

Online discussion: blogging
Blogger.com

What is it?

Blogger.com is a host site for blogs, allowing users to create their own profiles and blogs from their google.com profile. Blogs are posts created by users, usually sharing some sort of experience, and can be commented on by other users.

Who's doing it?

Anyone can create a blog and choose any topic. In an educational setting, it can be used for communication between students in a class, especially in distance education courses, or in any class where written communication of ideas among students is required. It can also serve as an online database of thoughts or progress of one student or for communication between teacher and student. Outside of the educational setting, blogging is used in families to keep distant members informed of family events and happenings. It is also used for the public communication of thoughts on various topics of the writer's choice.

How does it work?

Logging in to blogger.com is simple. If you already have a google account, you can log in with that email and password. Otherwise, you can click "create a blog" and go through the registration process. Once your blog is created with a title and URL chosen, you can begin composing your first post. Posts can include text, pictures, videos, etc. depending on the goal. Public access to the blog can also be restricted if desired, and friends or classmates can sign up to "follow" other's blogs.

Why is it significant?

This allows students to communicate with each other in written format, a format not typically used in classroom settings. It also allows for students to post, read, and comment on their own time, rather than being restricted to communicating in real time orally in the classroom.

What are the downsides?

Depending on the maturity level of the students you use blogging with, they may not take it seriously, or because communication happens in time outside of class, students may procrastinate and not put in the appropriate time or effort they would in a structured classroom setting.

Where is it going?

I believe blogging is becoming a detailed expansion of things like twitter and facebook statuses. Rather than a limit of only a few characters, users can write at length whatever they would like to discuss. In an educational setting, I see it becoming a larger part of distance education classrooms, grade school classrooms communicating with distant partners, and a way for educators to meet, discuss, and share ideas.

What are the implications for teaching and learning?

I see blogging becoming a larger part of the educational setting, allowing similar students from multiple schools communicate on the same topics. In the case of this lesson plan, students at one university could collaborate with a class at another university in the United States, or even another country. I believe the expansion, progression, and increased use of blogging will provide students with more diverse perspectives and enhance their educational experience.

Example???

Coming soon!