



Blogs

Type	Learning Curve	Blackboard Gradebook Integration	Cost
Online or Face-to-Face	Medium	Yes	Free

What?

Blogs allow anyone to be a reporter and publisher. They provide a way for students to write in public, from their own unique perspective, and receive feedback from those who have similar interests including experts, stakeholders and the broader community. Blogs are organized by blog posts which are archived and can be commented on by readers. The writing students do in their blog can be submitted as a url through a course dropbox. This article on [collaborative research](#) is well worth the read to get an idea of the power of blogs in research communities.

When?

- You can use blog writing assignments as a medium for collaborative reflection and learning. These assignments allow students to display their research, analytical, and communication skills through a series of commentaries meant for public consumption and discussion.
- You can use group blogs as a way for you class to connect course concepts to authentic audiences.

How?

- [Create a free WordPress Blog](#)
- [Create a free Blogger Blog](#)
- In the Blackboard Blog, only enrolled users can view. Similar to journals, you can use blogs for a graded assignment or gather opinions and information without assigning a grade. To learn more, see [Journals](#), [Blackboard Help](#)

Tips

- Create a blogroll of all student blogs in one space (a course blog or course lesson page) so that they are easy to find.
- Encourage students to express their unique style through the imagery, design, and voice of their blogspace.

Suggested Activities

To learn about these activities and how to implement them, see the [Student Engagement Strategies Toolbox](#).

- Blogs/Vlogs
- Case Study

For more information or to schedule time with an instructional designer or emerging technologist, contact aoi.li@wsu.edu or visit li.wsu.edu You can also visit the Spark Faculty Innovation Studio (SPARK 102) any time from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.