

# **Evaluation of Instructional Message**

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IDE 651 Message Design for Digital Media

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## Evaluation of Iroquois WebQuest

[EBarrett Requirement 3\EBarrett Webquest Files\index.htm](#)

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### WebQuest Project Summary:

Assignment 1 was the WebQuest Project. I worked with Colleen Tierney of the MLS program. We created a WebQuest about the Iroquois Nation and Conflict Resolution. I found the concept of a WebQuest to be very appealing and beneficial to students. I enjoyed doing the research on the Iroquois and creating the content of the WebQuest.

At first, Colleen and I struggled with a topic. We were trying to pick something that could be relevant to kids today so that they might retain more information. We chose the Iroquois Nation because it is local to New York State and we figured it was also a popular group with much information to be found on the Internet. Once we actually started do our research, however, we did not find as much information as we thought. We adjusted our Tasks and Procedures accordingly to the information we were able to find on the web. As we progressed, the assignment seemed to fall into place.

Colleen did much of the actual research and finding of web page links. I read through the links that she found and found some others as well. We also researched the WebQuest pages explaining how to create them and examples of existing WebQuests. We decided to use one of the templates that were given for the assignment. I had some limited HTML experience so I tackled the actual design work for the WebQuest. I used Front Page to work with the template and develop our own customized design. I used various pictures that Colleen found on the web links we discovered. I actually had my 10-year-old son critique the WebQuest for us, and he liked it.

Colleen and I worked well together throughout this project. We had a good working relationship and each contributed positively to the final project. We were pleased with the final outcome and were proud to be chosen as one of the top 10 WebQuests in the course.

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## Instructional Message Design Theories

	Strengths	Weaknesses
Communication Theory -		
Motivation Principles – Variation and Curiosity, Need Stimulation, Challenge Levels, Interesting Pictures, and Early Interest	Challenge level for 5 <sup>th</sup> grade students; self-motivating; interesting topic with local significance to the Syracuse area	
Perception Principles – Selection and Organization, Interpretation, Perception of Pictures, Text, and Illustrations and Text Together	Text and illustration are pretty consistent throughout	Some pictures are truly just decorative and not necessarily relevant to the process of learning;
Principles of Learning – well organized, learner controlled pace, content-based activities	Pretty well organized and learner controlled; allows student to work at their own pace to develop final group project materials; directs their activities	

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## Summary of Evaluation

Overall, I think this was a good instructional tool. The very nature of WebQuests is that they are self-motivating to the student. The layout and design of the presentation could be improved, but the concept is appropriate. It is crucial to constantly monitor the links to ensure they remain current. Another option might be to save the relevant content directly with the WebQuest to maintain original content. This WebQuest can be published to the web or saved to a CD to be distributed to the student. I think, I would also add a quiz-like activity to the end of the presentation as another evaluation tool.