



How to...

Use Blogs
In Your Classroom

Ask a Tech Teacher™

How to use Blogs

In your Classroom

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Blogs

Vocabulary	Problem solving	Common Core
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Article • Avatars • Blog • Comments • Dashboard • Digital footprint • Embed • Etiquette • Home row • Keyboard shortcut • Mulligan Rule • Netiquette • Post • Sidebar • Web log 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't see my post (teacher must approve first) • Student comments aren't always appropriate? Set account for teacher approval. Chat with students about how to contribute to conversation. • Why can't I use my picture in blog? (discuss digital privacy) • Is blogging safe? • Someone made a mean comment (teacher moderates) • Can't figure it out (breathe deeply, you can do it) • I want to personalize my blog (you're encouraged to do that.) 	<p>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.1,2,4,6,10 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.1-10 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.5.1—10 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.1-10 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.7.1-10 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.8.1-10 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.4.1-3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.5.1-3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6-3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.7.1-3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.8.1-3 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.WHST.6-8.1,2,4-10</p>
<p>Time 10min/time</p>	<p>NETS-S Standards 4a, 6d</p>	<p>Grade 4-8</p>

Essential Question

How do I share with classmates on a regular basis?

Overview

Summary

Students blog throughout the year to reflect, compare-contrast, analyze, and generally practice writing and improve keyboarding.

Big Ideas

Students develop facility with writing by doing it repetitively in a safe, user-friendly environment.

Materials

Internet, student log-ins for blogging

Teacher Preparation

- Test all online tools to be sure links are still active from the last time you used them.
- Discuss blogging with administration and grade-level teachers to insure understanding of goals.
- Distribute and collect student blogging agreements (can be based on [Academy of Discovery](#) sample). Answer questions about safety, privacy issues related to blogging prior to start.
- Set up accounts in Kidblog or other blogging program.
- Have a sample blog posted to your teacher account.
- Consider co-teaching with subject-specific teacher.

How to use Blogs in Your Classroom

- Something happen you weren't prepared for? No worries. Common Core is about critical thinking and problem solving. Show students how you fix the emergency.

Steps

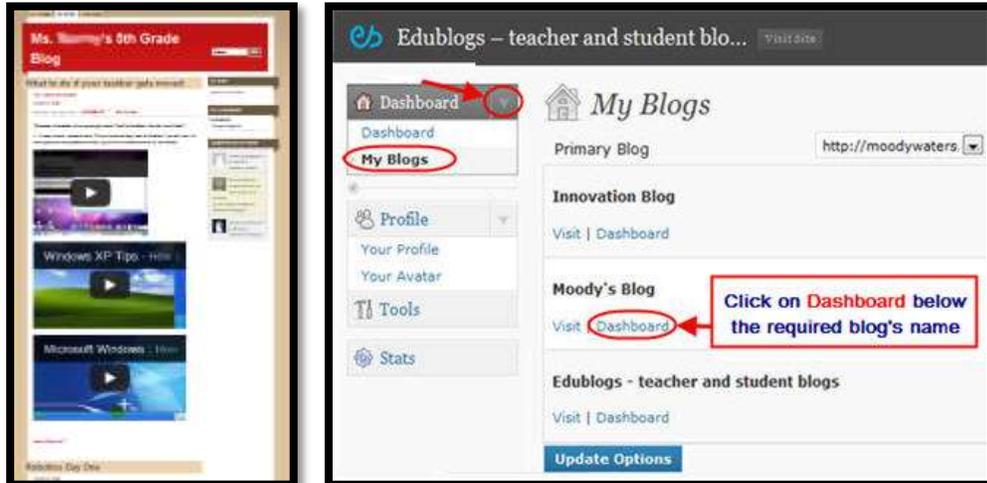
Required skill level: Understand online tools. Passion for writing.

Before beginning, put backchannel device onto Smartscreen ([Today's Meet](#), [Socrative](#), [Padlet](#), class Twitter account, GAFE form) to track student comments throughout class. Show students how to access it if necessary.

Introduce the concept of 'blogging'—short articles published online, enhanced with images, videos, audio, embeds, with the express purpose of sharing ideas and garnering feedback. Here, the goal is that students 1) engage effectively in collaborative discussions with diverse partners, 2) build on others' ideas, and 3) express their own clearly.

Discuss this popular video—[Blogs in Plain English](#).

Figure 1a and 96b—Two blogging platforms



Studies show blogs 1) attract a wider audience than traditional reading venues, 2) improve student writing skills by making it fun and hip, 3) incorporate discovery into education, and 4) draw learners into self-guided discussions. Blogs require critical thinking and give content ownership to students.

Before embarking on a class blogging project, get by-in of all stakeholders—other teachers, school administration and parents. You might consider having students sign a blogging agreement like this from [Academy of Discovery](#) that includes student assurances to follow prescribed rules.

Have a discussion with students about the importance of maintaining privacy and protecting student digital footprint while engaging with others online.

