



The Homepage as Genre	
Put students into groups of three.	
Introduce the homepage as a genre.	
At this point, I usually will get the class to look at a variety of homepages and discuss them. It works well to find two homepages for the same person -- a personal and professional.	
Discuss the “rhetorical sensibilities” of each. While there are many ways to approach this and many key terms that can enable the conversation, I limit these choices by which work better within the broader objective of the session.	
A “Painless” Introduction to NVu	Planning a Page
Show an example of a page made with NVu	Let group members talk to each other about how they will represent themselves collectively. Is there a particular sport that they all like? Do they want to focus on their hobbies? Their pets?
Go over a few basics of webpage construction: tables, background colors, and inserting images.	Have students make a homepage for their group keeping in mind that they will then make individual homepages on their own that will later be linked to this collective page.
Individual Homepages and Presentation	
Give students time to make their individual homepages and link these to the group’s homepage.	
When groups present these pages to the class ask them to both introduce themselves and explain their final products using the key terms that were introduced at the beginning of the activity.	

A few more comments...

This assignment can function within the classroom in several ways:

- *Highlighting Communal Learning*: Asking students to learn together, the assignment presents a new skill and then relies on students to work with each other as they put this skill to use for the first time. Ideally, this will build on/feed off of the general environment of the classroom as a learning community.
- *Means of Introduction*: This assignment is also nice to do early in the semester as a fun way to get students to interact with each other.
- *Fun*: Students can surprise themselves *and* have fun doing it. When done in small increments and restrained to only the homepage, this assignment does not need to consume class time. In my experience, most students have never done this kind of activity before and are impressed and excited by what they create.
- *The Affordances of NVu*: While NVu can be overwhelming for students, the homepage has proven to be simple enough to enable students to take advantage of the creative license that NVu affords.
- *Locating Writing*: Finally, I also like how using NVu and SSH in particular encourages students to simultaneously rethink the “mobility” and the located-ness of web texts.