

# BREAKTHROUGH

Together

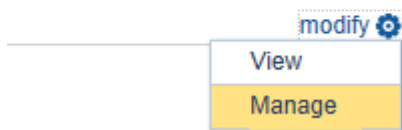
## MYMATHLAB / MYSTATLAB

### DIRECT LINKING TO SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENTS

The ability to customize a course is important for individual instructors, crafting their course to match their teaching style, and course administrators, setting up the best course for their course group/s. The level of customization chosen varies depending on your course delivery and implementation model.

If you are teaching a lecture course and integrating MyMathLab homework and quizzing you may not make changes to the navigation tabs and focus on crafting your assignments. If you are a course administrator for a modular lab based course you're likely making significant changes to the navigation tabs and content pages in addition to crafting the course assignments.

Changing or adding new course navigation tabs, uploading your own content, linking out to other resources, or creating your own content page/s likely satisfies the majority of your customization needs.



You may have worked with the content page editor; using the Visual Editor to edit existing content or have begun working with the HTML script to link to chapter level assignments.

If you've already been editing HTML script and linking to chapter level assignments but really want to link directly to a specific assignment then this upgrade is for you!

Direct Linking, released in April 2014, is an advanced customization tool that allows you to link directly to a specific assignment; an individual homework, quiz, or test from a content page. Preloaded, custom, and courses integrated with a Learning Management System (MyLabsPlus, Blackboard, Canvas, D2L) can employ direct linking.

Direct linking will be invaluable in many mastery-based, redesigned courses or in any course that requires students to follow a prescribed learning path and sequence; tightly correlating practice with learning materials.

The process of adding direct links to assignments involves coding in HTML and JavaScript.

This handout provides instructions on how to create direct assignment linking in your course/s.

## What Do I Need To Get Started?



Help

If you are not familiar with modifying your course navigation panel, you may wish to review [Module 9: Designing Your Course](#) in the **MyMathLab/MyStatLab Implementation Guide**.

If you are not familiar with editing HTML script on a content page, please refer to the [Linking Tips](#) at the end of this document.

## Obtain the History ID from the Assignment Manager



Every assignment has a unique History ID, you'll need that ID number before you can create a direct link for your specific assignment.

1. Access the **Assignment Manager** from within the Course Tools tab in your MML/MSL New Design course.
2. Locate the assignment for your direct link.
3. In the *Actions* column adjacent to the assignment, select **List Questions** from the drop-down menu. Click **Go**.
4. The History ID appears near the top of the page under View Question Details.

### View Question Details

Assignment name	Chapter 9 Diagnostic Quiz
Chapter coverage	9
Displays with chapters	1
Total points	16
History ID	94501_T_70792282_2



Notes

If your assignment is in a course that was created prior to 4/11/14, you may not see the history ID on this page. If this is the case, review the [FAQs](#) or contact your **Learning Technology Specialist** and they will assist you in requesting the history ID from the XL development team.

5. Copy the assignment history ID. This set of numbers/letters will be the parameter you insert within the HTML script in the content page editor.



Best Practices

Copy the history ID directly from the View Question Details page and paste into a file, such as Excel, and include the assignment name or identification. You'll find this especially helpful if you are planning to create direct links for more than one assignment.

	A	B
1	3.2	92503_H_185987912_2
2	3.3	92503_H_185987913_2
3	3.4	92503_H_185987914_2
4	3.5	92503_H_185987915_2
5	quiz 1	92503_T_69693340_2
6	3.6	92503_H_185987916_2
7		
8		
9		

Assignment history ID's are generated randomly and the sequence of numbers does not correspond to the assignment content items' chapter, section, or objectives.

If your assignments were created in order, you may find that the ID numbers are somewhat sequential.

The history ID coding for homework, quizzes, and tests are different.

