spare how could you take a three-page brochure and create the HTML pages, design the HTML tables, add the graphics, add the text, link the pages, and FTP them up to the Web server? It's impossible!

Just as all hope begins to fade, you remember hearing about the HTML Export feature of Canvas...

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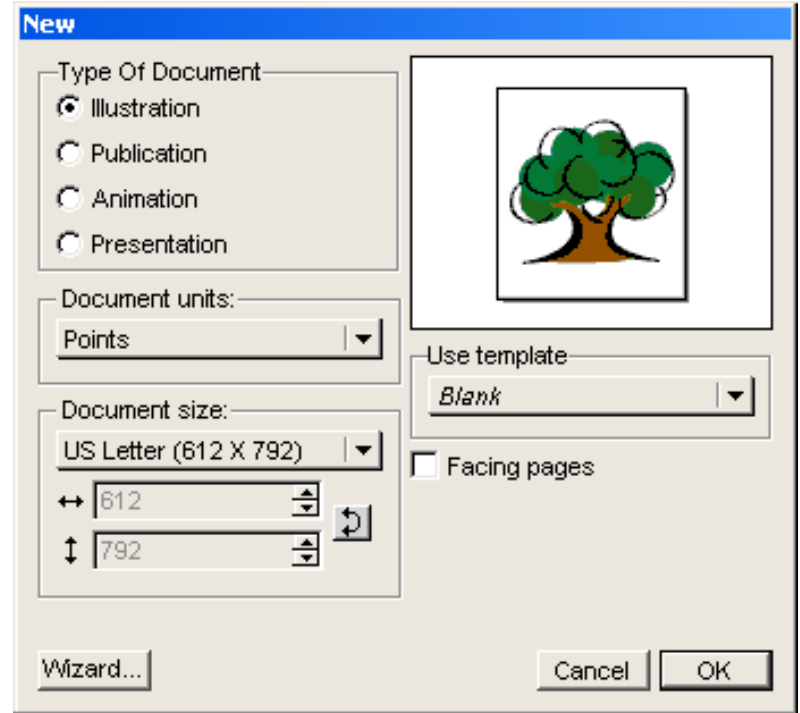
Step 1

Creating a new Document

Open a new Canvas file. Any file type will work but for the sake of this exercise we will use an existing Canvas file featuring a brochure for a fictitious finance company. It is a three-page brochure with text and a background object overlapping each other.

Our goal is to create links between our three pages and export them via Canvas' built-in FTP to the Web without rendering our body text.

If you already have an existing Canvas document that you want to put on theWeb you could use the following steps to ensure your document will be exported correctly.



Step 2

Preparing the Text

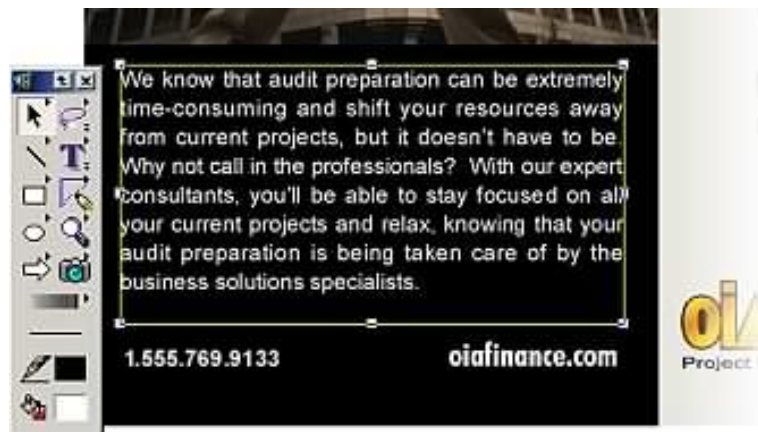
Looking at the first page of our document we spot the first area we need to work on. It is an area right below the photograph of the business man. The area consists of white text with a black background (background object). We could export this page and choose to render the text but that would make your file size bigger. Or you could choose to not render the text, but that would create an awkward white box with text inside.

Fear not, there is a simple solution.



