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 CRITICAL EVALUATION OF A WEB SITE

*SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL*  
©1996-2006. Kathleen Schrock (kathy@kathyschrock.net)

Kathy Schrock's Guide for Educators http://discoveryschool.com/schrockguide/

1. What type of connection do you have to the Internet?

Dial-in connection: modem speed (circle one) 28.8 -- 33.6 -- 56k

Direct connection:  56K  DSL T1 T3 Broadband/cable  Other:

2. What Web browser are you using? Firefox

3. What is the URL of the Web page you are evaluating?

http://www.kigluaitadventures.com/socialnet

4. What is the name of the site? Flash Kennels SocialNet

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| **Part 1: Technical and visual aspects of the page**  **As you look at the questions below, put an X in the *yes* or *no* column for each.** | **YES** | **NO** |
| Does the page take a long time to load? |  |  |
| Do any pictures or photographs on the page add to the information? |  |  |
| Is the spelling correct on the page? |  |  |
| Are there headings and subheadings on the page?   * If so, are they helpful? |  |  |
|  |  |
| Is the page signed by the author? |  |  |
| Is the author's e-mail address included? |  |  |
| Is there a date on the page that tells you when it was last updated?   * If so, is it current? |  |  |
|  |  |
| Is the format standard and readable with your browser? |  |  |
| Is there an image map (large clickable graphic with hyperlinks) on the page? |  |  |
| Is there a table (columns of text) on the page? (Check the source code to be sure.)   * If so, is the table readable with your browser? |  |  |
|  |  |
| If you have graphics turned off, is there a text alternate to the images? |  |  |
| On supporting pages, is there a link back to the home page? |  |  |
| Are the links clearly visible and annotated or explanatory? |  |  |
| Are there photographs or sound files on the page?   * If so, can you be sure that a picture or sound has not been edited? * If you're not sure, should you accept the information as valid for your purpose? |  |  |
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|  |  |

## Summary of Part One

Using the data you have collected above, write a short statement explaining why you would or wouldn't recommend this site to a friend for use with a project.

The reason I would recommend this site is because it is a community with activities,content and a way to learn more about sled dogs and mushing from a standards perspective. It is easy to navigate and has lots of media. The reason I would not recommend it is that the author is not really clear, it is a sub-page from another site.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Part 2: Content**  **As you look at the questions below, put an X in the *yes* or *no* column for each.** | **YES** | **NO** |
| Is the title of the page indicative of the content? |  |  |
| Is the purpose of the page indicated on the home page? |  |  |
| When was the document created? |  |  |
| If there is no date, is the information current? |  |  |
| Does up-to-date information matter for your purpose? |  |  |
| Is the information useful for your purpose? |  |  |
| Would it have been easier to get the information somewhere else? |  |  |
| Would information somewhere else have been different?   * Why or why not?   Different mushers have different ways of training. But other sites may not have a way to communicate with the musher to ask questions. |  |  |
| Did the information lead you to other sources, both print and Web, that were useful? |  |  |
| Is a bibliography of print sources included? |  |  |
| Does the information appear biased? (One-sided, critical of opposing views, etc.) |  |  |
| Does the information contradict something you found somewhere else? |  |  |
| Do most of the pictures supplement the content of the page? |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Part 3: Authority**  **As you look at the questions below, put an X in the *yes* or *no* column for each.** | **YES** | **NO** |
| Who created the page?  Unknown (Though I know that I created it. But the problem is that they do not know. ) | | |
| What organization is the person affiliated with?  Affiliated with Kigluait Adventures. But the people that were referred to this site, would know who we are since they would have participated with us in a videoconference. | | |
| Conduct a *link:*  command in a search engine to see who links to this page.  Can you tell if other experts in the field think this is a reputable page? |  |  |
| Does the domain of the page (k12, edu, com, org, gov) influence your evaluation? |  |  |
| Are you positive the information is valid and authoritative?   * What can you do to validate the information?   Review both sites to see the author on the main website. |  |  |
| Are you satisfied the information useful for your purpose?   * If not, what can you do next?   I may email the author or use the contact information for more questions. |  |  |
| If you do a search in the newsgroups on the creator of the page, do you find additional information that shows the Web page author is an expert in the field? |  |  |

# **Narrative Evaluation**

Looking at all of the data you have collected above while evaluating the site, explain why or why not this site is (or is not) valid for your purpose. Include the aspects of technical content, authenticity, authority, bias, and subject content.

With the exception for the lack of information on the author, the rest of the website looks valid and useful for learning more about what it is like to be a musher in a k-12 classroom studying about Alaska or Iditarod. I do see issues with navigation and an about the page on the front a problem. It makes it hard to understand what the purpose of the site is and how you would use it.

Adding an author box on the right sidebar, and maybe converting the sidebar to one instead of two will help with some of this. Also proiding a brief info or about this site or purpose of this site on the right as well or at the top of the main body.

The technical conent is excellent with a diversity of media. Tags appear for images if they are not loaded. But the audio in the video does not have text versions. :(

In terms of authority, it is difficult to tell as there are no links or references for demonstrating support of content. Having a backlink page or attached to blogposts would be good. Though having the community members displayed on the side does help to demonstrate the community side of the site supporting authenticity and authority as a trusted site. But again the bias is unknown.

Another positive about this site is all of the subject content is from the author of the site. So though this can be biased in a way, it also means that it is verifiable and no inappropriate content. It also means it provides detailed content from a perspective of the musher. Linking to several other mushing sites would greatly help with this.