



Blogs Extending the Classroom

The following shows how blogs can help extend the reach of your classroom and create continuous communication inside/outside class for in-depth exploration of the course

USING THE BLOG TO EXTEND THE CLASSROOM

- 1) Start with in-class discussion on a specific topic so students will have developed thoughts on the issue, and then ask students to continue outside class by commenting online.
- 2) Set up blogs by topic or assignment.
- 3) Read student comments while planning the next class lecture.

INTEGRATING LECTURES AND BLOG COMMENTS

- Select from the blog what you feel are critical points reflecting student thoughts, knowledge, or gaps in knowledge, and pull these for class lecture & discussion.
- Copy/paste selected blog entries into Word, and print a one-page handout for class.
- Integrate student observations and excerpts from online comments into the lecture - this can motivate students to continue responding between class meetings and help determine the focus of future lectures.
- Integrate lecture with new angles or information on the popular topics from the blog. See where this carries the discussion, and how it influences student points of view. Encourage further discussion by having students post again to the blog and discuss changes in their points of view or reasons why new information strengthens their viewpoints.

The students get to know each other better by visualizing and reading blogs from other students. They discover, in a non-threatening way, their similarities and differences. The student who usually talks very loud in the classroom and the student who is very timid have the same writing space to voice their opinion. It puts students into a position of equity.

Mireille Guay, "Educational Blogging" Educause Review | September/October 2004

For more information or assistance with blogs for class, contact the Instructional Technology Group. Visit our web site at www.emerson.edu/itg or call 617 824-8961.