

JavaScript: Random quotations

How can you write a simple JavaScript to display a randomly selected quote on a webpage? This will be from a list that you specify.

Probably the first thing to do in the script is to declare a new array variable like:

```
var quotes = new Array();
```

Then you can load the array with quotes of your choice. You should insert them sequentially so that there will be no gaps in the array (otherwise the array value will be undefined if you were to try to print it out). Note that you should enter the quotes as a single line, but for space reasons they're given over multiple lines here.

```
quotes[0] = "Hey, you can't fight in here! This is the war room!  
<br /> - Dr. Strangelove";  
  
quotes[1] = "He who fights fire with fire burns his house down  
twice as fast. <br /> - Vietnamese proverb";  
  
quotes[2] = "I have not yet begun to fight. <br />  
- John Paul Jones";
```

Now having entered your quotes into an array, you need some way of selecting one of them. You can use the `Math.random()` function to help with this. This function gives a random real number x where $0 \leq x < 1$. How can you translate this in some fashion into an integer between 0 and `quote.length-1` (inclusive), recalling that arrays are indexed beginning at 0? (This is something that you should think about. It's not difficult, but I don't want to give away everything here.) Let's assume we have a function `randomInteger(low, high)` that gives you an integer between `low` and `high` (inclusive).

Then having selected a random integer, you can use the `document.write` command to write it to the HTML document.

Easy, huh?

You can insert your code into any document, or you can save it to a separate file and insert it in your HTML code in the manner I described in class.

A fully working JavaScript function is shown on the next page.

```
<script type="text/javascript">

function randomInteger (low, high)
{
    /* Insert your code here to do this!! */
}

/* Remember to enter each quote as a single line in your JavaScript! */
var quotes = new Array();
quotes[0] = "Hey, you can't fight in here! This is the war room!
           <br /> - Dr. Strangelove";
quotes[1] = "He who fights fire with fire burns his house down
           twice as fast. <br /> - Vietnamese proverb";
quotes[2] = "I have not yet begun to fight. <br />
           - John Paul Jones";

/* get a random integer from the set { 0, ..., quotes.length - 1 */
var t = randomInteger(0, quotes.length - 1);

/* write that quote to the document */
document.write( quotes[t] );

</script>
```