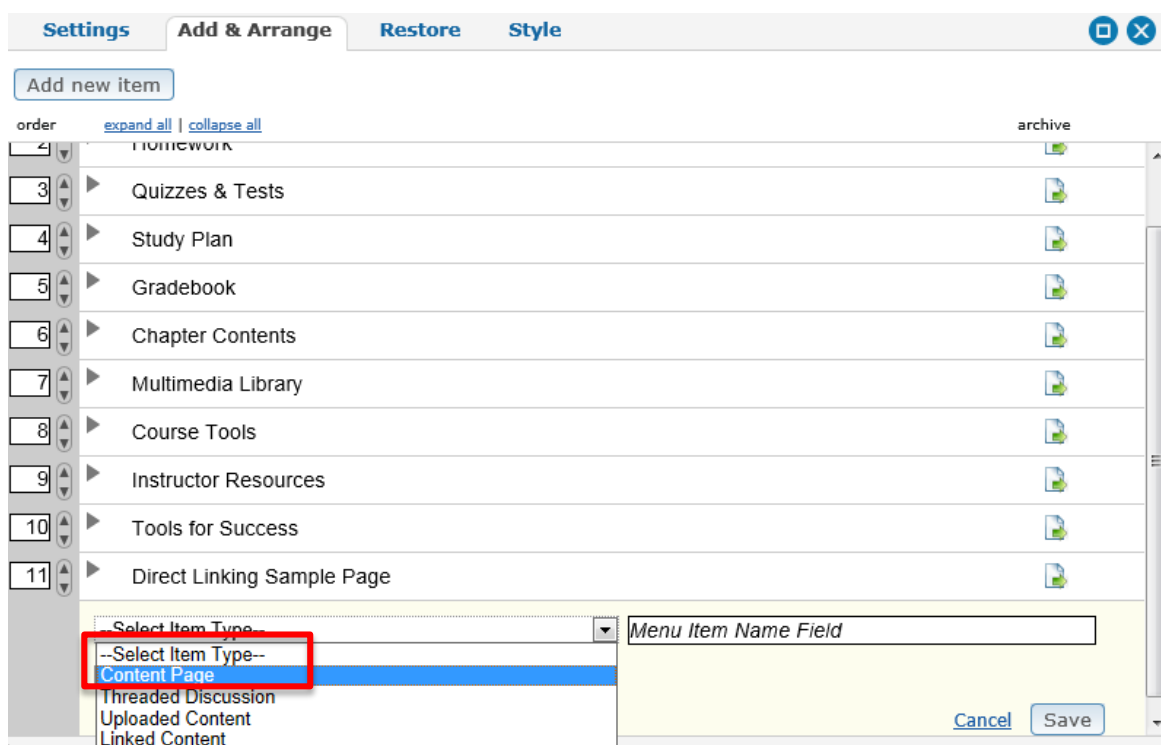
For additional information about history ID's please review the [FAQs](#).

In HTML, the direct link looks like this:

```
<a onclick="openXLSpecificAssignmentNew('93866_H_181955009_2'); return false;" href="#">Insert_Link_Text_Here</a>
```

### Steps for Direct Linking to Your Assignment

1. Create a new tab on the navigation panel as a **Content Page**, not Linked Content.



2. When finished, return the course home page, click on the new tab, and then click on the **Modify** link at the top right of the content page.

3. The editor in the new content page is empty, but you can't insert the HTML code for your direct link without including very important script; the opening and closing lines of code that you see on all of the existing, publisher-created pages. Your direct link will not work without this script. Copy and paste the script in the box below.

