

## Overview of Blogging and Educational Applications

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King & Gura (2007) Chapters 3-6 maybe referred to for further details.

- 1. What is Blogging?
- 2. Examples of Educator's Blogs
- 3. Create your OWN! and post your blog link in the discussion board **Session designated by the professor**
- 4. Visit and post to your classmates' blogs

### • 1. What is Blogging?

Look at this description from the Blogger website

#### What's a blog?

A blog is a personal diary. A daily pulpit. A collaborative space. A political soapbox. A breaking-news outlet. A collection of links. Your own private thoughts. Memos to the world.

Your blog is whatever you want it to be. There are millions of them, in all shapes and sizes, and there are no real rules.

In simple terms, a blog is a web site, where you write stuff on an ongoing basis. New stuff shows up at the top, so your visitors can read what's new. Then they comment on it or link to it or email you. Or not.

Since Blogger was launched in 1999, blogs have reshaped the web, impacted politics, shaken up journalism, and enabled millions of people to have a voice and connect with others.

And we're pretty sure the whole deal is just getting started. (Blogger.com, 2007)

As we discussed a few sessions ago, blogging is a vital digital communications tool incorporating web 2.0 technologies and culture.

You looked at some examples in Jonassen's book and then I had you look at some from

- <http://ncteinbox.blogspot.com/> the National Council of Teachers of English Inbox Blog- good resources and participation opportunity
- <http://neuroeconomics.typepad.com/> ok here is something really higher ed for you!

These demonstrated very professional and academic applications of blogs.

On another individuals of all ages create and maintain personal blogs on all sorts of topics in services such as Blogger.com, Blogspot, Livejournal, and Wordpress to name a few.

In addition blogging, once looked down upon as nonsense chatter, has become a recognized power in the media. This fact was formalized in the US presidential elections of 2004 when the blogging world had a major impact on communication of news and opinion. In addition in the election returns of 2006 major TV networks had blogging stations setup across the county to relay results and created a force that made news results hit their websites more rapidly than commentators could update results on the live coverage.

By 2006 bloggers who maintain professional blogs of substantial content are recognized as journalists of new media. In 2007 you will find that most major news agencies and publications have blogs and podcasts in at least special areas. Why has traditional media embraced this wave of innovation? Because the digitally connected global community demands rapid communication and a wide multiplicity of perspectives on news, issues, research and trends.

### • 2. Examples of Educator's Blogs

Take a look at *some* of these blogs with the thought in mind that you are going to create your own in this session! What will be your educational focus? Will it be your content areas or will it be your audience (such as ELL learners or adult GED learners, etc)?

- <http://msfrizzle.blogspot.com/>
- <http://ipsbradley.blogspot.com/>
- 
- <http://www.educationwonk.blogspot.com/>
- <http://roomd2.blogspot.com/>
- <http://leveler.typepad.com/smash/> (student blog and podcast)
- <http://blog.transformationed.com> (KPK's newest blog)

• **3. Create your own blog!**

Follow the steps below and create your OWN blog in Blogger! **Then post the URL for your new blog in the discussion board Session designated by the professor**

Now we are going to take the plunge and put some of this observation and theory into action!

For this exercise, we are going to use BLOGGER adds the source of your NEW free blog.

- Go to <http://www.blogger.com/>
- Click **CREATE YOUR BLOG NOW!**
- Follow along with the steps to create the name of your blog, your username and password
- You will be asked to give a short title to your blog (what would describe it to outsiders?)
- Now you can select a background layout template
- You are now finished and ready to create your first post!
- Once you are done, view your blog!

Let me know if you need any assistance, I will be glad to help!

**Now be sure to post the URL for your new blog in the discussion board Session designated by the professor**

**4. Please also go and visit each of your classmate's blogs and post a comment, copy and paste your comment to Session designated by the professor.**

### References

Blogger (2007) What is a blog? *Blogger tour*. Retrieved July 20, 2007 from [http://www.blogger.com/tour\\_start.g](http://www.blogger.com/tour_start.g)

King, K. P. & Gura, M. (2007). *Podcasting for Teachers: Using a new technology to revolutionize teaching and learning .SERIES: Emerging technologies for evolving learning*. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing, Inc. [www.infoagepub.com](http://www.infoagepub.com)