Responses to Solicitation for Feedback

The following is a complete listing of responses to my request for feedback on my project.

Feedback on the DLF section Research and Information Literacy:

August 12, 2014 from Avi Luxenburg via website

About a dozen years ago, I developed Flash site for my school. As part of the site there is a research section that has an activity that helps Grade 7 students go through determining if a site is useful or a hoax or credible...
It is quite old but still mostly works... I was amazed.
http://www.sd71.bc.ca/sd71/school/courtmid/Index/cms_web_student.swf
Go to "How to Research" on the left and then select "Five Ws"
It goes through the 5 Ws and then there is a Try it section which was my attempt at interactivity. Students go through and attempt to determine if a site is useful or not. Most of the links still work!!
Why have I included this... well... I find that kids need specific tools to help them determine credibility and usability... like the 5Ws from what was then: Media Awareness Network.
Avi

August 12, 2014 from Avi Luxenburg via G+

What a lot of work you have done. A very useful resource so far which I would like to share with the EDPB folks if that is acceptable to you.

I went through the Research and Information Literacy portion of the site and was very impressed with the lessons. I tended to focus on the hoax lesson for my feedback as that is an area I can claim a bit of expertise.
I found the hoax lesson to be fun, yet imbued with potential structure with which students might approach sites critically... something that is still wanting in my opinion. I often ask students how they select sites during a search and find their strategies less than effective. They are often very appreciative to get a bit of information regarding "what to look for".

About a dozen years ago, I developed Flash site for my old school (No longer exists... sigh). As part of the site there is a research section that has an activity that helps Grade 7 students go through determining if a site is useful or a hoax or credible...
It is quite old but still mostly works... I was amazed.
http://www.sd71.bc.ca/sd71/school/courtmid/Index/cms_web_student.swf

Go to "How to Research" on the left and then select "Five Ws"
It goes through the 5 Ws and then there is a "Try it" section which was my attempt at interactivity. Students go through and attempt to determine if a site is useful or not by selecting their evaluation and getting a response. Most of the links still work!! Most of the Flash attributes still work... a few issues in the Holocaust section.
Why have I included this... well... I find that kids need specific tools to help them determine credibility and usability... like the 5Ws from what was then: Media Awareness Network. If this is at all useful to you... great.
I will have a look at another section later this week.
Avi

From Wendy Blancher August 13, 2014 via email

Hey Kris,
Good work! I am so impressed with your work ethic! Wow! I have edited your paper and as usual, feel free to take or leave whatever you like. It was a really interesting read and I found your personal perspective really engaging. It is crazy what a roller coaster ride this process has been. You did it, though, and it looks great. Sincere congrats; you have worked so hard.

Feedback on your website:

I love the introduction, Kris. It is very clear and provides excellent justification for the website and highlights its value.

Testing and Feedback phase - This sentence is missing an "and" after "however,":
The lesson plans have been developed by me, however, my hope is that you will copy what you think might work for you, share them with other educators, use them, test them, add to them if you can and make them your own.

Also, "it's" in this sentence should be its (it's is the contraction for it is - the possessive is an exception to the rule) : Each tab has it's own blog page where you can leave a comment for that topic.

Research and Information Literacy - I noticed here (and throughout the entire website) that all of your links open in the same window. This makes navigation of the site awkward, Kris, as users must remember to press the back arrow, rather than close the window. I am not sure why this happened in Weebly, as the default setting is usually to "open link in a new window". Although this is quite a bit of work, I would suggest changing this option for your users for all links. Sorry - it is a biggie, I know.
I will plug away at the website, Kris. So far, these are my initial observations. I do love that you have provided so many resources and options for each lesson. This makes the adjustments for age level very easy and provides ideas for alternatives.

Back to work on my project for the rest of the day. I have bookmarked your site. Would you prefer feedback by email or right on the website?

Wendy

From Wendy Blancher August 13, 2014 via email

I have reread my initial feedback to you on your website, Kris. Please disregard the first suggestion about adding an "and". I am not sure what I read there, but it is correct as you have written it. Sorry.
Wendy

Overall feedback on the site and project:

August 9, 2014 from Sue Antonson via email

"I have been reading your project. So far so good. I have not finished but wonder about a couple of things. In the welcome you talk about what bc is doing. I wonder if there is something you could say about the rest of North America or other places. Might not be relevant to the whole piece bit just an I wonder. Also you said it is useable mainly with grade 4,5 and six. You could include easily adaptable to other grades.
Finally...(I am not done reading yet) in The Author section you say both her and her students,   That should be she and her students. Haven't reached the lessons yet...will do that later
Very impressed so far.
Later
S"

Jay Ishaya – August 10, 2014 via Google+

I will take a look at this as soon as I have a free moment - I just wanted to let you know that your post was seen and that your request for feedback is in the queue! ;) I'm sure there are others that are waiting for the right moment to review it, too.

My own thoughts:

Change links to name the website with the URL's simply linked to make it look neater.

Include names of lesson plans at the top of each?

From Wendy Blancher August 13, 2014 via peer review of Ch. 3

An excellent read, Kris. I am wondering about the educational community adding resources for you to peruse and add to your site. Perhaps this is already possible, but I don't see it in this document. I would think that a community collaboration blog page of the website would be beneficial to you, as well as others.

 I am also really impressed with your drive. Well done, girl!!

From Randy LaBonte August 14, 2014 via Weebly site

Wow! Impressive consolidation of work that ties back to your work in the OLTD program. Well done! You have created an overwhelmingly useful site for you and others. This is a great Masters project and great work for you, your district, and the online teaching community.

