Project Topics & Brainstorm

Discussion Section 2

Project Theme

- Up to 4 sponsored projects
  - Work with another UCB group on preset project
  - Gain real-world experience working for others
  - Requirements will be set: less control
- “Learning Technology”
  - Technology to support people in the process of learning
  - All non-sponsored projects should follow this theme

Sponsored Projects

1. Interface for community groups to run meetings when people are not physically together (2 groups)
2. Search tool for a targeted population (e.g., a group of chemists, academics, engineers, etc.)
3. Community board for college campuses (goal: facilitate interaction and information sharing)

Learning Technology Project Topics

- Some examples:
  - High Level
    - elementary math
    - elderly & technology
    - art students
    - learning 2nd language
  - Narrow
    - games for 2-3rd grade
    - elderly using email
    - learning color theory
    - teens learning French
Formal Brainstorm

- Technique for generating new, useful ideas and promoting creative thinking
- Useful to:
  1. Define a project or problem to work on
  2. Diagnose problems
  3. Fix project problems: find solutions & identify resistance to proposed solutions
- Roles: leader, scribe, team members

Formal Brainstorm Rules

Yes:
- Think openly about topic – be creative!
- Freely suggest ideas – be confident! take risks!
- Build on others’ ideas

No:
- Do not critique other peoples’ ideas

Brainstorm Topic

- How can deaf people learn about music?
  - keep up-to-date with popular culture as conveyed through music?
  - understand what music is (what it sounds like)?
  - does music exist if you can’t hear it?

- How can deaf people learn about music?
  - keep up-to-date with popular culture as conveyed through music?
  - understand what music is (what it sounds like)?
  - does music exist if you can’t hear it?
  - yes – it does if other people hear it & you interact with those people
Project Topic Activity

1. Think of 2 topics that interest you
   - Theme: “learning technology”
2. Write one on each piece of paper…
   - … so it can be read across the room
   - Also write your name and email
3. Tape paper to wall – spread them out

4. All: cluster similar topics together
5. Find cluster you find most interesting
   - Talk with people there – record names & email
   - Synthesize topics into 1-2 unifying topic(s)
   - Stack papers with topic title on top

Questions?