

Blogs are very simple to use websites that allow teachers and students to publish text and pictures and allow readers to post comments. Using a blog is as simple as browsing the web or writing an email.

**Blogging Do’s**

Here are some suggestions to minimize the risks of inappropriate postings:

* Get parental permission.
* Post and review your district’s AUP – often!!!
* Students should NOT publish their complete names or email addresses.
* Students should have a pretty good idea of what is acceptable and what isn’t – remind them often so they don’t ‘forget’!
* Teach students how to respect others’ opinions – and how the ‘tone’ of their posts may not be clear to readers (“It was just a joke!”)
* Students should understand your expectations, rules AND consequences.
* Limit the ability to post to your blog to students in your class. The ‘world’ can read, but not comment.

**MCj04059720000[1]Blogging Tips**

* The best way to learn to use a blog is to look at a wide variety of blogs – explore what’s out there and how other students & teachers use blogs.
* Assign a blog entry on a topic you are studying in class. The posting length should be short and emphasize original thoughts (no “Me, too” posts!)
* Eventually, students can respond to other students’ postings (first teach HOW to respond correctly with **Sandwich comments**: a positive comment + a polite suggestion for improvement or question + another positive comment).
* Grade students on their blog entries. You might consider a grade for content and another for grammar & spelling.
* Remember, that each post is published *to the Internet* (a.k.a. the World).

MCj03341120000[1]**Blogging in the Classroom:**

* Post student book reviews. Encourage students and/or parents to post comments about the book.
* Post assignments based on literature readings and have students respond. Provide online readings for your students to read and react to.
* Assign each student to create a story problem and post it to your classroom blog. When all problems are posted, students can choose any 3 and respond with their answer AND how they figured it out!
* Word of the week to define & use in an original sentence to show understanding
* Use as an online newsletter: post happenings, articles by students, calendar events, event pictures, permission slips to download, links to interesting web sites
* Post a weekly writing prompt for students to respond to
* Students research current event topics and then post their news reports and analyses.
* What would Ben Franklin post? The President? A Union soldier? A Confederate soldier? A turtle? An igneous rock?



**Classroom Blogs**

**K - Mrs. Poulin’s Blog**

http://poulingail.edublogs.org/

**1st Grade - Mrs. Cassidy’s Blog**

http://classblogmeister.com/blog.php?blogger\_id=1337

**2nd Grade – Step Into 2nd Grade Blog** http://stepintosecondgrade.blogspot.com/

**3rd Grade - Mrs. McDonald’s Blog** http://mcdonald3rd.edublogs.org

**4th Grade - Mrs. Spata’s Blog** http://sspata04.edublogs.org

**5th Grade - The Skinny** http://edublogs.misd.net/theskinny

**6th Grade – Mrs. Beer’s 6th LA Class**

http://mrsbeerslanguageartsclass.blogspot.com/

**Check out these blogs for YOU**

**Kevin’s Meandering Mind** http://dogtrax.edublogs.org

**Kleinspiration** http://www.kleinspiration.com

**2¢ Worth by David Warlick**

http://davidwarlick.com/2cents

**Technology Rocks. Seriously.** http://www.technologyrocksseriously.com/

**Infinite Thinking Machine** http://blog.infinitethinking.org

**Teachers Love SMART Boards** http://teacherslovesmartboards.com/

**Free Technology for Teachers** http://www.freetech4teachers.com/

**Good Places to Set Up Your Blog**

**Edublogs** http://edublogs.org

**Class Blogmeister** http://classblogmeister.com

**Kidblogs** http://kidblog.org

Clean interface. No student email needed

**Weebly** http://education.weebly.com/

**Free Stuff to Oolala Your Blog**

**Google Gadgets** http://www.google.com/ig/directory?synd=open

**Blogging Awards** http://www.adrianbruce.com/blogging/blogging\_awards.htm

Wow your students by leaving one of these little graphics as a comment on their blog. Just copy and paste the code into the comment box.

