

Blogging for Teachers

What is Blogging?



A blog (derived from "web log") is an online journal that contains chronological entries (or "posts") that consist of text, links, images, video and other media. Blog posts are arranged in reverse chronological order, with the most recent posts first. The term "blogging" refers to the process of updating a blog with a new post.

What to Blog About



A blog can be informative, opinionated or deeply personal. Its content can pertain to the activities of one person or an entire community. It can cover any topic, but successful blogs usually focus on a single theme. Visit [The Teachers' Lounge](#) for tips on creating content for an educational blog.

Finding Readers



With more than one million blogs in the "blogosphere" (technical jargon used to describe all of the blogs on the Internet), it helps to attract readers by publicizing your blog. Tell co-workers, friends and family that you're blogging. Send out an email and let your contacts on Facebook, Twitter and other social networks know when you've posted to your blog (most blogging platforms let you do this automatically). Blog often so that readers will want to check back frequently for new posts.

Fostering Interaction



Most blogs have an interactive element, allowing readers to add comments after a post. Comments can transform a blog from a monologue to a conversation. You can get feedback on your posts, meet people who share your interests and build your site's readership through comments on your blog. The interaction that comments provide can make a blog more like a social network and less like a static website.

Blogging and Education

TEACHER BLOGS

Teachers can use blogs to stay connected with students, parents and the entire school community. A teacher's blog can be used to publicize class events and share photos, taking the place of a classroom newsletter. It can also be used to update parents about student progress, post assignments and share instructional resources. If you want to create a private blog that can only be seen by your class, use a blogging platform like Blogger that allows you to control who can view the blog. Click [here](#) for more ideas on using a blog in the classroom.

STUDENT BLOGS

Blogs encourage students to read and write. Many students are motivated to produce better writing when they know it will be published. A student blog can serve as a digital portfolio, providing permanent storage for student work and allowing progress to be tracked by comparing recent posts to older. Student blogs also foster collaboration and allow students to share their work with each other as well as with parents and relatives. For more ideas about getting students involved in blogging, check out Edublog.

BLOGGING PLATFORMS

Thanks to blogging platform websites, creating and maintaining a blog requires very little technical expertise. These websites provide easy-to-use interfaces that make it simple to create content for a blog and publish it -- plus, most are free of charge! Here are the most popular general-purpose blogging platforms:

BLOGGING FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Blogging is an exciting new tool for professional development. Never before has it been so easy for teachers to share ideas and experiences with other educators from across town or around the world. See:

POPULAR CLASS BLOGS

Some teachers have been blogging about their classrooms for several years and have attracted a wide following. Visit these popular class blogs for inspiration for your own: