

Reflection on Class

When I first started the Computer Education and Technology Master's program, I was looking forward to using web-authoring software to create my personal website. I took EDCT 203 as an undergraduate using a Macintosh computer and have wanted to update my website, but did not know how to upload to the server. Last quarter I took EDCT 531, where we designed a personal website using Microsoft FrontPage, which I thought was easy to use but limiting. Several people told me that Macromedia Dreamweaver allows more flexibility than FrontPage. I wanted rollovers on my website, but for what I wanted to do, I was told that rollovers are easier to create using Dreamweaver than FrontPage.

By learning FrontPage last quarter, it was easy for me to grasp how to use majority of the tools in Dreamweaver because several of them were very similar to FrontPage. Since I had a great start on my website from last quarter, I was ahead of some of my fellow classmates the first four weeks of class. During those weeks, I felt the class was moving at a slow pace because the information I learned was redundant. I was hoping we would have learned more about the tools that makes Dreamweaver unique and different from FrontPage *before* the original due date of our website. I realize that we only have ten weeks to learn about how to use Dreamweaver in creating web pages and web sites.

My strong points include designing a simple, yet appealing website by effectively applying the four principles of design. I feel that adding back buttons and duplicating the menu bar on the bottom of some of my web pages helped make my website easier to navigate. My website is also neat, clear, and easy to read. The curriculum web Jen and I

is unique in that the design and content we used is all original. Jen designed the website by creating the graphics in Photoshop, and I typed up the content for some of the web pages and created the Student's page. I feel that our curriculum web is appropriate and designed towards our target audience. The Student's page is not as involved or detailed like the curriculum webs we have seen as a class because first grade students need minimal content and visuals to direct them with the activities.

My weak points would be to first of all, finish my personal website, specifically the YEPE page. I can also work on shifting content on some of the web pages to the right so it won't crowd the left edge of the page. For the curriculum web, Jen and I wanted to include a quiz on the Student's page by using forms in Dreamweaver to obtain more feedback from the students but did not have enough time. This may be something that we add in future when we have more time.

In the future I intend to keep my website pretty much the same but updating it once I have new information to add. I plan to replace the Projects link from the Education page with my completed Master's Portfolio. The purpose for my website in the future is to be a summary of my accomplishments from college and beyond school. With regards to the curriculum web, I will probably have to modify it to implement it for my target audience, high school students. However, I do feel that Jen will be able to implement it with her first graders and that it will be a rewarding experience for her and her students.