

Confused?
Don't Blame Yourself!

You are going to be evaluating two different websites today for their user friendliness. Each group will evaluate both websites with a different set of criteria. Once you have recorded your impressions of each website, we will come back together to share evaluations and take notes on each group's findings.

Task A

Go to WEBSITE A, the home page of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. From this page, you must find the main benefits to farmers and ranchers from the United States by signing the United States-Peru Free Trade Agreement. You will have 5 minutes to complete this task. At the end of five minutes, record the answer on your own paper and then rate WEBSITE A on the chart for YOUR GROUP below.

Task B

Go to WEBSITE B, the University of Advancing Technology. From within the website, find what current student, Nick Pittak, has to say about the university. You will have 5 minutes to complete this task. At the end of five minutes, record the answer on a separate paper and then rate WEBSITE B on the chart for YOUR GROUP below.

Debrief 1. When your teacher tells you, return to your home group. Depending on the size of your home group, you may need to split in two smaller groups. Share your responses and come to a consensus about the website. If a member of your home groups shares an idea that causes you to change your mind about one of your responses, amend your response.

Debrief 2. Join your sub group. Share your responses verbally with your subgroup. Allow groups members time to write down the information you share until each participant has filled out all four charts.

Debrief 3. Whole class. What are some features of a good website in terms of usability? What are some features of a bad website? What are some usability aspects of your favorite and least favorite websites that you use outside of school?

Home Group 1 Visual Design		
Sub Group (Circle 1)	A B C D E F G H	
In what ways did the design of this website help or hinder you in locating the information?	Website A Office of the U.S. Trade Representative	Website B University of Advancing Technology
Is the site text-based or graphic-based?		
Are the major elements (photograph, logo, graphic art, subject headings) easy to identify?		
Are the colors used for the text and background distracting or hard to read?		
Is there any distracting advertising?		

Home Group 2
Navigational Form

Sub Group (Circle 1) A B C D E F G H

What navigational technique does this web site use, and did it help or hinder you in locating info?	Website A Office of the U.S. Trade Representative	Website B University of Advancing Technology
Does the site prevent you from getting lost?		
Is navigation the same throughout the site? Was it easy to retrieve your information?		

Home Group 3
Web Site Content

Sub Group (Circle 1) A B C D E F G H

Was the content (subjects covered) at the web site easy to follow?	Website A Office of the U.S. Trade Representative	Website B University of Advancing Technology
Was a list of the major content areas provided?		
How was the content organized (e.g. by subject area or general categories)?		
What was the main message or purpose of the reading?		

Home Group 4
Usability

Sub Group (Circle 1) A B C D E F G H

Overall, was this website easy or difficult to use?	Website A Office of the U.S. Trade Representative	Website B University of Advancing Technology
Was the download reasonable or too slow?		
Were there distracting special effects or pop-ups?		
Did the hyperlinks function properly and were they still active?		
Was the text easy to read?		
Does the site require additional plug-ins to function (i.e., RealPlayer, Adobe Acrobat, Quick time)?		

Home groups are consensus-building groups.
Information groups are information sharing groups.

References

Scott, T. J., & O'Sullivan, M. K. (2005). Analyzing Student Search Strategies: Making a Case for Integrating Information Literacy Skills into the Curriculum. *Teacher Librarian*, 33(1), 21

Answers

<https://ustr.gov/trade-agreements/free-trade-agreements/peru-tpa>
http://www.uat.edu/our_students/Ask_a_Student.aspx