Approaches and Tools for Developing Web-Enhanced Lessons

Course Syllabus

Catalog Description
In this course, participants will gain hands-on experience using Web-based tools to develop collaborative, inquiry-based curricula. Participants will take an in-depth look at four Web-based curriculum formats including Hotlists, Treasure Hunts, Multimedia Scrapbooks, and WebQuests. Exemplary curricula in each format will be analyzed, critiqued and evaluated for applicability to participants' own classroom needs. Participants will leave the course with detailed plans for developing Web-enhanced lessons for their own curricula.

Prerequisites
This is an introductory course for teachers, technology specialists, curriculum specialists, professional development specialists, or other school personnel. Participants are expected to have regular access to computers. In addition, participants should be proficient with using email, browsing the Internet, and navigating to computer files.

Goals
This workshop will enable participants to:
1. Learn about simple but powerful Web-based tools to help enhance curriculum activities
2. Develop a personal collection of Web-based resources for curricular use
3. Learn about Web-based activity formats that match curricular goals
4. Plan a standards-based Web-enhanced lesson for classroom use

Assessment and Course Requirements
Each session includes readings, an activity, and a discussion assignment, which participants are required to complete.

Course Products
As a final product, students will create a web-enhanced lesson using either a pre-designed template and/or the web-based activity tool, Filamentality.

Discussion Participation
Participants will be evaluated on the frequency and quality of their discussion board participation. Participants are required to post a minimum of two substantial postings each session, including one that begins a new thread and one that responds to an existing thread. Postings that begin new threads will be reviewed based on their relevance, demonstrated understanding of course concepts, examples cited, and overall quality. Postings that respond to other participants will be evaluated on relevance, degree to which they extend the discussion, and tone.

Required Readings, Activities and Assignments

Session One: Introduction - The Value of the Web
Participants will read Working the Web for Education by Tom March, which provides an overview of using online activities in education.

As an activity for this session, participants will explore and familiarize themselves with the Web by utilizing several search engines geared towards educators to gather web-based resources centered on a topic of their choice. Students will keep a record of the valuable resources they find.

Session Two: Formats for Web-Enhanced Lessons – Hotlists and Multimedia Scrapbooks
Participants will preview several pre-selected examples of both Hotlists and Multimedia Scrapbooks.
http://www.edtechleaders.org/documents/wel/hotlistsandscrapbooks.doc

As an activity for this session, participants will review and evaluate the examples listed for both the Hotlists and Multimedia Scrapbooks, pick one of the examples from each category and consider how a teacher using each activity might answer the following questions:

- What is the particular topic/lesson the teacher is teaching?
- What will students learn from this activity?
- How do these formats limit what students learn about the topic?

Participants will also make a Hotlist relevant to one of the topics they teach using the Eduhound Hotlist builder.

**Session Three: Formats for Web-Enhanced Lessons – Treasure Hunts and WebQuests**
Participants will explore several examples of both Treasure Hunts and WebQuests.

As an activity for this session, participants will compare the four formats: Hotlists, Treasure Hunts, Multimedia Scrapbooks, and WebQuests. They will consider the different reasons they would use each as a classroom activity to help students learn about the subject matter and they will begin thinking about topics that could be enhanced by these web-based activities.

**Session Four: A Deeper Look at WebQuests**
Participants will learn more about the design of WebQuests by examining several WebQuest Design Patterns on the Bernie Dodge website. They will view several examples and templates for WebQuests that can be modified to fit specific learning goals.

As an activity, participants will begin to think about how they might organize students and include WebQuests into the curriculum.

**Session Five: Planning and Evaluation of Web-Enhanced Lessons**
In this session, participants will learn how to plan and evaluate an effective web-enhanced lesson. They will learn what to look for in selecting web-based resources and participants will view rubrics that will help them to evaluate a WebQuest before using it in class.

As an activity, participants will begin planning their own lessons using a template provided within the course.

**Session Six: Creating a Web-Enhanced Lesson**
Participants will read the following which will introduce them to an online tool that will help them create a web-enhanced lesson.

- Guide to the different Filamentality activity formats
  http://www.edtechleaders.org/documents/Core/wel_filamentality.pdf
- Filamentality Instructions Sheet

As an activity for this session, participants will use the templates to finalize their lesson, and then make it accessible on the Web.