

February, 2008 - Nicole Luongo, Ed.D., Education

Using Blogs to Enhance Education

Recently, blogging has become a popular form of communication. Blogs have always intrigued me, but I never got around to actually having one—until this semester. Basically, a “blog” is a website where an individual writes entries in a chronological order, which are displayed in reverse chronological order. The term “blog” can also be used as a verb, meaning to add content to a blog.

Blogs have a variety of uses and objectives. They can provide commentary on a specific subject or serve as a personal, online journal. Most blogs combine text, images, and links to other blogs, websites, and related media. Moreover, blogs provide their readers with the capacity to leave comments and remarks. Since many college students already have personal blogs (or some other form of online journal program) and are familiar with this form of communication, I decided to use this interest to promote reading and writing in my education courses.

In my *Se370: Improvement of Reading in the Secondary School* course, I require each student to create and write in an educational blog. This blog focuses on a specific educational topic, which is of interest to him and the specific area in which he plans to teach.

Every student blogger is required to blog **at least** two times a week, with each posting being two to three paragraphs and containing references to educational journals or readings. Moreover, I encourage the students to review and share educational websites, other educational blogs, and newspaper articles. Additionally, the student is required to respond to **at least** one other classmate’s blog each week.

Also, I use the educational blog to start a discussion of how blogs can be used in other educational settings. We discuss how personal blogs can be used to keep in touch with friends and family, and how high school students can use blogs to discuss various topics without the pressure of speaking in class. Moreover, I explain how blogs can be used in the elementary classroom to promote writing at a young age.

In class, we discuss the possibilities and realities of blogging. I remind the students that the blog is public and anyone can see it. These individuals include faculty, friends, family members, and potential future employers. I encourage them to use spell check and appropriate punctuation. Overall, I urge them to develop a comfortable, ongoing, blog-writing style, which can be conversational, informed, and willing to share expertise. Also, it can include questions they have of the class or the professor.

Please take a look at our class blog: <http://professorluongo.blogspot.com>

Here is another excellent resource entitled [Blogs in Education](#).