

Bloggng Toward Literacy: Creating a community of readers among middle school student

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Educational Bloggng: A Get Started Guide

Weblogs (blogs) are Web-based applications where regular entries are made and displayed in reverse chronological order. They are similar in idea to pen and paper journals and dairies. Frequently blogs offer commentaries on issues of interest to the author. Like much of the Web, blogs can include more than just text. Typical blogs frequently include images, media, links to other blogs and other websites.

While many blogs are focused on communicating through text, many focus on communicating through other means. Some blogs deliver content mainly through videos, these are knowledge as vlogs. Those comprised of links are known as linklogs, and those related to photos are called a photoblogs. Additionally, some blogs are written specifically for mobile devices such as PDA or cell phones. This type of blog is called a moblog. Finally, some blogs are defined by a particular genre.

Make Up of a Blog Entry

Auto-Execution of Media ← **Title**
Published by Joe Anderson at 19:57 on June 18, 2006 and tagged as blogging, blogs, design and webdesign . ← **Post date**
Tags →
When I'm looking through BlogMad, the most annoying thing is when a blog loads with audio or video automatically loading and executing. I watch a lot of online TV, and I don't want it disrupting by a pink video interrupting it! Not only does this spoil my viewing, but it takes up my bandwidth.
Anything which automatically executes can be a security risk, too. Even vlogs like Rocketboom don't auto-start their media.
For folks on dial-up, media which auto-starts basically hogs up their entire connection. This is extremely disruptive.
Do you want your blog to annoy and disrupt it's visitors? I for one do not.
This site covers the basics of poor web design, and it is well worth a read. When I started design, I was like that. Now, I am not.
Body →

5 Responses to "Auto-Execution of Media"
Feed for this Entry Trackback Address ← **Trackback**
faustina
Jun 18th, 2006 at 8:51 pm ← **Comments**
You know what's funny. Your video on Creative Commons automatically plays! You may want to re-think that:)

(Wikipedia, accessed June 25, 2006)

Blog Components.

Each blog entry contains the following basic items:

Title of the post

Body of the content

Permalink – the URL of the article

Date of the post

Blog entries may also contain the following:

Comments from readers

Categories for organizing post topics

Trackback – links to other sites that refer to the blog

Starting your own Blog

There are a variety of options available to those interested in starting a blog. The choice is primarily based on the purpose of the blog and the technology resources available to you.

Blog Hosting. This option eliminates the need for the blogger to manage the software and the need to maintain your own server. Generally these are extremely user-friendly. I recommend “public” hosted sites for adult blogger, but NOT for student bloggers. One popular free, mainstream blogging tool is Goggle’s Blogger available at www.blogger.com. Getting started on Blogger requires just three steps: 1. create an account, 2. name your blog, 3. design the appearance. Another popular free, “public” hosted blog site is Yahoo! 360. Yahoo! 360 provides unique customization features for designing the look of your blog site along with options for controlling who can have access to your blog. For those interested in developing a blog of their own related to education, The Education Blogger Network (<http://www.ebn.weblogger.com/>) is a great choice: The eBN is a collaboration of teachers and organizations using weblogs in education.

Legal Issues

As with all technology, blogging brings an array of legal and social issues that educators must be prepared to confront and manage. In recent news, employers have fired employees for comments and information posted on their blogs. Prospective employees have lost opportunities for employment based on information gleaned from blog sites and other social networking sites, and schools have suspended students for information posted on sites.

What are the issues?

1. Confidentiality
2. Safety
3. Proprietary information
4. Libel
5. Freedom of Speech

The educator who blogs, with or without students, must be aware of these issues when publicly blogging.

For more information on the issues visit: **The Electronic Frontier Foundation** (<http://www.eff.org/bloggers>) EFF's goal is to give you a basic roadmap to the legal issues you may confront as a blogger or educator using blogs, to let you know you have rights, and to encourage you to blog freely with the knowledge that your legitimate speech is protected.

Blogging Vocabulary

The Giant Blogging Terms "Blossary". This site can help take the "puzzlement" out of blogging terms. It's a must have reference for those venturing into the blogging world with students. This post from the Blargon Demystified Blog is a perfect fit for "newbies" to blogging. (<http://www.quickonlinetips.com/archives/2006/06/the-giant-blogging-terms-glossary/>)

Blogging Software

(Server Software = user must installed software on the server)
(Hosted Software = user does not have to manage or install software)

B2Evolution (free). Server Software. (<http://b2evolution.net/>)
This software must be installed on your server. Include some nice features including anti-spam option.

Blogger (free) Hosted. (<http://www.blogger.com/start>)
The Queen Mother of Blogging software / hosted by Google.

