Classroom Blogging Made Easy

facilitated by Lisa Van Gemert

Tips:

- ✓ Recommended platform: edublogs.org

- ✓ Use gmail+ to create student account (gmail ignores letters & numbers you add AFTER a + sign & sends all email to the main account)

- ✓ bitly.com/create_avatar

- ✓ bit.ly/classblogrules

- ✓ bit.ly/bg-samples

- ✓ Find editable files at: giftedguru.com/blog-resources-teachers

- ✓ Blogging with Students Series: teacherchallenge.edublogs.org/blogging-with-students

- ✓ Setting it Up How-to: theedublogger.com/2015/06/15/student-blogging

Blog Launch Instructions

General Directions: You will create a blog

Step 1: Give me your email address and give me 24 hours to get your email connected to your blog.

Step 2: Find your blog. The class blog is _____.
Links to the other blogs:

Step 3: Design your blog. You will be an administrator of your blog, and you can change your theme, add links, and customize it as much as you want. Be sure to link to all the class blogs from your blog. Watch the video tutorials if you have questions.
edublogs.org/videos.

Step 4: Make sure that your blog contains enough information (can be in the form of links) that a fifth grader could use it to find all the information he/she needed to do a report on your country. Some examples of links are _____.

Step 5: Weekly posts. You have the rubric, so you should know the grade that you will receive before I even grade the blogs. In addition to grading the posts, I make general comments and suggestions about the appearance and layout of the blog.

Rubric for Grading Blogs
The blog project represents 20% of your grade.
You have a minimum of 1 post and 2 comments per week.

Necessary Component of a Post (1 per week)
>   Title (appropriate title for the post)
>   Summary and analysis (this means that I want your informed opinion!)
>   Image - picture, chart, table, graph, etc.
>   Excerpt (limit to 2 paragraph max.); relevant, reputable source
>   Link to the source - hyperlinked "click here", "read more"; not entire URL
>   Significance - why is this important – connection to course
>   Tag - appropriate tag for the topic

See rubric for details. Each column's points will be multiplied by three for a total of 75 points possible.

Comments: (2 per week) 25 points for total of 100 points per week for blogging.

Blog Post Rubric

CATEGORY	Scholar Points	Exemplar (4 - 5 Points)	Acceptable (2 - 3 points)	Inadequate (0 - 1 points)
Sources	Sources are not only high quality, but also the analysis shows that they were not only used but understood and effective.	Appropriate, authorized source information collected for all graphics, facts and quotes. All documented in desired format.	Appropriate, authorized source information collected for all graphics, facts and quotes. Most documented in desired format.	Source information collected for graphics, facts and quotes, but not documented in desired format or incomplete in some way.
Analysis	Extended beyond coverage of concept to an unexpected level that approaches professional.	Covers topic in-depth with details and examples. Subject knowledge is excellent, & analysis shows understanding of the course objectives.	Includes essential knowledge about the topic. Subject knowledge appears to be good. Analysis reaches expected levels.	Includes essential information about the topic but there are 1-2 factual errors or omissions.
Mechanics	Use of sophisticated, yet appropriate syntax or vocabulary.	No misspellings or grammatical errors.	Three or fewer misspellings and/or mechanical errors.	Numerous misspellings and/or grammatical errors.
Attractiveness	The images were evocative and powerful. They add significantly to the post.	Makes excellent use of images or graphics to enhance the presentation.	Makes good use of images or graphics to enhance to presentation.	Makes use of images or graphics graphics, but not in a way that supports or enhanced the post. May be missing the graphic or image.
Details	An added element extended the post beyond the assignment. The post was useful to others outside of the class.	All requirements are met and exceeded. - title - tag(s) - connection to course - appropriate length	All requirements are met. - title - tag(s) - connection to course - appropriate length	One or more requirements were not completely met. - title - tag(s) - connection to course - appropriate length

Total points earned x 3:

Scholar Points:

Grand Total:

Blog Post Instructions

Each member of your team will make a weekly post on the blog. All posts are due by Thursday at midnight, but you may post whenever you want from Monday through Thursday. Ideally, you will not have each member post at very similar times.

You have the rubric, so you should know the grade that you will receive before I even grade the blogs. In addition to your own original post, you will also make comments on the blog posts of at two classmates.

Necessary Component of a Post (1 per week)
>	Title (appropriate title for the post)
>	Summary and analysis (this means that I want your informed opinion, not simply a paraphrase)
>	Image (picture, chart, table, graph, etc.)
>	Excerpt (limit to 2 paragraph maximum. It should be relevant and it should be abundantly clear what you wrote and what you are quoting.)
>	Source (excerpt must come from a reliable, reputable source)
>	Link to the source (hyperlinked "click here" or "read more" rather than entire URL
>	Significance (why this is important/connection to course)
>	Tag (appropriate tag for the topic)
>	Timeliness (must be posted by Thursday at midnight)

See rubric for details. Scholar Points are available at the discretion of the teacher.

Each column's points will be multiplied by three for a total of 75 points possible.

Comments: (2 per week) 25 points for the two comments combined. They must be posted by Saturday at midnight. See rubric for details.

Total: 100 points per week

Blog Launch Instructions

General Directions: You will work in a group to create a blog that will be used to create a conversation about the material learned and discussed in class.

Step 1: Watch the video tutorials to familiarize yourself with the blog format we are using. You can find them at youtube.com/user/edublogssupport or help.edublogs.org/getting-started-with-edublogs.

Step 2: Design your blog. You will be an administrator of your blog, and you can change your theme, add links, and customize it as much as you want. Be sure to link to all the class blogs from your blog (the links will be posted in class).

Step 3: Make sure that your blog contains enough information (can be in the form of links) that a fifth grader could use it to find all the information he/she needed to do a report on your topic. You will need a minimum of five quality links.

Rubric for Grading Blogs (this is the rubric for the blog itself, not the individual posts)

CATEGORY	Scholar Points	Exemplar (4 - 5 Points)	Acceptable (2 - 3 points)	Inadequate (0 - 1 points)
Attractiveness	Makes excellent use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance the blog. Significant customization.	Makes good use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. to enhance to the blog.	Makes use of font, color, graphics, effects, etc. but occasionally these detract from the blog.	Use of font, color, graphics, effects etc. but these often distract from the blog or are not at all different from default template.
Links	In addition to links, there is content that shares information about the topic of the blog.	Contains links to other class blogs as well as other related, quality content. Exceeds minimum in quality and quantity.	Contains links to other class blogs as well as other related, quality content. The links may not be well-organized or comprehensive.	Links are either lacking or of poor quality.
Group Dynamic		Group worked well together, and there is evidence of strong balance in the shared responsibilities.	There is a clear balance of responsibilities among group members.	Workload was unbalanced. If this score is earned, a conference will be held with teacher to determine the reason for group failure and points for the project will be deducted from those who failed to pull their weight.