

**Usability Testing of a Web Authoring Tool**  
**Last Updated August 17, 2012**  
**Total Possible Points 300 pts**

You will work in a team of 3 or 4 members to complete a usability testing of a web authoring tool that will help you decide which tool you will use for your web-based portfolio project. The goal of this assignment is for you to gain experience working in a collaborative online team, help you make progress with the portfolio assignment, and gain initial experience with usability testing. Doctoral students are required to complete this assignment as well to gain experience in usability testing.

In this usability testing scenario you are testing the web authoring tool (e.g. Google Sites, WordPress, or Weebly) as a tool for building and hosting informational websites such as an electronic portfolio, and you are not testing the usability of an information product created with the web authoring tool. In your testing you are required to include a live user test with 2 to 3 users.

For the actual usability test, you are required to take a low-cost approach so make sure that your methods follow accordingly. During the semester there are assigned readings and course activities that will help you identify your low cost approach. In terms of technology options for facilitating your test, you may want to explore screen grabbing software such as Camtasia and Jing, which can both be found at: <http://www.techsmith.com/> to record your user interactions with the web authoring tool. Additionally, as this usability testing will occur at a distance, the instructor will create Blackboard Collaborate sessions specifically for live testing groups, where you will be given moderator rights and will be able to record the user on screen interactions and their voices. Please remember that this assignment is designed for you to become familiar with usability testing within the context of this course; therefore, the technologies you have access to will not provide the options a professional would have in the field.

### **Team Requirements**

Your team report must include the following sections:

1. Description of the web authoring tool
  - How would you describe the web authoring tool in general?
  - Who is the web authoring tool intended for? (e.g. target audience age range, gender, reading level, and any other information that is relevant for this usability testing)
  - What functions do the web authoring tool provide to users?
  - What are the likely tasks that the user will engage in with the web authoring tool?
2. Usability testing low cost methods
  - What methods were used for the testing?
3. Usability testing results
  - What did you team observe during the usability test?
  - What conclusions were made based on the results?
  - What recommendations would your team provide for future design improvements to the web authoring tool based on the results?
4. References of cited sources if your team used any for the report

**Individual Requirements**

1. What did you learn about working in an online collaborative team project?
2. What did you learn about usability testing from this project?
3. How does the experiences from this assignment relate to readings and discussions in class?
4. What would you do differently if you were to engage in an online collaborative project team?
5. References of cited sources