**User Guide Journey of Discovery**

Work in your groups.

**Scenario**

You’ve just gotten into DSLR (digital single-lens reflex) photography; i.e. using one of these: 

Now you’d like to explore the world of photo-editing. But the popular photo-editing software, Photoshop, is really expensive, and you don’t fancy illegally downloading a pirated copy. A friend recommends that you try out GIMP, a free software.

**Question: How do you find out what GIMP can do and how to use GIMP?**

**Section A: Experience the GIMP online user guide:** <https://docs.gimp.org/2.10/en/>.

Find answers to the following questions.

1. What is GIMP and what can you can do with it?
2. The Introduction (<https://docs.gimp.org/2.10/en/introduction.html>) says that “GIMP is an acronym for GNU Image Manipulation Program.” What is GNU?
3. How do you compress an image?
4. What is the shortcut key for merging layers?

**Section B: Now let’s reflect on your experience as a user of this online GIMP user guide.**

You know that user guides have to be reader-focused (written with the reader’s needs and expectations in mind) and user-friendly (easy to access/navigate, easy to understand, easy to use).

1. What makes this user guide reader-focused and user-friendly? How can it be improved? Examine:
   1. the table of contents
   2. the topics and how they are sequenced
   3. the formatting (white space, bullets, etc.)
   4. the use of pictures
   5. the way the instructions are worded
   6. the language used
2. Look at <https://docs.gimp.org/2.10/en/gimp-tutorial-quickie-jpeg.html>.
   1. The instructions are not just a series of steps. The writer provides other information as well. What kind of additional information is provided? Why?
   2. On this page, you’ll notice some words highlighted like this: Overwrite image-name.jpg. Why?
   3. How are the above mark-ups different from the use of inverted commas, eg “Export Image”?
   4. And how are the above different from this: [Section 4.7, “Change the Mode”](https://docs.gimp.org/2.8/en/gimp-tutorial-quickie-change-mode.html)?
   5. I personally find the instructions here somewhat confusing and wordy. How can they be presented more clearly?
   6. Look at the paragraph below Figure 3.22. Readers need assurance that they have followed the instructions correctly. Does this paragraph provide this assurance?