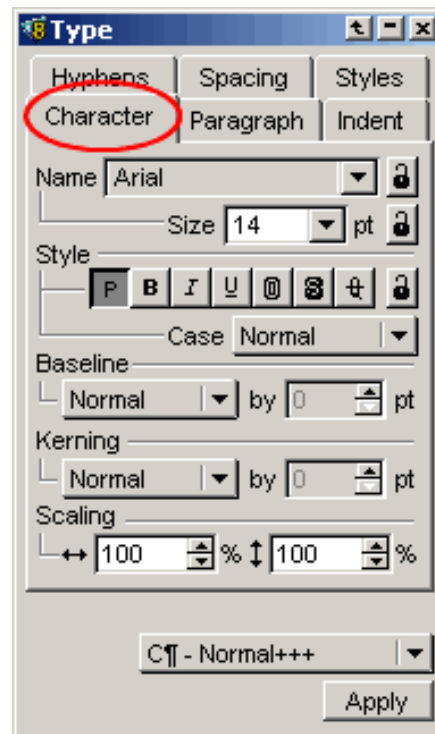
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First use the Selection Tool to select the text you want to keep unrendered.



Now, with the text still selected, double-click on the Text tool to bring up the Type palette. Choose the Character tab and select the font style and size you'll use if your already haven't done so.

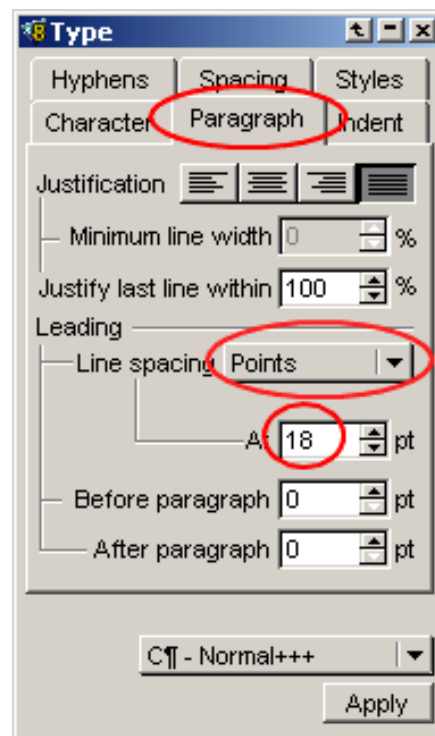
Tip: Since these fonts will not be rendered when your document is exported to HTML, it is recommended that you use a common font found on most computers such as Arial, Courier, Impact, Times New Roman or Verdana.



Next, select the Paragraph tab in the Type palette. From here you must assign your text line spacing in Points. This will keep the text from shifting when the document is exported.

To do this, first, select points from the Line spacing drop-down menu, then select the actual number of points you want for the line spacing.

Press Apply when you are done.



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Step 3

Changing the Text Background Color

Now here is the secret part. In the final steps of this tutorial, you'll be given the option to render your text or not. If you choose not to render your text and have a colored object behind the text or choose a color other than white for your document paper color, your resulting HTML file will include a colored box surrounding your text. The text will have a white background. This resulting white background will ruin the illusion of the white text over the black object.

To fix this, first choose Show Text Ruler (Layout > Display > Show Text Ruler). The Text Ruler controls will appear in your Canvas toolbar.

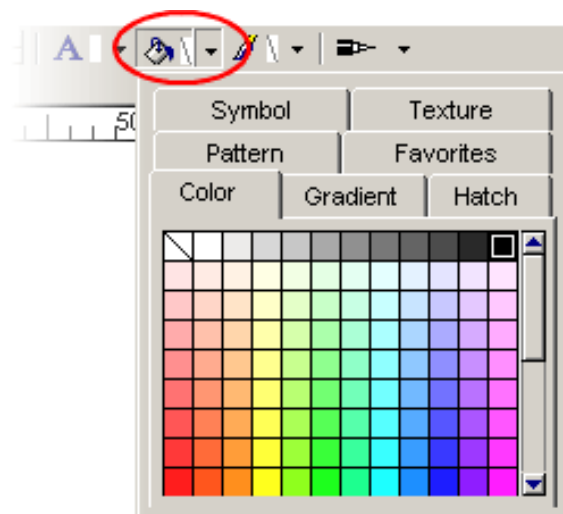
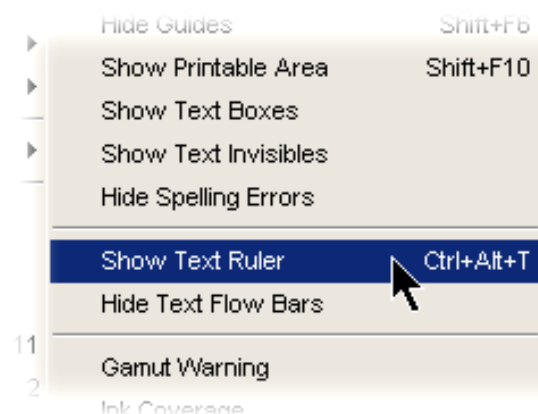
Now, with the text selected choose the Text Fill Option and select black from the Ink Palette to give your text a black background.

