

Design Document for Web Module: Composting 101

Learner Audience

The intended audience is any earth-bound citizen interested in recycling organic materials. The actors, Avery, Cal, Nona and Papi represent different segments of the audience. The audience could essentially include anyone from ages 5 – 1nn.

Objectives

- Learners will list the benefits of composting. (WHY)
- Learners will identify common household items that can be included in composting and those that should be avoided. (WHAT/NOT)
- Learners will describe the basic steps to successful composting. (HOW)
- Learners will solve common composting problems.

Elements of Story

1. **SETTING** (needs to be familiar or explained to the learner)
 - Booth at an outdoor fair/event for Earth Day. Booth is sponsored by the City and is staffed by volunteers from various civic organizations. It's the Green Team's turn to run it.
 - An artifact that will be available to the learner is a brochure on composting developed by the City.
2. **ACTORS**
 - Mike (Initial Guide)
 - You, the Learner
 - Dan D. (Guide and Teacher)
 - Cal, college student (benefits coffee grounds, reducing waste stream)
 - Avery, busy young Mom (how/what)
 - Nona & Papi, seniors (troubleshooting/speed/gardeners)
3. **MISSION** (needs to relate to learning objectives)
 - To work a morning shift at the City's Earth Day booth. Volunteering includes speaking to citizens who stroll by or approach the booth with questions.
 - Questions will probably be focused on composting since the city is selling Earth Machines next weekend.

4. PLOT

- You, the learner are a rookie on the “Green Team”, a local grassroots organization trying to educate and engage citizens on sustainable, responsible living choices. They’re linked to a National Green Network.
- Being a rookie means you are on call during your boot camp/initiation/training period.
- You’ve done really well so far. The last event had to do with creating rain barrels and you really excelled. You had to serve as an instructor at a city HowTO workshop on creating rain barrels from trash cans.
- You just got a call from your “Wunder Zwilling” (Wonder Twin), Mike and he needs you to get over to the booth and take his shift because he has to go help out with the Big Shred at the police department. Seems some organization guru has gotten a lot of people to go through their old paperwork and their overwhelmed over there.

5. CONFLICT/RESOLUTION

- Mike has explained that you will be on your own for most of the time at the booth. You’re a bit nervous about this because you’ve been studying the Green Guide, but you’re just up to ecology and biodiversity- you haven’t even scratched the surface on clean energy and re-cycling yet.
- He also said something about Earth Machines- people are asking a lot of questions about composting because the city is selling them next weekend.
- You don’t really know anything about composting.
- He said he had a pamphlet put out by the city that would help and he said Dan D. would be dropping by to help out for a bit, but he couldn’t stay the whole time.
- Dan D. is the team’s mascot. He knows something about composting but he can only stay a short time, he’s got to get over to the “Free-cycling event” going on at the depot. The same organizational guru has gotten people to get rid of a ton of stuff like old computers, tires, etc.

6. EMOTION

- Dan D. does know something about composting and he tries to teach you about what he knows.
- While he’s talking and you’re asking questions, a citizen walks up with a question. Dan D. handles it while you listen.
- He says the next one is yours and he’s going to have to go soon.

Gagne's Nine Events

1. **Gain Attention** – Have Mike “pop” in (JavaScript) or could have Dan D. do the same thing. The initial environment will hopefully catch the learner’s attention, also.
2. **Inform Learner of Objectives** – Mike will inform the learner of the objectives and Dan D. may remind the learner during the lesson.
3. **Stimulate Recall of Prior Learning** – Mike will say something about the rain barrel and how well you did on that lesson. Then, he’ll say I know you’ve been reading about recycling, well this is sort of another form of it – you know we’re trying to reduce the waste stream and we’re separating trash, like recycling, we don’t throw cans and bottles in the trash and we don’t put vegetables and leaves in the trash – same principle.
4. **Present Stimulus Material** – City brochure on composting and information from Dan D. Information on Earth Machines.
5. **Provide Learner Guidance** – Interaction that Dan D. has with first citizen.
6. **Elicit Performance** – Dan D., “You do the second one and I’ll just watch. Don’t worry I’ll jump in if you get stuck.”
7. **Provide Feedback** – Dan D. comments on how you did on first assessment (you’re interaction with second citizen).
8. **Assess Performance** – Dan D. takes off and you interact with the third citizen on your own. Feedback comes from Dan D who pops back in from behind a tree.
9. **Enhance Retention and Transfer** – Review. Dan D. OK, I’m going to recommend we promote you. You know you’re going to be a wiz at the renewable energy expo.