Blogging for Classroom Use

http://pds.hccfl.edu/pds
Blogging for Classroom Use
August, 2007
Objectives

Upon completion of this module, participants will be able to:

1. Identify classroom strategies for utilizing blogs.
2. Create an original blog.
**What is a Blog?**

The term “blog” is a combination of the words “web” and “log.”

Merriam-Webster’s online dictionary defines blog as a *web site that contains an online personal journal with reflections, comments, and often hyperlinks provided by the writer.*

Source: [www.m-w.com/dictionary/blog](http://www.m-w.com/dictionary/blog)
Retrieved on August 7, 2007

**Learning Benefits**

- Increase student participation (students enjoy the blogging format)
- Helps student to develop creative and critical thinking
- Fosters strong analytical skills through reading and writing
- Exposes students to a variety of opinions including quality information from experts in the field
- Increases students’ information and computer literacy
- Builds academic collaboration outside of the classroom

**Blogging as a Learning Strategy**

- ePortfolio
- Reflective Journal
- Collaborative Writing
- Asynchronous communication tool to share ideas and information
- Store and retrieve academic resources
How Can I Create a Blog?

There are a variety of free blogging sites and software applications. Some are very easy to use and require little preparation. Others require installation and technical support. Among the easiest to use are:

- Blogger
- Diaryland
- Journal Space
- Xanga
- LiveJournal
- Aeonity

The remainder of this training module outlines the steps required to create a blog using Blogger.
Creating a Blog

1. Access the Blogger website at: www.blogger.com
2. Click *Create Your Blog Now*
3. Enter your email address.
4. Create and confirm your password.
5. Create a display name. (This is the name that will display when you post a blog.)
6. Type the word verification.
7. Click *Continue*
8. Type the **title** of your blog.

9. Create your blog address (URL). Make sure to write down the address.

10. Click **Continue**.

11. Select a **blog template**.

12. Click **Continue**.
13. Your blog has been created. To post your first message, click **Start Posting**. (If you do not wish to post immediately, close the website. You can access your blog by logging onto the Internet and using the blog URL that you created.)

14. Type your message title and message. When finished, click **Publish Post**.
Blogging: A 30 Minute Introduction
Professional Development & Web Services

Workshop Overview
- What is a Blog?
- Why Bother Blogging?
- Benefits to Learning
- Blogging as a Learning Strategy
- How Can I Create a Blog?
- Creating a Blog with Blogger
- Resources
What is a Blog?

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Why Bother Blogging?

- Use a constructivist learning tool!
- Expand beyond the walls of the classroom.
- Archive the learning process for both students and teachers.
- Support multiple learning styles.
- Help students to develop analytical and critical thinking skills.
- Promote reflection, creativity, and interaction.
A Few More Reasons to Blog

- Develop a way to post info to the web and receive feedback
- Communicate online asynchronously
- Organize information for easy retrieval
- Virtual collaborative environments
- It’s EASY!

Benefits to Learning

- Increase student participation.
- Develop creative and critical thinking.
- Foster strong analytical skills through reading and writing.
- Exposure to quality information and experts in various academic fields.
- Increase students’ information and computer literacy.
- Build academic collaboration outside of the classroom.
Blogging as a Learning Strategy

- ePortfolio
- Reflection Journal
- Collaborative Learning Environment
- A Writing Genre
- Academic Resources
- A Communication Tool

How Can I Create a Blog?

There are a number of free blogging sites and software applications. Some are very easy to use and need very little work while others need to be installed on servers and require technical support. Here are a few easy ones to use.

- Blogger
- Diaryland
- Journal Space
- Xanga
- LiveJournal
- Aeonity
Creating a Blog with Blogger

Although you can use any number of free blogging sites, we will use Blogger. It is extremely simple to learn, use, and it is popular!

Register with Blogger
• Enter Your Information
• Give Your Blog a Name
• Choose a Template
• Start Posting
• Blog Away!

Print Resources

Web Resources

**Community College English** – Blogs relating to issues in community colleges.  
http://cce.typepad.com/

**EdBlogger Praxis** – List of educational blogs.  
http://educational.blogs.com/

**Weblogg-Ed** - A portal for educational blogs.  
http://www.weblogg-ed.com/

**Weblogs in Higher Education** – A portal for various disciplines and issues in higher education.  
http://www.mchron.net/site/edublog.php

**Blog Search Engines**


**Daypop Search Engine** - http://www.daypop.com/

**Technorati** - http://www.technorati.com/