Your text will now look like this if you dragged it away from the black background object.

It's that simple. Now, there are a few other rules to follow if you want to make thing go smoothly.

- Non-solid colors for either the background of text, the text or the background object are prohibited.
- No effects can be used on the text
- Text has to be within the page.
- To ensure perfect color match always use Web safe colors for background object, text background, and document paper.
- Images must never overlap text.
- Text must never overlap text

Breaking these rules will not create bad HTML, the user has to follow them only if they wish the text to be exported as a text object, i.e., not rendered.



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[In the next section we will learn how to add links](#)

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Step 4

Adding Links

Now that we have prepared the text, we need to link our pages. To do this we are going to take the page we were just working on and add some simple text links to the bottom. Since this is a sales brochure a fancy navigation system is not necessary.

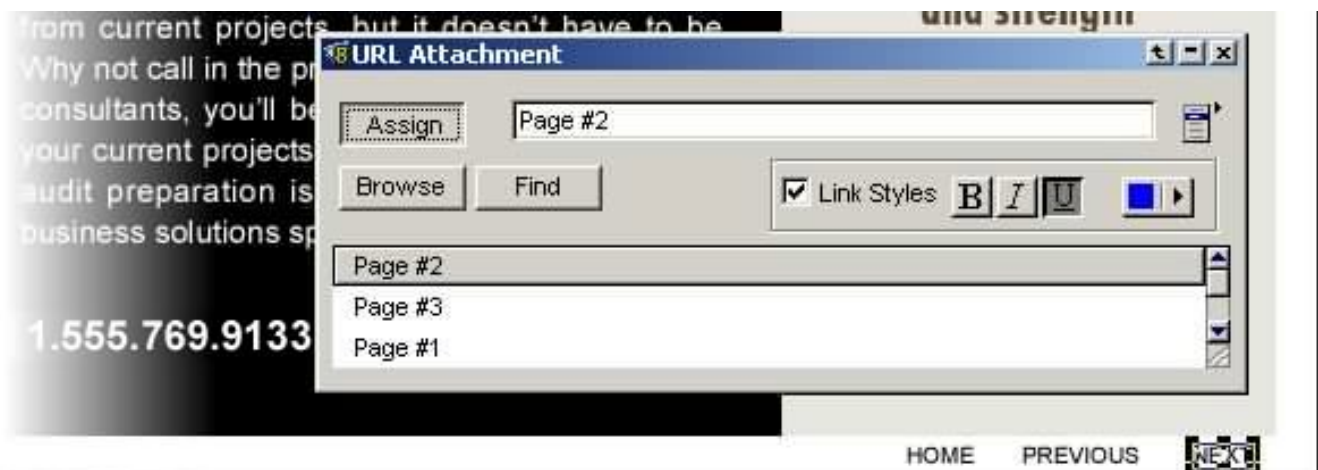


Using the Text tool from the Toolbox create a simple navigation at the bottom of the page or wherever you like.



Next select the text (or object) you wish to link. Open the URL Attachment palette (Window > Palette > URL Tag). Click on the page to which you wish to link or enter a URL (<http://www.yourwebsite.com>) and press Assign. We left the links with the default style of blue underlined text but you could change this style too.

Your links should appear as blue underlined text.



Now, use this same technique to add links to the rest of your pages.

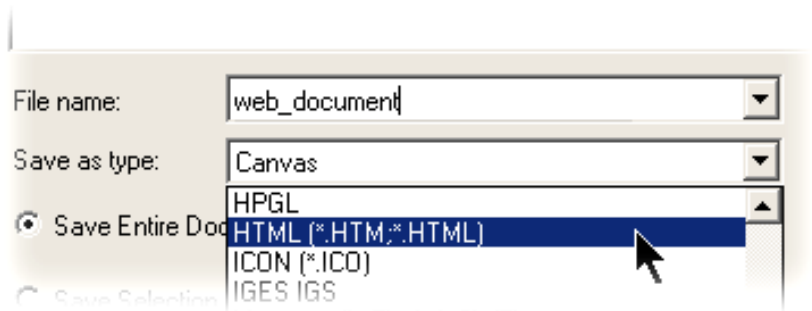
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Step 5

Saving as HTML

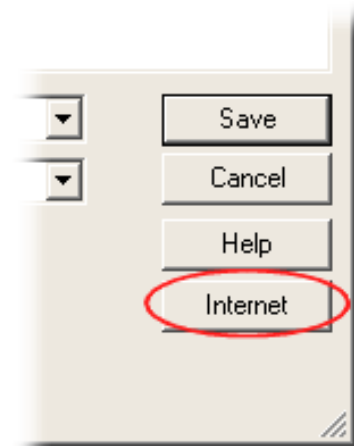
Now we have come to the final and most important step in our exercise: exporting the Canvas document as HTML pages.