Blog Harbor (fee based) (<http://www.blogharbor.com/>)
"BlogHarbor offers one of the easiest and most powerful way to start publishing on the web"

BlogMeister (free) Hosted Software. (<http://classblogmeister.com/>)
Recommended for use with students.
This tool is explicitly designed with teachers and students in mind, where the teacher can evaluate, comment on, and finally publish students' blog articles in a controlled environment.

Blog Tools (free) Accessory. (<http://www.bgsu.edu/cconline/barrios/blogs/tools/tools3.html>)
This site contains a whole host of accessories to use with any blogs including mood icons.

BlogTricks (free) Accessory. (<http://www.blogtricks.com/>)
A set of handy tools that you can use on your blog

Bloxom (free) Server Software. (<http://www.bloxom.com/>)
A lightweight yet feature-packed blog application designed from the ground up with simplicity, usability, and interoperability in mind

edublogs (free) Hosted. (www.edublogs.org) - recommended for student use
edublogs.org is a non-profit adventure into providing free blogs and hosting for teachers, students, researchers, librarians, writers and other education professionals

ePals SchoolBlog (fee based) Hosted. (<http://schoolblog.epals.com/>)
Teachers and students can safely incorporate classroom and school websites and blogs into their educational endeavors

Gaggle Blogs (fee based) Hosted.

(http://gaggle.net/gen?_template=/templates/gaggle/html/blog/index.jsp) - recommended for student use
Gaggle Blogs are a way that students and educators can interface with the rest of the world. Gaggle Blogs are filtered for inappropriate words and phrases. Same people who run gaggle.net email services for educators

Imbee (free) Hosted. (<http://imbee.com>) – recommended for student use

A new unique blogging and social networking site developed specifically for kids ages 8 to 14.

Live Journal (free). Hosted. (<http://www.livejournal.com/>)

Allows you to create and customize your very own "live journal. It is a simple-to-use communication tool that lets you express yourself and connect with friends online. This is "a simple to use personal publishing tool, built on open source software."

Manila (fee based). Hosted and Server Software. (<http://manila.userland.com/>) - recommended for schools wishing to host student/teacher blogs.

A weblog publishing system that anyone can use to create or edit web content. Offering amazing functionality at an even more amazing price, this software makes it easy to publish websites and weblogs.

Moveable Type (free). Server Software. (<http://www.sixapart.com/movabletype/>)

"A decentralized, web-based personal publishing system designed to ease maintenance of regularly updated news or journal sites, like weblogs."

TeacherHosting.com (fee based). Hosted. (<http://teacherhosting.com/>)

"Connect your classroom with instructionally appropriate uses of technology."

Thimamablog (free). Server Software. (<http://teacherhosting.com/>)

A cross-platform, standalone blogging application that makes authoring and publishing your weblogs almost effortless. All you need to setup, and manage, a blog with Thingamablog is FTP, SFTP, or network access to a web server

Typepad (fee based). Hosted. (<http://www.typepad.com/>)

"TypePad is a weblog service that gives users the richest set of features to immediately share and publish information including password protection.

Word Press (free). Server Software. (<http://wordpress.org/>)

Recommended for use with students. This is the software that we used for our blog.

"WordPress is a state-of-the-art semantic personal publishing platform with a focus on aesthetics, web standards, and usability. What a mouthful. WordPress is both free and priceless at the same time."

LEARN MORE ABOUT BLOGGING:

Learning and Technology. (<http://escrapbooking.com/blogging/index.htm>)

This site provides information on creating and integration blogs into your classroom.

Can Johnny Blog?

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/14/technology/circuits/14diar.html?ei=5007&en=eaa8f00c728408a0&ex=1376193600&adxnnl=1&partner=USERLAND&adxnnlx=1151245392-4++EMYFz9qVOz290zcTiqw>)

A New York Times article that talks about educational blogs and how they are being used in the classroom, some good examples

The Educated Blogger: Using Weblogs to Promote Literacy in the Classroom by David Huffaker. (http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_6/huffaker/)

This paper explores the role of weblogs or "blogs" in classroom settings. Blogs, which resemble personal journals or diaries and provide an online venue where self-expression and creativity is encouraged and online communities are built, provide an excellent opportunity for educators to advance literacy through storytelling and dialogue. This paper explores the importance of literacy and storytelling in learning, and then juxtaposes these concepts with the features of blogs. The paper also reviews examples of blogs in practice.

Education Weblogs.

(<http://www.techlearning.com/story/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=GBOWHPD4STWN4QSNDBGCKH0CJUMKJVN?articleID=12803462>)

Article by TechLearning that defines blogs and provides handy links.

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