

Browsers & Website Survey: Noticing the difference

(Worth 10 Classwork Points)

Name: _____ Period: ____

Goal: Become familiar with the variety of Web Browsers and sample several websites to start determining what make a good website so you can apply this to your own designs.

The Assignment

I. Sampling Browsers

Test Drive the three major web browsers on our classroom computers:

- Internet Explorer (by Microsoft)
- Firefox (by Mozilla, open source)
- Chrome (by Google)

There are strengths and weaknesses of each of them.

Try out each browser looking at some of your favorite websites (like www.garfieldcs.com) in each and see how to use their features. Start with these basic features most all browsers have:

- Opening Multiple Tabs
- Saving Bookmarks
- Viewing your History
- Search – can you select different search engine to use?
- Change your personal settings

After you have worked with each, answer these questions:

(note: you may want to wait till after you have viewed several sites in part II. Websites Survey below before finishing this)

A. Strengths of each Browser. For each of the three browsers, write down what you thought it did very well.

Internet Explorer does well: _____

Firefox does well: _____

Chrome does well: _____

B. Weaknesses of each Browser. For each of the three browsers, write down what features you thought were hardest to use in it.

Internet Explorer hard to use: _____

Firefox hard to use: _____

Chrome hard to use: _____

C. Which Browser you liked the best? And clarify (using your observations above) why you found it the best.

D. Did you find any websites that looked very different in one Browser versus another? If so, save a sample webpage URL (the path) to share with our class.

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II. Website Survey

(with thanks to Mr Davidson of Roosevelt HS for these suggestions)

Choose one of the following categories (or propose another): Entertainment, Education, Information (Sports, Politics, etc.), Commerce (shopping), Social Media (although most are blocked), Government, Personal. Thoroughly explore at least eight websites you can find in that category. Keep notes on each site you visit, write down what you find and why you think that site is good or bad. Support your opinion with concrete examples. When you have finished that survey, identify three sites that you think are the best examples of web design, and three that are really worst. While you are exploring, try using the three different Browsers and see if you find any differences in the way they display these websites.

Write a short report summarizing your findings. Your report must include the following information:

A. Your Site category: _____

B. List of the three BEST sites:

1. First Name: _____
 - a. URL: _____
 - b. Why is it good? _____

2. Second Name: _____
 - a. URL: _____
 - b. Why is it good? _____

3. Third Name: _____
 - a. URL: _____
 - b. Why is it good? _____

C. List of the three WORST sites:

1. First Name: _____
 - a. URL: _____
 - b. Why is it bad? _____

2. Second Name: _____
 - a. URL: _____
 - b. Why is it bad? _____

3. Third Name: _____
 - a. URL: _____
 - b. Why is it bad? _____

