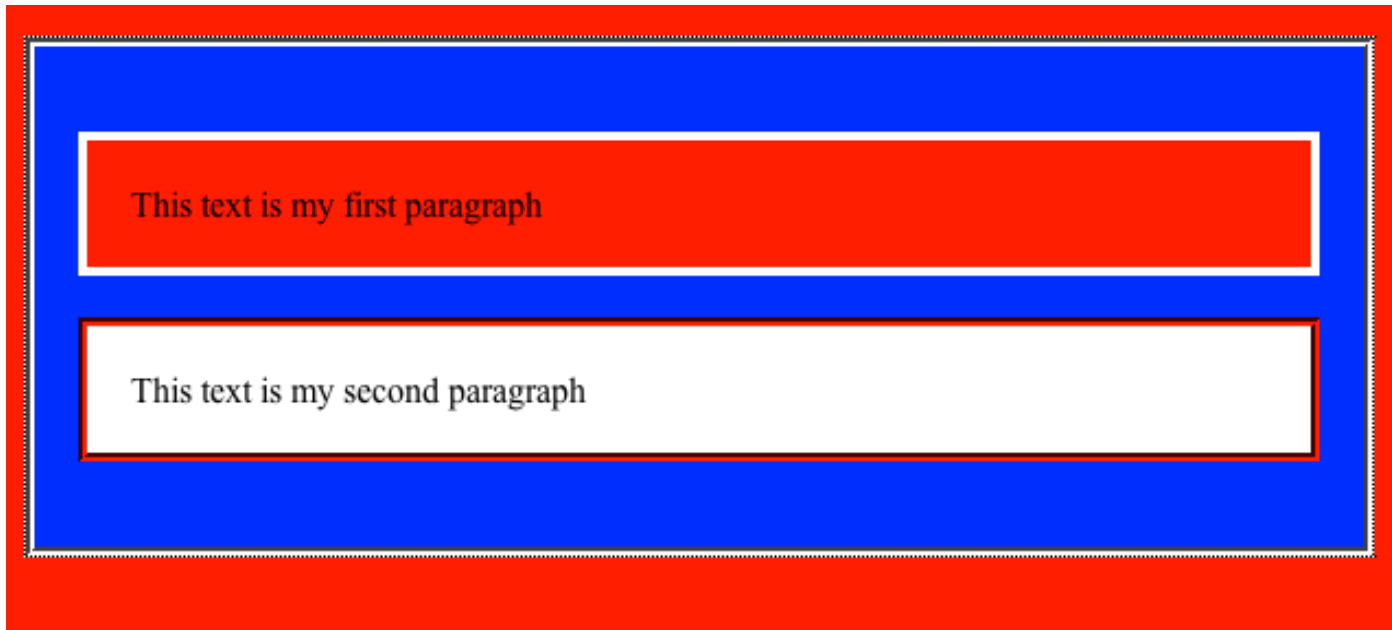


## Using CSS To Create A Layered Effect

Now that you are comfortable with using CSS to decorate you page elements, we can look at more advanced design. We learned in the last lesson that every tag is essentially a box. By placing boxes inside of boxes we can create a layered effect that is more appealing to the eye.

Layered CSS Effect:



So how do you go about creating this? Layering is made possible by using the <div> tag.

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### The DIV Tag

The <div> tag is a special tag that is used to create a box around other tags.

**Step 1** – Create a <div> tag anywhere in your body section and decorate it with a border, background color and padding as we learned in the last lesson.

```
<div style="background-color:blue; border-style:groove; border-color:white; padding:20px;">  
  
</div>
```

**\*\*\*Note\*\*\*** Don't be alarmed if nothing shows up at this point. The Div will not show up until you place something in side of it.

**Step 2** – Place your paragraph tags inside of the div

```
<div style="background-color:blue; border-style:groove; border-color:white;
padding:20px;">

    <p style="background-color:red; border-style:solid; border-color:white;
padding:20px;"> This text is my first paragraph </p>

    <p style="background-color:white; border-style:groove; border-color:red;
padding:20px;"> This text is my second paragraph </p>

</div>
```

**\*\*\*Note\*\*\*** I've used indenting here to make it easier to see where the div container opens and closes. This is common practice when working with div tags so that we can see which containers are inside of others.

**Step 3** – Modify your background color to another color to make the div stand out.

```
<body style="background-color:red;">

<div style="background-color:blue; border-style:groove; border-color:white;
padding:20px;">

    <p style="background-color:red; border-style:solid; border-color:white;
padding:20px;"> This text is my first paragraph </p>

    <p style="background-color:white; border-style:groove; border-color:red;
padding:20px;"> This text is my second paragraph </p>

</div>

</body>
```

That's it! Your layered effect is complete.

A few things to note:

- a) Layered design works best when you choose 3 to 5 colors and use them in your backgrounds borders and font colors. You get a cool effect when you alternates the colours of the borders and backgrounds.
- b) You can place any tag you want inside of a div tag including : headings, paragraphs, strong, emphasis, horizontal rules, etc.