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head>
<meta content="text/html; charset=utf-8" http-equiv="content-type" />
<SCRIPT type=text/javascript src="http://tpi-
scripts.pearsoncmg.com/myMathLabLTI.js"></SCRIPT>
<SCRIPT type=text/javascript src="http://lti.next.ecollege.com/scripts/lti.js"></SCRIPT>
</head>
<body>
<link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css"
href="http://media.pearsoncmg.com/cm/pmmg_mml_shared/ccng/css/mmlStyle.css" />
<div id="content">
```

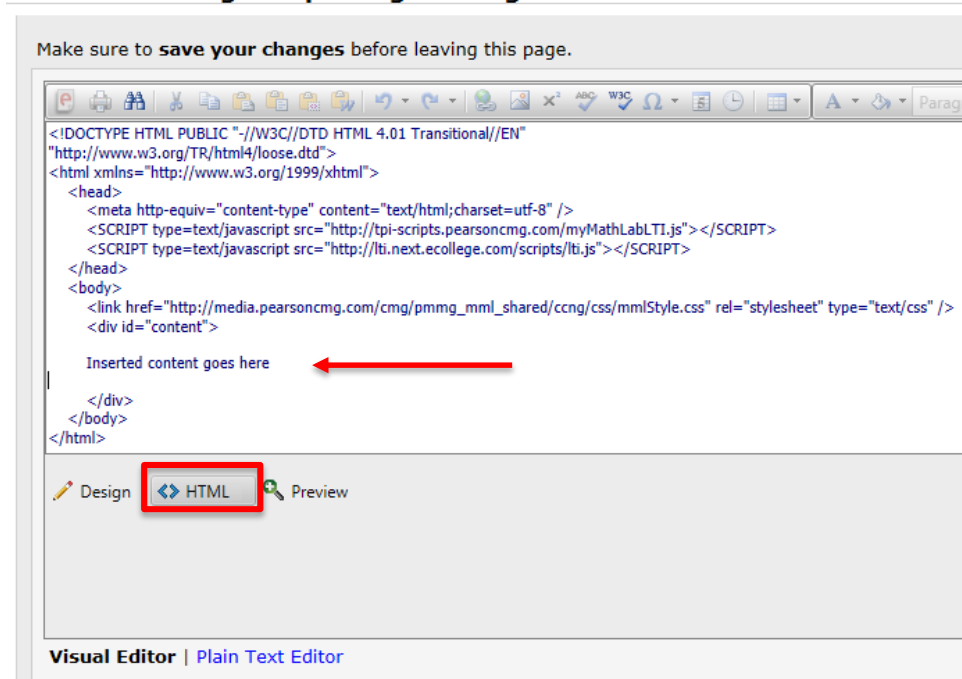
**Inserted direct link script goes here**

```
</div>
</body>
</html>
```

4. Before inserting any script into the editor ensure you are in **HTML**, not Design mode.

#### Direct Linking Sample Page Manager

Make sure to **save your changes** before leaving this page.



```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"
"http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
<head>
<meta http-equiv="content-type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
<SCRIPT type=text/javascript src="http://tpi-scripts.pearsoncmg.com/myMathLabLTI.js"></SCRIPT>
<SCRIPT type=text/javascript src="http://lti.next.ecollege.com/scripts/lti.js"></SCRIPT>
</head>
<body>
<link href="http://media.pearsoncmg.com/cm/pmmg_mml_shared/ccng/css/mmlStyle.css" rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" />
<div id="content">