To export your Canvas Document as an HTML file choose File > Save As. Name your file if you already haven't done so and choose HTML for the file type from the drop down menu. Make sure to have Save Entire Document checked.



If you wish to save the files locally choose a location on your hard drive and select Save.

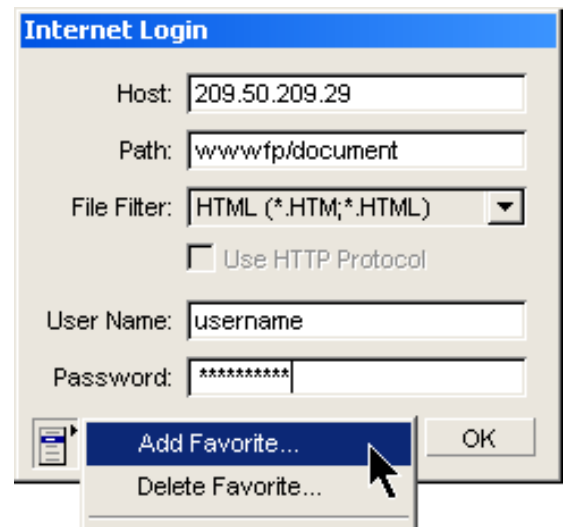
Windows only If you want to FTP the HTML files directly to your Web host select Internet from the Save As dialog box.



If you choose to FTP the files up to your Web host (Internet option) you'll be presented with the Internet Login dialog box.

For Host enter the actual IP address or the URL. Next enter the Path and finally Enter your User name and Password. If you're not sure about any of these settings contact your Web site hosting company or IT personnel. When you're ready, press OK.

Tip: If you plan on exporting many HTML files from Canvas to your Web host it is a good idea to click on the Internet Login menu icon and select Add Favorite. Therefore, the next time you want to export your Canvas files to your host all the settings will be already saved for you.



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Next you'll be presented with the HTML Options dialog box. For our brochure we chose to create a new folder, put the images in a subfolder, and separate the pages. For the file format, we chose HTML 4 and centered our page. A big part of this tutorial was to show you how to export Canvas files to HTML pages without rendering the text so we selected Never from the Text Options. Finally we selected Automatic for the Image Format with our JPEG quality set to fine and the anti-aliasing also set to fine.

When you have made all your selections, press OK. Canvas will automatically create all the HTML pages, links, graphics, subfolders, and even FTP it up to your Web host (if you chose the Internet option).

Note: Be aware that exporting Canvas files to HTML pages without rendering the text is an advanced option. It should be used carefully since this option will be applied to all text objects in the entire document.

The following is a detailed description of the HTML options.

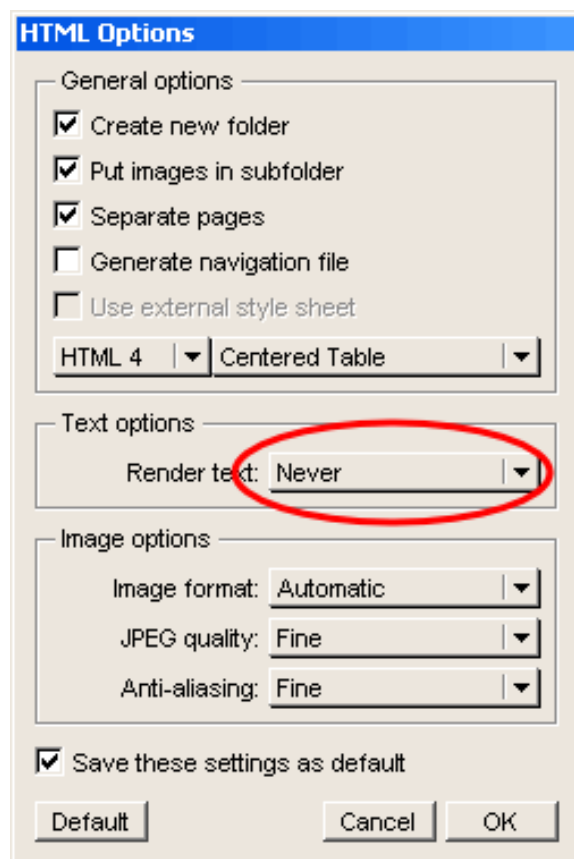
Create new folder will automatically set up files for a Web page by placing them inside a new folder in the location that you specify or at your FTP site. The name of this folder is the same as the one that you gave to your Canvas file.

