



Blogs Reflection, Motivation and Learning

The following suggests how blogs can help student learning through communication, reflection, and motivation.

USING THE BLOG

- 1) Set up individual blogs for each student, and one for yourself.
- 2) Transfer a portion of paper-based assignments, such as reactions to reading or writing assignments, to the blog.
- 3) Monitor student blogs and reply as appropriate. Use replies to guide a student's work by asking questions and offering new information.
- 4) Use your blog to comment to the group after reading student blogs, inform the class of changes in lecture or assignments, and solicit informal feedback either on course or general issues.
- 5) Assign students to pairs, where one person selects an entry from the other person's blog, links to it, and writes a reaction in her/his own blog.

THE BLOG AS LEARNING TOOL

Possibilities for making the blog a component of your course:

- Encourage students to post a brief comment after each class in their blogs, which can include questions they didn't get a chance to ask during class, or topics in the lecture that seemed unclear. This can also help facilitate the following lecture.
- Possibilities to connect students while they study include setting a minimum number of required comments per week. These posts can offer insight into the individual learning experience as the student works independently.
- Suggest that students ask peers to read and post reply comments to their blogs.
- Encourage students to regularly search for and post links in their blogs to sites they find interesting and relevant and to comment on why others would find the sites interesting.
- Encourage students to offer ideas for use of the blog in class. This will stimulate students to have a direct influence in the course.

Blogs offer, "a way to tap into a writing space that students already use - and more importantly, want to use."

kairosnews.org

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.