While blogging, students remember to:

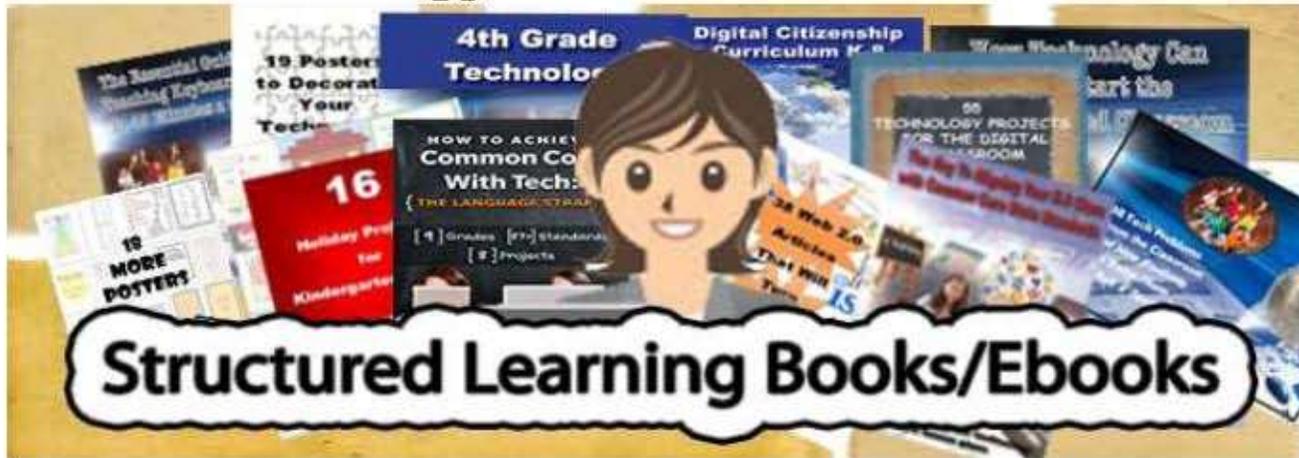
- Follow privacy rules, as appropriate for any online social media—first name only, no addresses or personal information that could be used in identification.
- Be concise. Readers don't go to blogs to read a novel.
- Be pithy. Readers may get tricked by a snazzy title, but not twice.

Pages deleted from Lesson Plan for Preview

Other Singles from Structured Learning

- 15 Web Tools in 15 Days
- Blogging
- Brainstorming
- Bridge Building
- Debate
- Digital Book Reports
- Digital Note-taking
- Digital Quick Stories
- Digital Quick Writes
- Digital Timelines
- Gamification
- Genius Hour
- Google Apps
- Internet Search and Research
- Khan Academy
- Service Learning
- Write an Ebook
- Write with Twitter

SL Technology Books for Your Classroom



Structured Learning Books/Ebooks

Which book	Price (print/digital/ Combo)	How Many
<i>K-8th Tech Textbook (each)</i>	<i>\$29.99-32.99/23.99-26.99/48.58-53.99+p&h</i>	
<i>K-6 Combo (all 7 textbooks)</i>	<i>\$190.74/\$153.84/\$344.57 + p&h</i>	
<i>K-8 Combo (all 7 textbooks)</i>	<i>\$246.52/\$200.62/\$447.14+ p&h</i>	
<i>35 More Projects for K-6</i>	<i>\$31.99/25.99/52.18 + p&h</i>	
<i>55 Tech Projects—Vol I,II, Combo</i>	<i>\$32.99 /\$59.38—digital only (free shipping)</i>	
<i>K-8 Keyboard Curriculum</i>	<i>\$29.95/25.95/50.31 + p&h</i>	
<i>K-8 Digital Citizenship Curriculum</i>	<i>\$29.95/25.99/50.38 + p&h</i>	
<i>Common Core—Math, Lang., Read</i>	<i>\$26.99 ea/72.87 for 3—digi only (free ship'g)</i>	
<i>K-5 Common Core Projects</i>	<i>\$29.95/23.99/48.55 + p&h</i>	
<i>16 Holiday Projects</i>	<i>\$14.99 (digital only) + p&h</i>	
<i>19 Posters for the Tech Lab</i>	<i>\$6.99 (digital only)</i>	
<i>18 More Posters for the Tech Lab</i>	<i>\$12.99 (digital only)</i>	
<i>98 Tech Tips From Classroom</i>	<i>\$9.99 (digital only) + p&h</i>	
<i>760+ Tech Ed Websites</i>	<i>\$14.99 (digital only) + p&h</i>	
<i>Tech Ed Scope and Sequences</i>	<i>\$14.99 (digital only) + p&h</i>	
<i>New Teacher Survival Kit (K-5)</i>	<i>\$338.21/\$287.85/\$567.08+ p&h</i>	
<i>New Teacher Survival Kit (K-6)</i>	<i>\$370.20/\$314.84/\$620.16 + p&h</i>	
<i>New Teacher Survival Kit (6-8)</i>	<i>\$280.83/\$261.83/\$415.74 + p&h</i>	
<i>Bundles of lesson plans</i>	<i>\$7.99 and up—digital only (free shipping)</i>	
<i>Mentoring (1 hr. at a time)</i>	<i>\$50/hr</i>	
<i>Year-long tech curriculum help</i>	<i>\$100 per year (online)</i>	
<i>Consulting/seminars/webinars</i>	<i>Call or email for prices</i>	
	Total	

Free sample? Visit Structured Learning LLC website

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