    Inserted content goes here

</div>
</body>
</html>
```

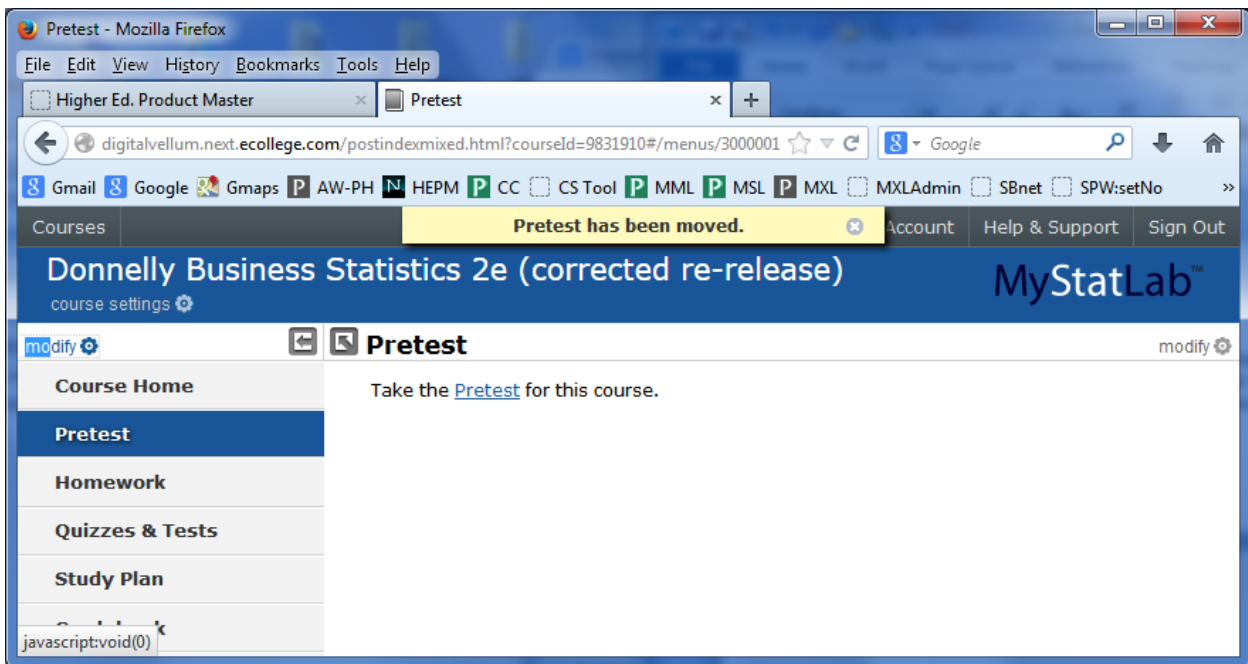
Design **HTML** Preview

Visual Editor | Plain Text Editor

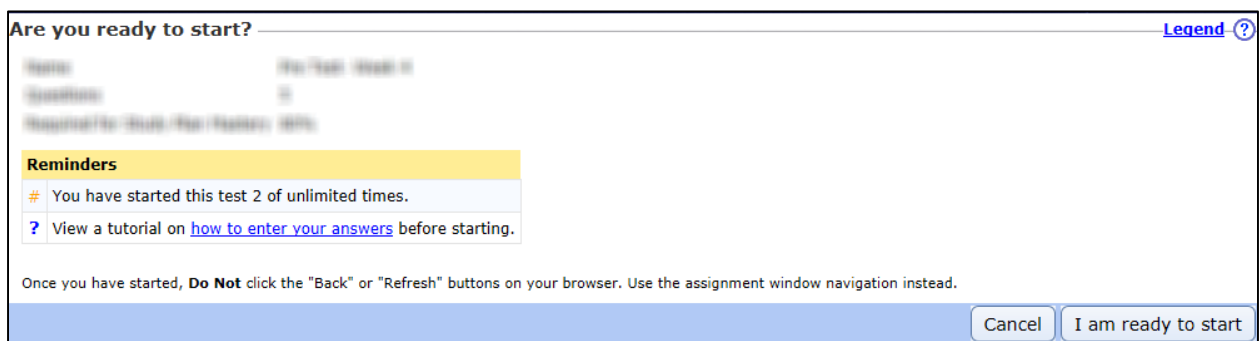
5. As an example: Inserting the following script –

