

Unit 12 Assignment: Website Critique

Take a look at some of the sites from Topic 4 that appeal to you. Write a short critique of one of the sites and submit it as your assignment. Include in the critique the following information:

- Site name & URL
- Were you able to use it in your classroom?
- Did you find it valuable?
- If so, what are some good points about the resource?
- If you did not find it valuable, what is the problem with the resource?

Your critique should be approximately one page long. The websites from Topic 4 are listed below for your convenience.



Graphic Organizers

Graphic Organizers enable users to represent ideas, relationships and sequences. Examples include concept or idea maps, sequence diagrams, flow charts, cause and effect representations etc.

- Gliffy
<http://www.gliffy.com/>
Gliffy enables users to construct sophisticated visual representations of processes, concepts, layouts, floor plans, flow charts and more.
- bubbl.us
<http://bubbl.us/>
Bubbl.us is a simple and free web application that lets you brainstorm online.
- Think-Link
<http://www.londongt.org>
Think-Link provides a very intuitive and simple to use concept mapping tool that can be accessed online. It is from London Gifted and Talented, a British organization that specializes in learning resources for teachers and students across grade levels and curriculum areas.
- Cmap
<http://cmap.ihmc.us/>
The IHMC Cmap Tools software empowers users to construct, navigate, share, and criticize knowledge models represented as Concept Maps.
- Webspiration
<http://mywebspiration.com/>
Webspiration is an online visual thinking, learning and collaboration tool for students, teachers, and thinkers everywhere. Brainstorm ideas, visualize concepts, organize information and collaborate with others anytime, anywhere.

Maps and Graphs

Maps and graphs are the keys to unlocking the world around us. These sites provide students with some of the tools they need to be able to understand as well as create these tools.

- Create a Graph
<http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/>
Create a Graph is produced by the National Center for Education Statistics. It provides a simple way for elementary or middle students to get involved with making graphs.
- Google Maps
<http://maps.google.com/>
According to ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education), Google Maps is more accurate than MapQuest for driving directions and more fully features than Rand McNally.
- NationMaster
<http://www.nationmaster.com/index.php>
NationMaster is a vast compilation of data from such sources as the CIA World Factbook and the UN. You can generate maps and graphs on all kinds of statistics with ease.
- Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>
A top source for maps, especially those of current interest.

Pictures, Artwork and Graphics

Educators need all sorts of images to include in their printed documents and presentations.

- Cool Text
<http://cooltext.com/>
A menu-driven very easy to use site that is full of logos, buttons and fonts. Because it carries advertising, it pledges to always be free of charge.
- Fonts from Gail Lovely
<http://www.gaillovely.com/fontsforlearning.htm>
Access to thousands of fonts for free download. Fonts range from simple for primary grades to highly stylized for advertising. Educators at the elementary level will find Gail Lovely's main site offers a treasure of other resources.
- Internet4Classrooms: Graphics
<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/graphics.htm>
A handy list of all sorts of graphics and other media that students and teachers will want in order to bring the right professional touch to a project.

Templates and Activities

Tools and connections to tools across the K-12 curriculum are included in this topic.

- abcteach
<http://abcteach.com/>
Printable pages and worksheets for elementary teachers. The abc tools section contains numerous customizable items for creating crossword puzzles, shape books, word walls, word scrambles, word searches, math worksheets and sudoku.
- Education World Tools and Templates
http://www.educationworld.com/tools_templates/
A rich collection of items that can be either printed as is or downloaded for customization

before printing. Among the best of the more than 100 templates offered are Award Certificates, Bulletin Board Resources, Classroom Organizers and Icebreakers.

- Flash Card Exchange

<http://www.flashcardexchange.com/>

FlashCard Exchange claims to have 3.3 million cards on file. Services are free but registration is required. For a one time fee of \$19.95 (as of August 2007)

You can have a premium membership that allows you to:

- Print flashcards in multiple formats.
- Export flashcards to Word or Excel.
- Advance Study with Leitner card files.
- Images create image flashcards.

- National Gallery of Art Classroom

<http://www.nga.gov/education/classroom/>

A top spot for resources for teaching about art. The site includes a link to borrow teaching packets, slides, CDs, DVDs for free for up to two weeks.

- Writing Fix

<http://www.writingfix.com/>

The perfect site for anyone who needs help with their writing. Check it out.