

Peer Curriculum Web Critique

Overall I feel that Evaline and Hsiu-Jen's curriculum web was well planned and appealing. Their curriculum web was centered around the 50 North American States to further students' knowledge on American culture and geography. One of their strong points was that they provided a plethora of informative links that supported the content. This presented adequate opportunities for the students to seek further information about topics that interested them. The curriculum web is largely self-explanatory with the teacher acting as a guide facilitating the process.

The teacher's guide was filled with useful information for the instructor. It described everything a teacher would need to know on how to effectively implement the curriculum web for the students. Several web pages mentioned for students to cite where they obtained their information and pictures, however, I think that one of the pre-requisites would be for the students to know how to correctly cite sources in accordance to copyright laws.

I feel that the curriculum web incorporated several different learning styles including audio and visual aspects, writing, reading, and communication skills. The audio clips and colorful graphics were a nice added touch in making the website more appealing and interesting to the students. For the purpose of the curriculum web, I think that it is more meaningful for the students to email with students in another state to learn about each other's state. Because not every student is going to receive the same information, the students can have a class discussion on what they learned from their counterpart.

There are a few improvements Evaline and Hsiu-Jen can make on their curriculum web. I think that the text would be more readable if they used sans serif. I also caught a spelling error on the home page of the teacher's guide (should "bust" be "but"?). On the resources page, I think that it would be better to separate the list of words in the blue box with a comma or listing it in a table because it is too difficult to read. I do not know why, but on the advanced reading 2, the last line of directions, "or via email," is on top of the heading "General State History," which makes it difficult to read. It might be clearer to create a Credits page on your resources page with the specific link to your picture. This way you will be providing your students with an example of how they are supposed to cite their sources.

The exercises Evaline and Hsiu-Jen created are concrete evidence that the both of them spent lots of time and hard work on their curriculum web. They demonstrated nice use of forms to obtain feedback from their audience. A note that I want to add for them to think about is if the two classrooms should be in different states. If so, they should state that somewhere on the website. I feel that their curriculum web is a good project because it can extend beyond the intended lessons to incorporate more questions and conversions and possibly promoting distance learning.