Some general comments:
- I like the organization. Simple and clear, easy to navigate.
- I love how you have tied your prior OLTD work into this. It speaks well of not only your planning and organization throughout your studies, but your purposeful actions.
- The linkages directly to outcomes is fabulous! You have saved teachers a lion's share of work and created a simple go-to resource that would be great for others.

What I am wondering about:
- Creative Commons licensing of your lesson plans and site. Inviting others to re-purpose and build on your work would be a great strategy. Start everyone out on the same license base and see if your work grows.
- You provide attribution on the images on one page. I was looking for that as small print under each image - the more typical way to do it. Also I notice some of the images were taken from other sites that may not have permission to post the image (BC Ed logo from NVDLS). You should take images from owner/source. There are many other image sources I have found that can be used freely and/or can be used with attribution. Email or Skype me about that.
- Is there any way to tag and search your lesson plans? Weebly may not be the right platform for this, but there are repositories out there where you may want to consider doing this in a step after the Masters project paper is finished.

Please don't take the wonder part as criticism, more questions for consideration.

I did not examine the lessons themselves, leaving that to others who have a better pedagogical

context and experience. It has been well over 30 years since I was in a grade 5/6 classroom!!

Anyway, kudos to you and the enormous amount of work done here, Kris!

From Breanne Quist August 15, 2014 via Facebook Messenger

Sorry it has taken me a bit but I got a chance to look through your website today. You have been VERY busy!! I love the layout of your website and I would be very interested to try some of the lessons with my own students (who knew octopi (?) lived in trees! hehe) The one suggestion I can think of to make right now would be to have the lessons open in a new window or tab as each time I would close out of it, I would essentially close out of your weebly site and then have to use the link from facebook to go back in. I work for TC2 doing a lot of embedding and linking and I know from user feedback, it is best when links don't open up in the same window. I hope this helps and I have saved the link so I can check back later and give you more feedback if you need it

From Sue Antonson August 15, 2014 via phone

Note that lessons are not linear but can be stand alone

Write a book! ☺

From Sue Antonson August 16, 2014 via email

My eyes are crossed but I have finally finished reading your project.
May I say that I am impressed. What a quantity and quality of work you have compiled. I am proud of you. Then I need to say I am ticked I did not have all this stuff last year when I could have made good use of it. I would love to be able to share all of this with students of my own. This needs to be shared with educators. Can I share with Dave? He is very techy and would love the lessons.
I will go through bit by bit and hopefully give you some editing info. Generally I don't have things that I feel could be done better...the whole thing is very well done. So...here goes.

I like your template for citing sources...that would be very useful.

 I like the fact that you have included sites as resources. (Excuse the font change...this computer has a mind of it's own and I am too tired to fight with it at the moment)

CTA4 Critical Thinking Lesson overview should read 30 user licences are sponsored....schools can are...one word needs to go here

Subsequent lesson it should read in-class, not in class

C1A1 Ideas for Exemplars...there is nothing in this spot

C1A3 Lesson planning, paragraph one...These projects are not is homework. Typo

CTA4 and C1A4 is this a repeat...both deal with Ludwig

DA2 #7 An adult not and

DB5 Change passwords the more the use them...doesn't make sense

DB6 How can I stop spam #4 use spam protection doesn't fit with the way the rest of them are writted

DB8 2) The prices of a movie trilogy should ever not be $199.00 Doesn't make sense

After 4...phishing attempts depend on two things...should be a period after this
Also in that area...when logging is should be logging in

TB3 Picture of the week...a blog post...remove the s from posts

TC1 lesson plan...straightforward is one word not two

TD2 Hint 3...spacing of 1 2
                              3 4 should be on the next line for continuity

TA1 Importance...second sentence...including gaining access to THE internet

TB3 Overview says curate instead of create

Questions
Is this linear or can you jump around
Is there a major list of all sites you recommend and all apps in one place or is this even doable
Can this be shared with teachers/administrators and will you be available to do workshops for other districts besides Chilliwack

This is an amazing piece of work and you should be proud. This is so much more usable than my masters project. I am sorry I will not get to use it but would love to see you use it as a visitor to your class sometime. I do not have suggestions for things that could be done differently as I am out of my depth when it comes to technology. My only concern with this project is that classes would have to have access to computers/iPads/iPods for a lot of the time. That is not something that happens in my district.

If any of this isn't clear then send it back to me and I will see if I can figure out what I was seeing/meaning.

Thank you for sharing this with me. Hope my typo suggestions help and I hope I caught them all.

Mum

From Charlotte DeBruyn via talking and reviewing work August 19, 2014

Add a materials section to the lesson plan

For appendices, link to the blogs

From Marieke Holtkamp August 20, 2014 via facebook:

Hi <u>Kris</u> - Just got back into work/school mode and am frantically trying to get my proposal completed after procrastinating all summer :). Had a quick look at your site and it looks amazing! You have done an incredible amount of work. Such an important topic and your lesson plans will be valuable to many. Looking forward to having a closer look.

From looking at site August 21, 2014 myself

Add a blog to the presentation part

From Mary O'Neill August 22, 2014 via email

Great stuff Kris. Thanks for joining us. I"l send the link on Thursday morning.
BTW, I have read your Proposal and visited your (awesome!) website. I am so proud of you Kris. Your work is of the highest quality and is testament to your dedication to teaching and learning in an online context. So pleased it seems you will meet you self-imposed deadline. Woo Hoo!. Just the tiniest thing, Vancouver is misspelled on the title page.
:)
All the best,
Mary