Background information:
Founded in 2007, Youpolls.com is a forum for public opinion where members can create their own online polls. Users can also vote on other people's polls, as well. The site is almost solely used by American citizens and nearly all the polls on the site have something to do with the American lifestyle; society and government. But it does not stop people from other countries from using the site.

The website is using a Web 2.0 application where users vote and express their opinions in several different categories. In order to register as a Youpolls.com member, an e-mail address is needed along with a postal code if the new member lives in the US, UK or Canada.

As a member you get access to all the features on the website, such as voting, commenting and rating polls on a five star scale, as well as, creating your own polls. Youpolls.com is free and easy for anyone to use.

Youpolls also provides a 'user community,' which guides users with tools to promote their poll to the entire online community and a forum to help easily spark certain discussion around the specified topic.
**Based in**
Dallas, Texas

**Purpose**
Creating and answering online polls

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*I. History*

YouPolls is a fairly new web 2.0 application. It was created in 2007, and is based in Dallas, Texas. The creator is unknown.

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**I.1 Development**

Youpolls is a forum for public opinion held by a private company based in Dallas, Texas. The website was launched in July 2007. (1)

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**I.2 How Youpolls Works**

To start using Youpolls, go to [http://www.youpolls.com](http://www.youpolls.com) and register for an account.

- The only thing needed is an e-mail address and the creation of an user-name and password
- Youpolls is entirely free of charge.

After registering, you have access to a personal page from where you can create new polls, manage your account and view your account statistics. (1)

To create your own poll, press the 'Add New Poll' button. This brings up a new screen with several customizable options for your poll. When all the required information is filled in, you can preview your poll with the 'Preview Poll' button. When satisfied, publish the poll by pressing the 'Publish Poll' button. It then becomes available for the public to vote and express opinions in the commentary field.
When creating a poll, the page will look like this:

**Help center** - Youpolls has a detailed help center with information about most of the site’s functions. Getting help is easy. Just press the ‘Help’ button located on the top right corner of the screen. If you cannot find your problem in the different headers that are available, there is a search bar where you can easily find what you are looking for.

**Comments** - You can easily express your opinions by adding a comment to a poll you have participated in. To comment, first make sure you are logged in, then press the ‘comment’ button provided.

**II. How Youpolls Relates to Other Applications**

**II.1 How to Join**
Joining Youpolls is a very simple procedure.

- Press the 'sign up' button on the top of the Youpolls homepage.
- On the register page, fill in the required information, such as:
  - Username
  - Password
  - Postal code
  - Gender
  - Date of birth
  - E-mail address
- When all the required fields are filled in, press the 'register' button.
- A confirmation e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address you provided.
- Go to your inbox folder and open the e-mail you have received from Youpolls.
- To complete your registration, press the activation link that is provided to you.

The registration is now complete.  
To get full access to all of Youpolls’ features, log in with your username and password.

If for some reason you forget your username or password, it is okay. Within the box asking for your username and password, there is a button entitled 'Forgot Username/Password.' Click on the one you have forgotten. If you forgot your username, it will ask you for your e-mail address so that they can send you an email containing your username. If you forgot your password, they will ask you for your e-mail and username in order to e-mail you a new password. If you have forgotten both, then you can e-mail the in administration by clicking on 'contact', located at the top of the screen which will take you to a page where you fill out your name and e-mail address.

II. 2 How Does This Application Compare to the Competitors?  
There are other Web 2.0 applications that are quite similar with a few differences. One such Web 2.0 is Zoho Polls. Zoho Polls is a place where users can create polls (questions to survey) or answer any polls already created. Once a poll has been answered, the results will be posted on the right side of the screen providing the ability to watch how the results of a poll are moving. When creating a poll, one can choose a rating poll or a voting poll. A rating poll is rating with stars and a voting poll is clicking on an available answer (Zoho Polls website).
II.3 What Are Some Unique Uses of This Specific Application?

Here are some things that make youpolls.com specific:

- It is easy to understand the many thumbnails and sidebars associated within.
- Youpolls.com receives background about each of the polls creating exceptional learning.
- Members vary in age, seeing as there is no age requirement for this application.

YouPolls provides more options for replying to polls than only the answers provided by the creators of the poll, this can be done with the 'comment' button. Anyone is allowed to comment on a poll to create reason for their reply, considering the answers are vague and generalized. One may respond to a poll with the best choice listed and want to explain their reasoning. With comments, it engages conversation and creates a mature debate among those with the same interests. (1)
III. Real World Application

Elementary Education Lesson Plans

1. The Human Brain
   a. The purpose of this lesson is to teach students about the human body. The main focus is on the brain and blood cells, but the whole body will be covered. Students should understand what main purposes the brain has for the body and to know what white and red blood cells do. In this lesson plan, students will use youpolls.com to take polls on which side of the brain people use more often.
      i. Elementary: The Human Brain (S.T.E.M) (doc)
      ii. Elementary: The Human Brain (pdf)
2. Getting to Know YouPolls.com
   a. Given the lesson and powerpoint presentation on how to use YouPolls.com, students will be able to set up their own YouPolls account, create a poll of their own, and participate in polls from around the world. In this lesson plan, students will create a YouPolls account of their own and learn to use YouPolls efficiently.
      i. Elementary: Getting to Know YouPolls.com (doc)
      ii. Elementary: Getting to Know YouPolls.com (pdf)
3. Favorite Type of Dog
   a. After creating the online poll, the students will be able to read the poll correctly about their classmates favorite type of dog with 100 percent accuracy. In this lesson plan students will create a YouPoll that shows the type of dog favored within their class.
      i. Elementary: Favorite Type of Dog (doc)
      ii. Elementary: Favorite Type of Dog (pdf)

Secondary Education Lesson Plans

1. Health Care
   a. To inform my students on the new health care bill, how others feel about it and how they feel about it. In this lesson plan, students take poll and read the article attached about the Health Care Bill to learn about this current event and American’s view on it.
      i. Secondary: Current Events-Health Care (S.T.E.M.)

