How do I... Create a Blog?

A Blog—a shorthand term that means Web log—is a personal online journal that is frequently updated and intended for general public consumption. In Blackboard Learn, only enrolled users can view and author Blogs. Blogs encourage Students to clearly express their ideas and addresses the need to expand various aspects of social learning. Blogs are an effective means of gaining insight into Students’ activities and provide a way to share the knowledge and materials collected.

Creating Blogs:

Blog writing assignments are another medium for reflective learning. With this type of assignment, Students are expected to display their research, analytical, and communication skills through a series of commentaries meant for public consumption and comment.

In the course environment, Blogs are only able to be viewed by enrolled users. Similar to Journals, Blogs can be used as a graded assignment or ungraded to gather opinions and information. Instructors can create one or more Blogs for use by Students in their courses. Blog topics must be created before Students can add their entries.

1. Access the Course.
2. Ensure Edit Mode is ON.
3. In the Control Panel, expand the Course Tools section.
4. Select Blogs.
5. On the Blogs listing page, click Create Blog on the Action Bar.

6. On the Create Blog page, type a Name for the Blog.
7. Type optional Instructions for the Blog. Format the text and add images, links, multimedia, Mashups, and attachments using the functions in the Text Editor, if needed. Attachments added using the Text Editor can be launched in a new window and have alternate text added to describe the attachment.
8. Under Blog Availability, select the Yes option to make it available to users.
9. Use the Display After and Display Until date and time fields to limit the availability of the Blog. Select the Display After and Display Until check boxes in order to enable the date and time selections.
10. Under Blog Participation, select Individual to All Students or Course. Select Allow Anonymous Comments for Individual Blogs or Allow Anonymous Entries and Comments for Course and Group Blogs, if needed.

11. Under Blog Settings, select Monthly or Weekly Index Entries.
12. Optionally, select the check box to Allow Users to Edit and Delete Entries.
13. Optionally, select the check box to Allow Users to Delete Comments.

14. Select No grading or the Grade option and type the number of Points possible. Points possible will apply to one or more entries made by the user to the Blog topic. Once a Blog is set to be graded, a column is created for it in the Grade Center.

a. If you choose to have the wiki graded you have the option to decide when this will show in the “Needs Grading” area of the grade center. You can change how frequently this shows in the “Needs Grading,” area by using the drop down next to “Entries.”

b. You can also associate a rubric with this grading item. To add a rubric, click on the “Add Rubric” button and choose either “Select Rubric,” “Create New Rubric,” or “Create from Existing.”

i. If you need to know how to create a rubric, please see the documentation titled, “How Do I Create a Rubric?”
ii. For the other two options, choose from the rubrics you already have created and then click submit.

iii. If you are modifying an existing rubric, make the changes, and then click on submit.

c. Lastly, choose if you want to share this rubric with the students by clicking on the icon under “Show Rubric to Students.” Choose from either, “Yes (with rubric scores), “Yes (without rubric scores), “After Grading,” or leave the option set as “No.”

15. Click Submit.

Creating Blog Entries:
Instructors and users can create Blog entries and other Course members can make comments on the entries. Instructors can use Blog entries to provide structure for discussions on class topics and other issues. On the Blogs listing page, under each Blog title, Students can see if the Blog belongs to a Group, the Course, or to Individual Students. Group Blogs can be read by all Course members, but to make an entry, the user must be a Group member.


![Blogs Listing Page]

2. On the Blog's topic page, click Create Blog Entry on the Action Bar.

![Create Blog Entry]

3. On the Create Blog Entry page, type a Title for the Blog entry.

![Blog Entry Information]

4. Type text in the Entry Message text box. Format the text and add images, links, multimedia, Mashups, and attachments using the functions in the Text Editor, if needed. Attachments added using the Text Editor can be launched in a new window and have
5. If enabled, select the check box for Post Entry as Anonymous, if appropriate.
6. Alternatively, under Blog Entry Files, browse for a file to attach to the Blog entry.
7. Click Post Entry to submit the Blog entry or click Save Entry as Draft to add the entry later.

Creating Blog Comments:
Because Blogs are meant to be read by others, Students can comment on one another’s Blog entries, whether they belong to an individual, the Course, or a Group. The Instructor determines if comments can be made anonymously or deleted. The Instructor can delete any user’s comment by clicking the X. Comments cannot be edited after they are posted.


2. On the Blog’s topic page, select a Blog to view by selecting the user’s name in the side panel under “View Entries By,” the user’s Blog entries open in the content frame.
3. Click Comment following the user’s entry.
The Comment text box appears.

4. Type a comment in the Comment text box.
5. Click Spell Check at the bottom of the Comment text box to check the spelling of the content before continuing.
6. If enabled, select the check box for Comment on Entry as Anonymous, if appropriate.
7. Click Add. Click the Comments link below the entry to view the comment.