Design

Which stages of the design process do you feel were the most helpful and why?

It is helpful to have a visual target when designing something using code. The mockups gave me something to work towards. It can be difficult to get your design to look just like the mockup as you may come across issues getting the code to work the way you want it to. I believe mine is fairly close to the mockup with some adjusts due to coding issues or just changing something to help improve the design. Plus anything I do is never set in stone and I always try to improve everything that I do.

What critical feedback did you receive from your peer review?

1. “Where you are” feedback.
2. Background borders and colors.
3. Who made this/copyright information.
4. Spacing between the navigation and the main content.

What alterations did you make to your design after the peer critique process and why?
Additionally, what feedback did you decide not to act on and why?

1. To add “Where you are” feedback I decided to change the link background to the page you were currently on. Same feature I used to tell the user what link they are hovering over in the navigation. Both the top and bottom navigations do this.
2. I decided to leave the background borders and color the same for the moment, as I like the clean feel. Maybe someday I will adjust them and see how people react. I think white works well with my design but I’m sure I’ll tinker with it as the site develops more. I did adjust the colors of the main sections: the navigation, main content, and side content to make the different sections pop out of the page more.
3. I added “Copyright © 2011 - Heath Good - All Rights Reserved” to the bottom of the page.
4. I squeezed the different sections closer together so there wasn’t a big white space distracting you from the main content.

Development

What feedback did you record during usability testing in the last class?

1. Make the news content items more individualized.
2. Make the Moodle link on the Moodles page open up in a new window/tab.
3. Dummy text.
4. The top item in the news section on each page is the same.
5. Lack of content.
6. Moving the about page in the navigation.
7. Lack of breadcrumb trail.
8. Page title text may be hard to read.
9. Other than all of the above, I was told the site was clean, well-organized, good user feedback features in both navigations, and had good potential to grow when I obtain actual content to post.

What alterations did you make to your design after the peer critique process and why? Additionally, what feedback did you decide not to act on and why?

1. Once the news items have more information, like date posted, I believe they will stand out more from each other.
2. I usually always make external links open in a new window/tab. This one must have slipped by me.
3. The dummy text is just to see how the page will look like with content. I am currently working with teachers and other participants in developing content for each page.
4. The top item will also change when each news section starts to have actual news.
5. Content is currently being decided on and created and will replace the dummy text.
6. I like the about page location. I want people to know what we are about but once users learn that, I want them to focus on the main features of the site and not always have to scan across the about link every time.
7. To be honest the “home” part of my site is not going to be very deep. This part is mainly a portal to all of the other features of the site. For example, the Moodles section will have links to Moodles that are going to be set up for the different classrooms/schools. The Moodles section will probably not be any deeper than one or two pages.
8. I plan on trying a few other colors/effects to help the title text on each page be more readable. I like how it looks but do agree it is a little on the light looking side.
9. I really dislike cluttered up sites. I will always have a clean, easy-to-use look and feel. Being able to identify where you are going is always a useful feature of a site. My biggest issue was content and right now my website isn’t very useful. This will obviously change over time once my participants and I have created and posted content.

Overall I really liked building this site and I believe my project flowed fairly smoothly and hopefully will do well in the real world.
References:
