

Item Details

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Title: Community Sites

Unit: Communicating Online

Estimated

Time: 15 Minutes

Type: Lesson

Tool: Web Browser

Desc.: This lesson teaches students how to synthesize, publish, and share information on a web page in an online community. Students learn how technology and online communication skills can be used to present rich communication for an audience.

Primary Objectives

Student understands the ethical, cultural, and societal issues related to technology.

Student practices responsible use of technology systems, information, and software.

Student develops positive attitudes toward technology uses that support lifelong learning, collaboration, personal pursuits, and productivity.

Student uses technology tools to enhance learning, increase productivity, and promote creativity.

Student uses productivity tools to collaborate in constructing technology-enhanced models, prepare publications, and produce other creative works.

Student understands, manages, and creates effective oral, written, and multimedia communication in a variety of forms and contexts.

Student analyzes, accesses, manages, integrates, evaluates, and creates information in a variety of forms and media.

Student demonstrates ethical behavior.

Student produces visual images, messages, and meanings that communicate with others.

Student understands what personal information they should never enter on a community Website.

Student understands that information posted on community Websites is visible to the public.

Secondary Objectives

Student transfers learning from one domain to another.

Student uses a variety of media and formats to communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences.

Student uses technology to locate, evaluate, and collect information from a variety of sources.

Student understands the interconnections among systems.

Teacher Notes

The setting for the online lesson is the Bue Festival, held annually in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The festival is the most important international music festival in the region. You might want to provide some background information about the festival, have students locate Buenos Aires (which means fair winds) on a map, and hold a whole-class discussion about South American culture and history as well as student's experiences and perceptions of South America in general.

Extension Ideas

Presenting information on a web site is similar to presenting information in a formal paper. Students must reference where they find their information and media. To help students understand their rights, discuss international copyright laws as a class so all students understand how they can create and use online information legally. Describe how to cite sources accurately and when students should link to information instead of copying and pasting it. Discuss fair use and copyright laws, particularly in relation to online content. Point out that each student owns the copyright to any material created from scratch. Finally, discuss what constitutes a "good community" and how following fair use and copyright laws benefits the community, and world, as a whole.

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Have the class brainstorm a civic project, such as researching, documenting, and creating a plan to improve safety on a street near the school. As part of the class civic project, create a community web page that students can use to communicate to each other as well as to a wider audience. Brainstorm the types of information that will be shown on class web page, such as images, weekly updates, resources, survey results, podcasts, real-life experiences (narratives), fictional scenarios, interviews, data, opinions, and so forth. Storyboard the community site, and divide the class into committees. Place each committee in charge of updating their segment of the web page each week. Integrate the project into existing research project processes being taught in class. Culminate the project by presenting the research and recommendations to the appropriate stakeholders, such as the school board, local community leaders, state government, organization representatives, and so forth.

Make sure students know the difference between a community web site and community web page. An online community web site provides the overall structure for an online community, such as MySpace or Windows Live. Community web pages are built by people who join the community.

The underlying theme throughout this unit is the role of effective writing in all walks of life throughout the world and throughout history. The lessons are presented against a backdrop of music festivals held around the world, and the accompanying activities are based on Shakespearean works and themes. Note that music compositions and plays draw heavily on many basic writing and communication principles and skills. By exploring words in the context of music, poetic discourse, and literary analysis, students can expand their perceptions of the multipurpose and cross-cultural aspects of written communication.