

## Webblogs (Blogs)

### What are Webblogs (Blogs)?

A (web)blog is a web based publishing tool. A blog facilitates online personal projects such as journals or ePortfolios; as well as collaborative projects such as subject or discipline specific discussions by a community of users or news and information broadcasting.

### Educational Value

Blogs facilitate faculty	Blogs provide students with an additional tool for
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interacting with learners, colleague and external readers</li> <li>• Sharing of knowledge within an area of expertise between experts and/or interested novices</li> <li>• Maintaining professional “currency” through RSS feeds to professional resources and journals</li> <li>• Discovering the interests and concerns of the students</li> <li>• Fostering collaboration with others with the similar interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building relationships inside and outside the classroom</li> <li>• Expressing their ideas, and questions</li> <li>• Collecting information</li> <li>• Documenting and journaling their ideas</li> <li>• Responding to the ideas of others</li> <li>• Building knowledge through exploration and contributing to other blogs</li> <li>• Managing information, links and resources relevant to their interests and studies</li> <li>• Collaborating with others with the same interests</li> <li>• Participating actively in their learning</li> </ul>

### Examples of Classroom Application

### Getting Started

Contact the CID at [cid@vcc.ca](mailto:cid@vcc.ca). An IA can help you determine if Blogs are right for your class and explain how to develop a plan to include them in your course/program.

**More Information***Educational:*

- Overview of Blogging and in Education  
<http://www.educause.edu/pub/er/erm04/erm0450.asp?bhcp=1>
- Ideas for using Blogs in the classroom.  
<http://ade.technology.org/2004/10/08#a132>
- Blogging and RSS for Educators  
<http://www.infoday.com/MMSchools/jan04/richardson.shtml>

*References:*

- EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative (2005) *7 Things You Should Know about Blogs*  
<http://www.educause.edu/7ThingsYouShouldKnowAboutSeries/7495>
- Elisa Coghlan, Justin Crawford, Julie Little, Cyprien Lomas, Marilyn Lombardi, Diana Oblinger, and Carie Windham, (2007) EDI Discovery Tool: Guide to Using Blogging. <http://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI8006.pdf>