

5 users for my site:

- 1) Student, first or second year, researching for their scheduling of classes
 - In a library, on their laptop, looking up information on courses at Mason.
 - Needs information on upcoming courses in their course load, who the Professors are, and how they will fit in for the course load.
- 2) Potential Employers, looking for soon-to-be-graduates or graduates who graduated with a B.A. in English
 - Sitting in their office on their computer, knowing what criteria their potential employers need from the classes taken in college.
 - What the courses taken have given to me as a student and now professional writer, what experience I have and what I hope to gain once hired, etc.
- 3) Family/friends, viewing my site to see how far I've come in the IT part of my studies and how I can categorically organize my information as well as tying in my identity I have already created on my blog.
 - At home, in their office on their home computer, or in a different room on their laptop.
 - Researching my experience as a graduate, where I came from course wise, and what I have learned.
- 4) A Researcher of Student Works, either a student who wants to quote a person at their level of school or an individual who is doing a study about how a younger generation interprets the literature studied.
 - In an area where they can be focused on their research, like a dorm or library or office, with their laptop.
 - Looking for my papers posted on each page and how I view each piece of literature.
- 5) Previous Professors, wanting to see a student's rating of their class instead of the usual ratemyprofessor.com. it can highlight how they taught but also allowing other outsiders to see an opinion too when researching professors.
 - In their office or at home, using their personal computer.
 - Reading the links I put in with their bios and syllabi if placed on the web, as well as papers written based on their lectures.

Technical Issues

- 1) How many seconds did it take for the page to load? 2 seconds
- 2) Do all the images and plug-ins load properly? Yes
- 3) Do you have to scroll to see the entire width of the page? No

- 4) Estimate the length of the start page in terms of how many “screens” it takes to get to the bottom of the page? 2 Interior pages? 2

Design

- 1) Describe your very first impression of the site’s start page, commenting on specific aspects of the page’s design and the links it offers. What visual material did you notice first? The book image on the top of the page. Second? N/A What textual material did you notice first? The green lettering that says “Kelly’s beginning” Second? The grey name in the left hand top of the page.
- 2) Is the background color consistent and compatible with link and text color throughout the sit? Yes. Is it pleasing to the eye? Yes. Is there a visual theme? The page begins with an image relevant to the content on the page, having a brief introduction in the manila box, with an expanded and more in-depth explanation, followed by links relevant to the content as well.
- 3) Is the text clearly readable in all places? Give your general impression of the readability of the text, including the font styles used. No, the text is not all readable. The grey text for the main header and quote in the right hand corner is hard to see, and would look better if it were lightened up a shade or two. The other font colors are fine, mixing green and grey, as well as the font styles used.
- 4) If more than one font style is used, are they compatible? Not more than 1 font is used.
- 5) Is there sufficient white-space (referring to empty regions) to allow for eye relief? Yes. The background color is white, and the green and grey text show nicely.
- 6) Does the overall design of the start page present a professional appearance? Yes. It is not busy, the colors blend well, the pictures and content are professional, and the site works correctly.
- 7) Proceed through some other pages and comment on any design issues that stand out to you. Does each page have a clear, understandable URL? Yes, each corresponds to its subject matter.

Navigation

- 1) As a visitor, is it immediately clear to you how to navigate the site? Yes. There are tabs on the left side of the page that clearly define the featured courses I am discussing. If it is not clear, the “about me” portion of the introduction explains what the site is used for and why they are highlighted.
- 2) Do the names on the main navigation links suggest clearly what kind of content the links points to? When you click on them do you clearly arrive at a page with this content? The names of the navigation links are the names of the classes I am highlighting and the titles that are at the top of each page also has the name of the course.
- 3) Are links “dead ends” or are there clearly defined paths to the start page or other navigational nodes? There are clearly defined paths from start to finish.
- 4) Are links clearly distinguishable from the rest of the text? Yes, at the bottom of each page there are links to significant information that are embedded in sentences.

- 5) Is the navigational link color compatible and contrastive with other page colors?
Yes it is green like the other colors in the site.

Content

- 1) Does the site contain sufficient content to warrant a user's effort to navigate through it? If a user needs information in reference to my major and my aspirations for my B.A. in English, then yes. It is informative in where I've come from and where I plan to go.
- 2) Is there a good balance between visual and textual content? There could be more visual content to try to alleviate the text heavy pages.
- 3) Is there a good balance of content on each page? Yes.
- 4) Is the content clearly "chunked" or grouped together in a logical way? There is a brief introduction, two more extensive paragraphs, and links at the bottom, separated by lines and spaces.
- 5) Does the visual material somehow support or complement the textual material? The pictures have relevance to the content on each page.
- 6) Is the content free of grammatical and spelling errors (especially the links, headers, and titles?) Yes.

Specific User Goals and Scenarios:

Scenario #1: You are a student who is looking into George Mason and an English major.

User Task #1: You are a student is unsure of what major to pursue and some of the classes involved with the major. Please find a site that exemplifies these qualities.

- What is your overall impression of the descriptions of the courses?
- Is it explicit enough? Or not clear?
- After reading about the professors, do you wish to be instructed by them?
- Did this site push your decision either way for becoming an English major?

User Task 2: After making the decision to proceed with the English as a major, you want to know what kind of papers and assignments you will encounter. Navigate through the page to find the documents.

- How could the documents on the site help you answer your questions?
- Do they show any course topics that you may encounter?

User Task 3: Before you enroll, you would like to know about the professors who will be teaching you.

- How do you feel about the information I wrote about each of the professors?
- How do you feel about the information I linked to the site? (if applicable)

Open-ended closing/interview Questions:

- 1) What is the primary identity being developed in the site? What are your impressions of the person's credibility in general, and in relation to the site imagery, design, and content?
- 2) Discuss any particular issues you had with finding information on the site?
- 3) Are there any suggestions you would like to make about revising the site's design or navigation?