

# Website Evaluation

The two websites I chose to compare are:

Artsonia ([www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)) and The Art of Education ([www.theartofed.edu](http://www.theartofed.edu))

## Comparison

Both of these websites are huge and important websites for art teachers. I use both almost daily. They are both used for sharing resources and ideas and connecting to other art teachers. Artsonia is more teacher driven. Teachers upload student artwork and purchase items with the artwork printed on it. The artwork is also open for other teachers to browse and get ideas. The Art of Ed is a great resource that shares blogs, podcasts, videos, and curriculum with art teachers from across the country. They offer classes and degrees in art education and host workshops all throughout the year. This is a great place for art teachers to really dive into art curriculum and connect with other educators.

## Strengths and Weaknesses

Artsonia is very easy to navigate once you are familiar with the site. At first visit, it can be slightly confusing where to start. You are first prompted to create an account as either a parent, teacher, or student. Each account gives you a different experience. From the teacher site, it is very easy to upload artwork and read messages and comments from parents. The icons are large circles with words and pictures and each section is clearly color coded. There is also a link back to the home page, the parent page, and the giftshop. I feel like overall the site is very strong. However, the main weakness is not being able to see the parent site without creating a separate account as a parent. Sometimes I get questions about the site that I find difficult to answer because I cannot see it from the parent's point of view.

The Art of Ed is a very busy site. There is a ton of content on the main page that you can scroll through or filter by various categories. It can be a little overwhelming if you don't have a specific thing you are looking for. You could probably scroll all day and not get to the end. You can create an account but it is not required to look at content. You can also go directly to courses, workshops, or magazine from the homepage without having to click into a different menu. This site is very easy to navigate, there is just a lot of content. So, if you go into it to look mindlessly, you could get lost. I feel like you need to go in with a purpose!

## **Credibility**

Both sites have a clear "About Us" section that gives phone numbers, emails, mailing addresses, and links to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

## **Use Cases**

**Use Case:** Lesson Ideas

**Actor:** A teacher looking for art lessons

**Basic Flow:** Search lesson plans by medium, topic, and age range

**Use Case:** Sharing Curriculum

**Actor:** Teacher sharing lessons with families

**Basic Flow:** On Artsonia, upload pictures of finished artwork and put them into each individual student's account. Can also add standards, descriptions, and comments.

**Use Case:** Connecting lessons to standards

**Actor:** Teacher needing class objectives

**Basic Flow:** On the Art of Ed, lessons can be filtered by curriculum standards for each state. It is clearly stated how the lesson ties into the standard. Teachers can print off the standard and explanation with the lesson.

## **Peer Comments**

### **To Me:**

Hello Amanda,

Looking at The Art of Education, I agree there is a lot there and it does look a bit overwhelming. With all of the examples towards the bottom of the page, I can see how one would get lost. However, I do like the colors and layout, it is very pleasing to look at. It's almost like a bunch of art teachers created it! This website does seem to be very credible. They do not hide who they are, with the "About" at the top of the page, easy to access.

Looking at the Artsonia page, I found it a bit harder to use. In a way this page is the opposite of The Art of Education. The main page does not offer much for the new user except a video about the website. I wish that they did not make you have to sign up before getting to experience it. Also, I did find their "about" at the bottom of the page. They seem credible, but you have to make a slight effort to find it.

Visiting both of these sites for the first time, I agree with your review that Artsonia is very simple and The art of ed seemed to contain endless information. The layout of the art of ed was very good and the navigation was easy to use. The sub navigation under the main was also nice and easy to use. While Artsonia was basic and forced you to make an account. Without an account the site gives little to nothing for the viewer.

### **From Me:**

To Podie Chitan: I visited both of these sites for the first time and agree with your review. VisitColumbiamo was a little cluttered at first. It was very colorful and visually pleasing though. I didn't like that the top menus kept pulling down when I was trying to scroll through the main part of the page. It made me very frustrated. Stufftodo was very similar to visitcolumbiamo. I liked that it had a way to search through past events as well as scroll through a variety of upcoming events. Both sites allowed searching by category, but I found stufftodo easier to navigate.

To Aaron Jones: Great reviews! I had never heard of ArtStation and found it intriguing. When I visited the page I was very overwhelmed. As you mentioned, it is a lot to take in! I went to the "Fan" section, but was little disappointed that I was required to create an account to look at anything. I was hoping to just scroll through projects and get ideas. I feel like if I spent more time on it, however, this would be a great resource for my personal artwork. Thanks for sharing!