```
<p>Take the <a href="#"
onclick="openXLSpecificAssignmentNew('94435_T_69315801_2'); return
false;">Pretest</a> for this course.</p>
```

The resulting page looks like –



6. Clicking on this [Pretest](#) link opens the first page of the assignment (shown below) in a **NEW** tab.



Best Practices

To retain the navigation panel and open the assignment within the existing window as opposed to a new tab; replace **NEW** with **SAME** in your script –

openXLSpecificAssignment**New** → openXLSpecificAssignment**Same**

Students are less likely to close the program inadvertently by closing the program window as opposed to the new assignment tab.

7. Remember to **SAVE CHANGES** before exiting the content page editor.
8. After completing your first direct link, **you may have to clear your browser cache** for the new link to work. Always verify the direct link is functioning as expected.
9. Multiple direct links may be added to a content page.



Direct linking does not change prerequisites or any other settings for the assignment. If you are logged in as an instructor and click on the direct link, you will automatically bypass the prerequisite. No warning message will appear. A student clicking on the direct link will see the prerequisite message and will not be able to open the assignment without satisfying the prerequisite.



You may wish to restore the **Assignments** tab to the bottom of the navigation panel as back up access to assignments only available via direct linking. If direct linking isn't working your students will still have access to important assignments.

## FAQs for Direct Linking

### What if my course assignments don't have a History ID?

You can copy your course, delete all assignments, and then import all assignments into the new course from your original course. Importing the assignments into the new course creates History ID's. History ID's will be more sequential and working with multiple direct links will be easier.

#### Caution!

If you have set prerequisites for your assignments this option may not be for you. Remember, prerequisites are not carried over with imported assignments. Copying a course does not create new history IDs for pre-existing assignments.

### If I need to request assignment History ID's is there anything I should do first?

Although not required, it's a good idea to ensure your assignments are in the order you want on the assignment list. The History ID's provided will be more sequential and working with multiple direct links will be easier.

### What could cause a direct link to stop working?

A direct linked assignment is deleted and replaced by a new assignment without editing the link with the new History ID. You can edit the existing assignment; add or remove items or change the assignment name or settings without impacting the History ID.

Too many browser tabs are open or the browser cache needs to be cleared.

If subsequent edits have been made to the content page via the Design mode, the appropriate opening and closing lines of code may not be present or have been modified. Deleting in the Design mode and copy/paste in the HTML mode is a good practice to prevent the loss of important coding.

## Why isn't my direct link working?

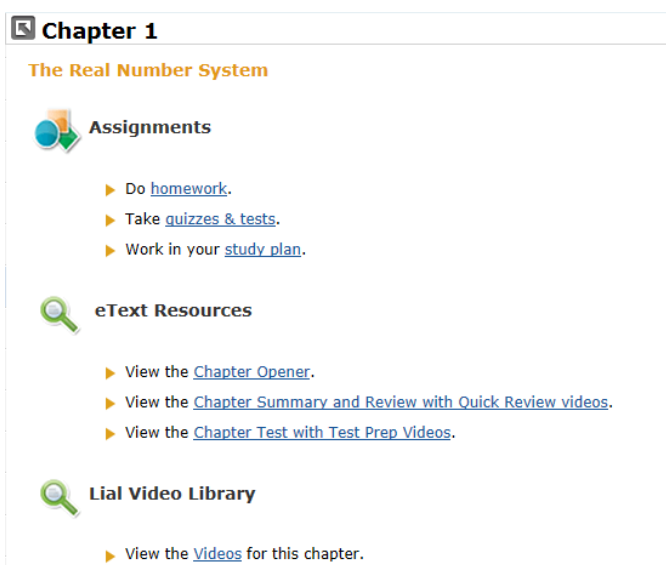
After creating your first direct link, did you remember to clear your browser cache?

Ensure the History ID you have entered is accurate. To prevent typos, copy and paste IDs, as opposed to typing them in.

Ensure your direct link script is inserted between the **required** opening and closing script as shown on page 4 of this document.

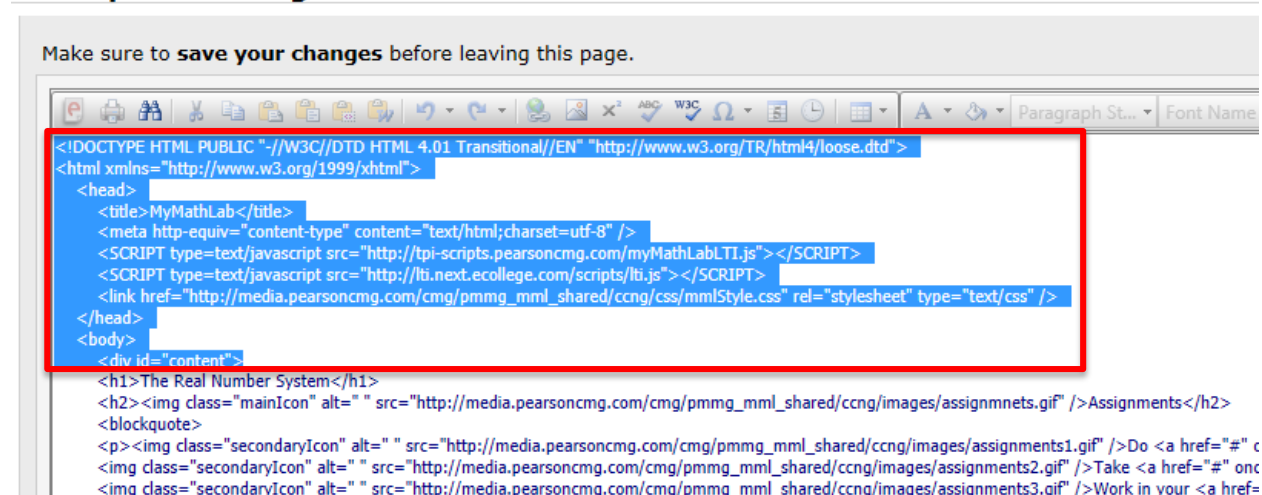
## If I don't have the opening and closing script, can I find it within my course?

The content pages in your course already include this script. The Chapter 1 tab shown below includes the script in the content page editor.



**The opener** – All script preceding 'The Real Number System' line. Highlighted below.

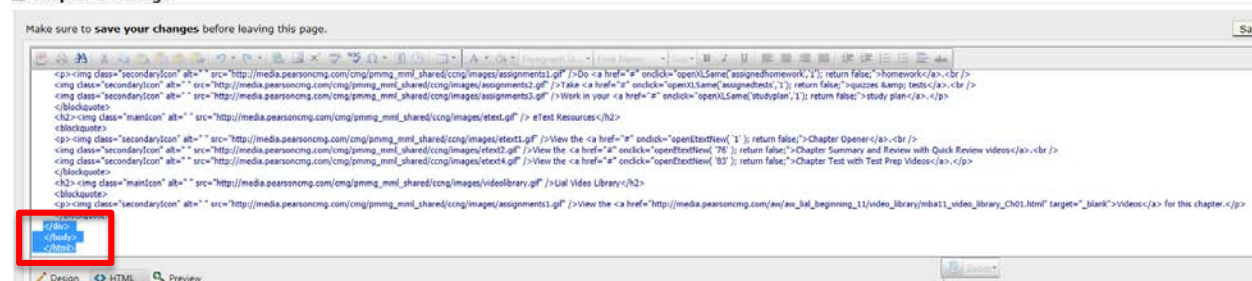
## Chapter 1 Manager





**The closer** – All script following 'View the Videos for this Chapter' line. Highlighted below.

#### Chapter 1 Manager



If you are working with existing content pages you will likely see additional HTML script. Unless you are well versed in HTML scripting, make as few changes as possible.

#### What if I want to change an existing link to assignments at the chapter level to a direct link?

If you have created links pointing to homework or tests by chapter, you can change the script to a direct link.

The following link pointing to assigned tests in chapter 1 -

