

Why use blogs in higher education?

Blogging can:

- increase student accountability for their writing due to the public nature of blogs
- increase digital literacy
- Brings the "real world" into the classroom, and students out into the "real world"
- ask students to critically examine what they read on the web
- encourage linking to other source materials, original texts
- bring timely news and illustrations into the classroom not otherwise available
- contribute student work to greater public record
- shift the students' audience away from just the instructor, and into the public sphere
- encourage engagement, creating connections
- help students to understand the relational and contextual basis of knowledge and meaning making
- encourage development of an original, personal voice
- enable conversations inside & outside the classroom
- create a record of learning
- provide space for students to reflect and publish their thoughts and understandings
- create stronger student/teacher and student/student relationships
- encourage ownership of voice and ideas, unlike traditional discussion forums
- encourage students to think about and establish their own credibility as writers
- integrate learning into students' everyday lives
- create a sense of responsibility for one's own learning and voice

Adapted from Richard E. Ferdig, Ph.D., and Kaye D. Trammell, University of Florida, "*Content Delivery in the 'Blogosphere'*," T.H.E. Journal, 2/1/2004, <http://www.thejournal.com/articles/16626>