Formative Evaluations

I. Expert Review

Our “expert” is a seventh grade science teacher in Kettering, OH. She thought the program was decent over all, but she was concerned that we did not have enough foundational knowledge. She thought that the language was appropriate for the student population. She liked the conversational tone of the module and the open ended questions. She was concerned that we did not provide feedback to the questions. She also indicated that we did not really offer many ways for learners to demonstrate their new skills. She thought the web site was easy to navigate and instructions were clear. These are valid comments.

Due to design constraints we struggled with the application pieces. We would have liked to include some drag and drop activities, activities such as creating em’s with more and less strength that the user could play with and opportunities for the learner to create their own applications for an electromagnet. Somehow we could have tied in with the students’ experiments at 4-H and to have more relevant experience for the learner.

II. Usability Review:

The student was able to navigate through the module. We had yet to develop the connections for the presents , the question boxes or the answers, but the student had no problem navigating the web site. The only “mis-click” they had was on the icon on the apply yourself tab. We changed this to make it a link to the questions as well. The student clicked on every answer despite instructions to click on all the correct answers. The student thought that we had too many big pictures that were repetitive so we removed some of the pictures and minimized others. The student also noted that the Youtube videos weren’t referenced and that one of the videos had alcoholic images in the background. We provided citations for the videos. We replaced the video with questionable images. Unfortunately we could not find a video that was as fascinating as the spinning wire provided in the previous one.

III. One on One:

The student learned! The student was somewhat apathetic at the beginning but by the end of the module, the student was engaged an interacting. The student appeared to really enjoy the videos and answering the long answer questions. The student did not like the assess yourself questions because he felt like they were too much like a test so that was a “turn-off” for him. If we had more time on the project it would be better to do some other types of assessment that felt like a test. It was rewarding to see that the student grasped the concepts. It appeared that the objectives were accomplished in an enjoyable manner. The student reported that they would go back to some of the web sites and the youtube videos and watch them again or others by those producers on similar subjects. One of the goals of the EV project is to create students interest in the topic. I believe that our module accomplished this!