Put images in subfolder will create a subfolder for Web page image files within the Web page folder when this option is chosen. This measure further organizes your files. The name of this subfolder is either __res or a combination of the file's name and __res.

Separate pages is used if your Canvas document has multiple pages, then the Separate pages option is available. A separate Web page will be created from each page of your Canvas document if this option is chosen. Otherwise, Canvas will export all pages as one HTML file.

Generate navigation file will automatically generate a frameset for easy navigation through your Web pages. There will be an index on the left side and a navigation bar with previous and next page links. Since we added our own navigation links on our pages we will leave this option unchecked.

Use external style to reduce the size of individual HTML files since the complete style information will not be included in each web page file. In addition, an external style sheet can make it easier to edit styles manually. An external style sheet will only save space though when a multi-page document is exported. **Note:** This option



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is not available if Table Layout is active since Table Layout does not use global CSS definition. Please see [Layout Mode](#) later in this report.

File format -when exporting as an HTML file, HTML 4 and XHTML 1 are the two general formats available. SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) is a markup language used for electronic document exchange and publishing. As an application of SGML, HTML 4 is considered to be the standard publishing language of the Web. XHTML extends the capabilities of HTML 4 and is based on XML (Extensible Markup Language), which was developed to overcome some of the shortcomings of Web authoring in SGML. Although XHTML employs the most up-to-date considerations of Web deployment, you may still want to use HTML 4 as some browsers might not be able to open XHTML files properly. Your decision will depend upon your working environment.

Layout mode- the layout of your page is another consideration when exporting as an HTML file. In Canvas, there are three layout modes available.

- **CSS2** is a styling language that allows you to attach a certain style and position to specific HTML elements in your document. Using this option, graphics and text objects will be positioned using the absolute position property as defined by the CSS2 specification. Objects can overlap each other without the need of being rendered in this particular mode. However, some browsers may have trouble properly displaying the CSS2 format. Only Internet Explorer 4.X and higher, AOL 4 and higher, and Netscape Navigator 6.X are CSS2-compatible. The latest versions of Opera and iCab still have some problems rendering CSS2 styles properly.
- **Table Layout** will organize all Canvas objects into cells of an HTML table. All overlapping objects will be rendered and exported as bitmaps. Although table mode may produce less efficient HTML output, it is a layout that is accepted by all major browsers.
- **Table Layout Centered** will produce the same HTML output as the Table Layout option but everything will be centered in a browser's window.

Render Text converts text objects into images so as to ensure that the text appears exactly the same on the Web as it does in your document. For instance, text layered on top of other text should be rendered. However, rendered text can't be selected as text on a Web page. The HTML Options dialog box gives you the following options for rendering text:

- **Automatically** lets Canvas decide when to render text.
- **Always** will render all of your text.
- **Never** will preserve the text as actual text.

Tip: Even if the Never option is chosen, there are still guidelines due to the limitations of HTML:

1. Text cannot overlap text
2. Transformation of text is not supported.
3. Text has to be within the page.

Image Options allows you to choose the image format and JPEG quality.

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Image Format - select automatic if you want Canvas to select the file format for images. Select JPEG or GIF file format if you want to save all images in one format.

JPEG Quality allows you to select the image quality based on the amount of JPEG compression you want Canvas to apply to images. Fine is recommended for most Web images.

Anti-aliasing will smooth the edges of vector objects and text objects that are rendered for Web pages. Choose an option from the drop-down menu to control the amount of smoothing. Fine is recommended.

- **Finest** uses up to 256 shades for anti-aliasing between each pair of colors. When images have more than 256 colors, they should be saved in JPEG format to preserve the full range of shades.
- **Fine** uses 64 shades per pair of colors.
- **Medium** uses 16 shades per color pair.
- **Coarse** uses four shades per color pair.
- **None** does not apply anti-aliasing to rendered images.

Remember to save your document as a source Canvas file if you wish to edit it in the future. Canvas does not support opening and editing HTML files.

Click on the image or link below to view the exported HTML pages created entirely in Canvas. Notice how we used unrendered text in some areas while still using a colored background. You may also notice how we chose to render some text to keep it consistent when viewed with different operating systems. It is a good idea to render your text when you need to use text that is very large or when you use special, nonstandard fonts. To render these special text areas simply use the Camera tool located in your Toolbox to render the text and leave the rendered text image over the text object. This way it is possible to go back and edit your text if you ever need to.

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[Click here to view exported pages on the web](#)