Lesson: Preparation for Building a Website

Target Grades: 6-12

Description: A 3-5 day orientation unit during which student will become familiar with the elements of websites, identify their personal preferences related to websites, how that might differ from others' needs and taste and use that knowledge to plan a website on a topic of personal interest.

General Resources:
[Building a Website Infographic](#)
[The Design Cycle](#)
[Web Design With Adobe Muse](#) - Extensive basic information to use regardless of which website builder you are using.

Step 1

Outcomes: Students will earn the basic elements of websites features, gain an understanding of content elements and copyright rules, identify personal preferences in website design and understand commonly shared preferences.

Activity/Procedure:
- Demonstrate and discuss
  - The basic features of websites: navigation, layout, visual design, interactive features, functionality, format consistency, visual hierarchy, usability and readability,
  - Content elements (text, images, graphics, video, etc.) and copyright rules.
- Students identify and evaluate 3 favourite websites by filling out "[Thinking About Websites](#)" form while viewing favourite websites.
- Discuss results in class with a mind to identifying commonalities and differences.

Resources:
[Website Usability Chart](#)
[The Parts of Website Design (Video)](#)
[Copyright Flowchart: Can I Use It? Yes? No? If this…Then…](#)

Extension:
[10 Crucial Elements for any Website Design](#)
[Copyright Infographic](#)

Step 2

Outcomes: Students will choose topic and define parameters for personal website Activity/Procedure: Individually or in small groups, students will brainstorm to choose topic and determine purpose & need, target audience, and relevant, desired content.

Resources:
Website Design Requirements

Step 3

Outcomes: Students will apply their knowledge of website design, features & elements to create a basic design for a website on their chosen topic. They will create and gather content with an awareness of copyright rules.

Activity/Procedure: Using paper, mind-mapping software or other method of their choice, students will layout the basic design of their website with contents personally created or ethically collected online.

Resources:

Credits: Judy Durkin for 'The Design Cycle', 'Thinking About Websites', 'Website Usability Chart' and 'Website Design Requirements'. Silvia Rosenthal Tolisano for 'Copyright Infographic'