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|  | * **http://edublogs.org/** * Classroom blog creation tool |
| MCj04412820000[1]**Set up:**  1. **Register** with Edublogs at **http://edublogs.org/**  2. Fill in the form. Tip: Do NOT check *I would like my blog to be visible to anyone who visits and in public listings around this site*. Click **Create** **Blog**.  3. Check your email. Click on the **activation link**. Copy your **password**. **Login**.  4. Click on **Settings**. Click on **General**. Make your **tagline** appropriate for your blog’s focus. Leave *Users must be registered and logged in to comment* unchecked. You can always **moderate** or **delete** unwanted comments. Click **Save Changes**.  5. Change your password: Click on **Users**. Click on **Your Profile**. Change your password. Click **Update Profile** to save changes.  6. Click on **Design**. Click on **Themes**. Pick a theme.  7. By default, you already have a post in your blog. Click on **Manage**. Click on **Posts**. Click on **Hello world!** Change the **title**. Write your first **post**. Explain what your blog is about. If you aren’t quite ready for the public, choose **Unpublished** or **Keep this post private**. Otherwise, choose **Publish**. You can also publish this post at a later date. Just change the **post date** and save the post as **Published**.  8. By default, you already have a **page** in your blog – **About Us**. To change it, click on **Manage**. Click on **Pages**. Click on **About us**. Edit the page & publish.  9. Decide on what pages you would like to add. Click on **Write**. Click on **Page**. Write the **title** and **content** of your page. Decide on the page order. They are usually ordered alphabetically, but you can put a number above to change the order pages appear in. You may want a Math page, a Writing page, etc.  10. You can **moderate** all comments (you check before they appear on the blog site). Click on **Settings**. Click on **Discussion**. Decide if you want email notifications (you might get a lot of email!). Decide if you want to approve all comments, if students must fill in their name & email, or if comments don’t need approval after the 1st approved comment. Click **Save changes**. | |
| MCj04326420000[1]**What you get:**   * Automatic spell-check and auto-save. * Ability to upload pictures, videos, audio. * Moderate student comments *before* they appear on the classroom blog. * Set up postings today that will appear whenever you need them to. * Set up separate pages for a variety of classroom topics. | |



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| Sign into Edublogs | | | | |
| 1Create a post | Click on **Write**.    Click on **Post**. | Write a **Title**.    Write the **Post**. | You can add **pictures**, **video**, **music**, and **other media** (like a **Voki)**. | |
| 2. Publish your post | Choose **Publish** to put on blog immediately. | Choose **Unpublish** to keep, but not post now.    Click **Save**. | Choose **Keep this post private** s0 no one except you can see.    Click **Save**. | To publish on a future date, click  **Edit** next to **Publish immediately**.    Set the date & time you want this post to appear.    Click **Publish**. |
| 3. Student posts | Students read your post.    To respond, they click on **Comments** | | At the bottom of the page, student fills in a name, a gmail hack, the anti-spam word, and a comment.  Click **Submit**. | |
| 4. Moderate | When you log in,    click on **Comments**. | | Locate the new comment.  Click on **Approve**. The comment is now visible on the blog. | |



**RSS** = **Really Simple Syndication** or **Rich Site Summary**

An easy way to gather headlines, blog postings, and podcasts in one place instead of visiting multiple websites to look for new posts. Sort of TiVo for your computer!



**Google Reader**

Or any RSS Aggregator

Blogs

News headliness

Podcasts

**RSS in Plain English**

http://www.commoncraft.com/video/rss

**If your students blog, RSS is the way to keep track of all 25-30 blogs!**

**Step One: Sign up for an RSS Aggregator**

* **Google Reader** http://www.google.com/reader
* **My Yahoo!** http://my.yahoo.com
* **Bloglines** http://www.bloglines.com

**Step Two: Find and Sign up for RSS Feeds**

* On any page, click on  Follow the directions on the RSS page.
* Or copy and paste the blog/podcast url into your RSS aggregator
* I recommend:
  + **EdGalaxy**  http://www.edgalaxy.com/
  + **InTec InSights** http://karenogen.blogspot.com/
  + **Larry Ferlazzo’s Websites of the Day** http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org

**Step Three: Check your aggregator daily for all the latest news**

* Make your aggregator your home page so when you open the Internet, you get all your news