Secondary Science Lesson Plan:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>Students will be asked to create an account on youpolls and create 5 polls over the laws of physics.</th>
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<td>Objective</td>
<td>Given the web 2.0 tool, students will create 5 polls over 5 different laws of physics. They will then be expected to correctly identify the laws with a 95% accuracy</td>
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Environment

The environment will be in a computer lab. The students will have until the end of class to complete the assignment.

Students

The students will be in grades 9-12, and will consist of male, female, and all races.

Standards

P.1 Principles of Physics.

Materials needed

Materials needed include a computer with internet access.

Procedure

1. The students will be instructed to create an account on the YouPolls application.
2. The students will be expected to come up with 5 different physics laws and research them.
3. They will take the laws that they research and then make polls over each law.
4. They will be taught how to make a poll on YouPolls.
5. The students will then be instructed to look at all of the classmate’s polls and complete them. They will be expected to get at least 95%.

Evaluation

10 Points for the creation of the 5 polls.
10 Points for correct information over the physics laws
20 points for correctly answering the rest of the classes’ polls.

1. **Fitness Monopoly**
   a. In this lesson plan, students will use youpolls to take polls on their favorite sports and see how many other students favor the same sport.
      i. Secondary: Fitness Monopoly (doc)
      ii. Secondary: Fitness Monopoly (pdf)

2. **German Speaking Students**
   a. In this lesson plan, students will connect with a class from Germany in order to find out all of the different languages spoken.
      i. complete secondary education.pdf
      ii. Secondary: German Speaking Students (doc)
      iii. Secondary: German Speaking Students (pdf)

**Post Secondary Education Lesson Plans**

1. **Current Events**
   a. In this lesson plan, students will explore two current event polls with articles attached to learn more about what is going on in the country.
      i. Post Secondary: Current Events
      ii. Post Secondary: Current Events.pdf

2. **Biology**
   a. In this lesson plan, students will learn about the two major theories associated with the beginning of the universe by comparing two polls and articles concerning these theories.
      i. Post Secondary: Biology (S.T.E.M.)

3. **Statistics**
   a. In this lesson plan, students will use Youpolls.com to create a poll and gather data regarding it for a statistics course.
      i. Post Secondary: Statistics (doc)
      ii. Post Secondary: Statistics (pdf)

4. **Swedish speaking students**
   a. In this lesson plan students will have studied a text about modern society from an existing poll. After they’ve read the text, they will log on to youpolls.com and vote on the poll that’s related to the text that they’ve read.
      i. Post secondary: Swedish speaking students (doc)

5. **Finding the Derivative**
   a. In this lesson plan students will learn how to properly derive a function and graph it. They will also learn what finding the derivative means and why it’s used.
      i. Finding the Derivative.docx
      ii. Finding the Derivative.pdf

6. **1960’s**
   a. This lesson plan will teach the students about the 1960’s
      i. lesson plan for the 60’s.doc
      ii. lesson plan for the 60’s.pdf

**IV. Demonstration of Educational Value**

The Internet is relatively new and it creates great potential to share and give knowledge. Even though we have great opportunities to use the Internet’s capacity we do not use it often enough in our education. Through the internet, you can connect with people from all over the world with different cultures. This is something that can increase the student’s knowledge and understanding of different cultures. Web 2.0 creates new opportunities for the schools to use the internet with an educational purpose. You have your own log in which assists teachers in monitoring each student. If they feel necessary, teachers may adjust instructions.

Youpolls.com is a great way for students to see different kinds of polls and what they have resulted in. They can vote on the different polls too. These polls are also a great source of information because with most polls, an article or a video is attached about the event that is being polled. So, youpolls.com can not only be used for information about events but also be used to create a basis for discussion in the classroom as students can easily see other people’s opinions in different matters opening the class for healthy debate and discussion. Students can even create their own polls. A really positive thing about these polls is that people from all over the world can comment on them.
Often times when taking a poll, students limit their horizons to only getting data from people within convenient distance. YouPolls will allow them to simply post a link for a poll, which will then demonstrate the new advancements in technology that they have learned.

V. How YouPolls is Used Internationally?

Based on the type of polls and their content, it is easy to see that youpolls.com is primarily used by people in the USA, which could be traced to the fact that youpolls.com is made by Americans and based in the USA. Even though the site can be used by everyone in the world, it seems that few people outside of America even know of its existence. This explains the majority of polls based around American society such as: American sports, politics, entertainment, etc. It is possible that non-American's can be intimidated by the large quantity of USA based polls.

The YouPolls site does provide a 'World News' category, which promotes international use, however, not many countries participate in YouPolls. Having more 'World News' polls pertaining to ongoing and current issues internationally, would help promote international use.

YouPolls also has a twitter that people can follow. On their twitter page, they update new polls that have been recently added to the YouPolls website. The location of the YouPolls Twitter website is in New York. YouPolls twitter is free of charge and is a very good way to keep up with hot new polls on YouPolls. The twitter link is http://twitter.com/YouPolls. (1)

VI. References