

Using Blogs in the Classroom

Using Weblogs to Provide Information to the School Community

You can start a class blog to...

- post class-related information such as calendars, classroom events, homework assignments and other important class information.
- communicate with parents and invite their comments.
- post photos of class activities.
- invite student comments or postings on issues.
- publish examples of good student writing done in class.
- exhibit student art, poetry, and other written work.
- build a class newsletter, using student-written articles and photos they take.

Using Weblogs to Enhance Student Learning

You can create a classroom blog entirely for student learning. You can...

- use the **comment** feature to...
 - assess student learning by posting writing prompts and having students respond.
 - post photos and have students respond to them.
- gather and organize Internet resources for a specific subject, providing links to appropriate sites in a blog entry.
- link your class with another class somewhere else in the world.
- post tasks to carry out project-based learning tasks with students.
- create a parent/child blog with writing prompts for parents to work on with their children.
- complete project work in small groups, assigning each group a different task.

Students can create their own blogs to...

- post their own ideas, reactions and written work.
- post their reactions to writing prompts.
- react to photos you post.
- keep a journal for class.
- keep a learning log for class.
- write about their ideas and opinions about topics discussed in class.
- keep a **digital portfolio** of their work.

- write comments, opinions, or questions on daily news items or issues of interest.
- showcase their best writing pieces.

Informal Professional Development

You can create a blog to grow professionally. Use your blog to...

- reflect on teaching experiences.
- write a description of a particular teaching unit.
- save links for later use.
- collaborate with other teachers.
- describe what worked during a lesson and what didn't.
- provide teaching tips for other teachers.
- write about something you learned from another teacher.
- explore important teaching and learning issues.

You can also *read* the blogs of other educators to...

- get teaching tips.
- learn about the content area that you teach.
- find out about professional development opportunities.
- get information on new learning technologies.
- learn about teaching and learning issues.
- collaborate with other teachers.