```
href="#" onclick="openXLSame('assignedhomework','1'); return false;">homework</a>
ef="#" onclick="openXLSame('assignedtests','1'); return false;">quizzes & tests</a>
ir <a href="#" onclick="openXLSame('studyplan','1'); return false;">study plan</a>
```

Would be replaced with the following to direct link to a specific assignment -

```
#" onclick="openXLSame('assignedhomework','1'); return false;">homework</a>.<
onclick="openXLSpecificAssignmentNew('93866_H_181955009_2'); return false;">c
ref="#" onclick="openXLSame('studyplan','1'); return false;">study plan</a>.</p>
```

#### TIPS for Linking Assignments by Chapter

If you're new to coding in HTML and JavaScript, and after opening the content page editor the multiple lines of code start swimming before your eyes – don't be discouraged.

Look for script that starts with the following – `<a href="#" onclick`

All links to assignments (as well as other XL resources) begin with this code. Below is the link as it appears on the content page and the associated code in the editor HTML mode.

Do [homework](#).

**Do** `<a href="#" onclick="openXLSame('assignedhomework','1'); return false;">`**homework**`</a>`.



You'll notice that the linking scripts identify locations in XL using specific references that are consistent across all courses; ('assignedhomework'), ('assignedtests'), ('studyplan'), ('multimedia'), followed by the script designating the chapter , '1' (Using Chapter 1 as an example) within the parentheses.

The link to the etext has a different script –

```
<a href="#" onclick="openEtextNew( 'page number' ); return false;">Title for the Link</a>.
```

If you are unable to find the Assignments tab in the restore tab menu use the following scripts –

```
<a href="#" onclick="openPearsonMyLabNewWindow('doassignments'); return false;">All Assignments</a>
```

**OR...**

```
<a href="#" onclick="openPearsonMyLabSameWindow('doassignments'); return false;">All Assignments</a>
```

**New** opens assignment page in a new tab, **Same** opens assignment page in the same window.

Whenever possible make changes to existing script as opposed to creating new. You may want to copy and save the original script to a word document until you are confident the changes made are what you want. Make as few changes as possible - there are many HTML 'tags' that if changed or duplicated will impact the stability of the link or the look of the content page.