Lesson 2: Websites for Expression

Unplugged

Overview

In this lesson students investigate ways to use websites as a means of personal expression and develop a list of topics and interests that they would want to include on a personal website. To begin the lesson students brainstorm different ways that people express and share their interests and ideas. Students then look at a few exemplar websites made by students from a previous CS Discoveries course to identify ways they are expressing their ideas. Finally students brainstorm and share a list of topics and interests they might want to include on a personal website which they can reference for ideas as they progress through the unit.

Purpose

This lesson introduces the central story of Unit 2, namely that web development, and by extension computer science, is an avenue for self expression. The warm up situates web development as another means of self-expression alongside visual art, dance, music, fashion, social media, and many other ways students are likely already expressing themselves. Seeing student exemplars helps scope students expectations for their skills by the end of the unit. Finally the brainstorm of content for their website provides students an opportunity to consider what messages they want to express as they build their websites.

Agenda

Warm Up
    Express Yourself
Activity
    Personal Website Planning
Wrap Up (5 mins)

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify websites as a form of personal expression

Preparation

- [ ] Prepare journals or optionally print copies of **Personal Website Sketch - Activity Guide**

Links

> **Heads Up!** Please make a copy of any documents you plan to share with students.

For the Teacher
- **Personal Website Sketch** - Exemplar

For the Students
- **Personal Website Sketch** - Activity Guide
  Make a Copy ▾

Vocabulary

- **Website Content** - The raw text, images, and other elements included in a web page

Teaching Guide

Warm Up

Express Yourself

Prompt: What are the ways that you or your friends express yourselves? Think about different ways of communicating, activities, or spaces that you consider a form of self-expression.

🗨 **Discuss:** Students should brainstorm ideas independently, then share with a neighbor, and finally share with the class at large.

🎤 Remarks

> We share our thoughts, feelings, and ideas in many different ways. Some people might express their thoughts online, others might do so in the way they dress or by making a song or drawing a picture. Self-expression is a really important part of our lives, and as we're going to see, making websites is another way we can express our ideas, interests, and feelings.

> **Goal:** This warm-up should generate a list of ways students express their ideas. If they need help getting started offer them a couple examples from the list below. The goal of this warm-up is to frame web development as another form of self-expression in this list.
>
> Draw a picture, write a song, build something, dance, clothing and fashion, write and share something, talking with friends, posting something online

Activity

Personal Website Planning

✏ *Personal Website Planning Guide*

> **Distribute:** Have students open a journal or optionally distribute copies of **Personal Website Sketch - Activity Guide**
>
> **Brainstorm Content:** Read through this section of the activity guide. Then give students several minutes to silently brainstorm content they might want to include in a personal website.
>
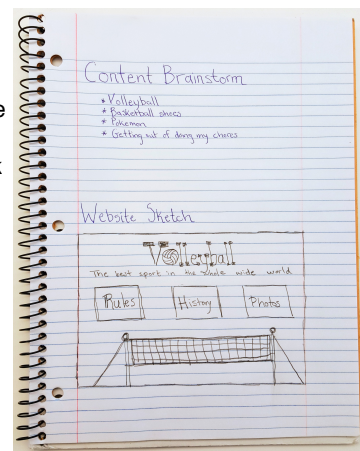> **Share:** Have students share their content ideas with a neighbor.
>
> 🎤 Remarks
>
> > When sharing ideas with other people an important thing to consider isn't just what you want to say, but how you want to say it. You just created a list of ideas you might want to share on your personal websites. Let's go look at some personal websites other students have made and think about not only what content they're sharing, but how they are presenting that message.

💡 Teaching Tip

Use Journals: The activity for today's lesson can easily be completed in student journals. Project or otherwise share the prompts and let students complete their work in their journals.

View Personal Websites: Send students to Code.org and have them look through the exemplar websites in pairs. Use these websites as inspiration for their own personal websites. They were created in Web Lab by other CS Discoveries students.

🖥 Code Studio levels

Lesson Overview 🖥 | Teacher Overview | Student Overview

- [Personal Website Sketch] (https://docs.google.com/document/d/10zHN3SErzKQLNEvr8e0j2UVjPCR5oSQdrfoFpbZbJiU/edit?usp=sharing) - Exemplar (**PDF** | **DOCX**)   **View on Code Studio**

Exemplar Personal Websites 📄 | Student Overview

Website Sketch: Give students some time to sketch one page from their website. Remind students that they should be thinking of ways to effectively share the content on that page. Use the student exemplars students looked at to help scope the complexity of web pages they should be considering.

Wrap Up (5 mins)

Share: Give students a chance to share their website sketches with a neighbor.

🎙 Remarks

> This unit we'll be working to bring many of your ideas to reality. Along the way you're going to learn some new computer languages and explore the way the websites you use are created. The sketches you made or even the content you want to share might change as we go through the unit, but this goal of using websites for self-expression will be there throughout.

Collect: If students did not put their website sketches in a journal collect them. They will explicitly be referenced again in Lesson 4.

Standards Alignment

View full course alignment

CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards

▶ **AP** - Algorithms & Programming

▶ **IC** - Impacts of Computing