Using Wordpress blogs for student Engagement

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**Why use Wordpress blogs?**

1. **Student-Centered Learning:**
   * Students can control the topics that they write about
   * Allows students to focus on ideas and writing for enjoyment rather than on strict writing conventions or a grade

2. **Community Building with Peers and Teacher:**
   * Students learn about each other- encourages discussion
   * The teacher can learn about students through experiences that they may not share in class. (*students tend to be more honest in their blog posts...*)
3. **Offers a Creative, Fun, and Engaging Outlet:**
   * Creative writing topics - free form writing - personal reflections/stories.
   * Relevant platform for young people - similar to social media and online modalities that students are already familiar with.

4. **Adaptable to any Curriculum or Purpose:**
   * Can be used with any subject and/or curriculum for various purposes - narratives, skill-set practice, discussions, research, personal daily journals.

*And last but not least... It’s easy and students enjoy it!!!*
What some of my students have said...

“When I was writing my blog, I felt confident because I could write everything I thought without correcting my grammar.”

“When I read other classmate’s blogs, I could understand their thoughts and opinions, and I thought more closely with them.”
What some of my students have said...

“I was immersed in my writing about those childhood memories which I almost forgot in my busy life.”

“Reading (my) classmates’ blogs can also help me understand them better. Of course, they can also know more about me through the blog. This allows us to be better friends and help each other.”
Final thought from one student...

“Last but not least, I really appreciate that Ms. Kym spent time reading all of our blogs and wrote comments for us because it is really depressing when you write but no one reads or discusses.”

This is why it is really important that YOU engage with your students if you use this platform.
Videos to get your students started

Instructional videos you can use with your students to get started with blogging:

1. How to set up your Wordpress account: https://youtu.be/stDwfP-ozzQ


3. Getting creative with your Wordpress blog: https://youtu.be/aU4oxNoyT74
How I use Wordpress in my ESL classroom

1. **Integrated Reading and Writing Skills**: Writing their post and reading and commenting on their peers’ posts and other blogs.

2. **Summary, Response, and Editorial Writing**: Summarize/respond to other blog posts. Critically evaluate our novel, articles, topics that we are learning about in class. Practice forming opinions, constructing an argument, and expressing ideas.

3. **Research Skills**: Students explore other blog writers and blogs-
   Examples: fact or opinion, credible sources, writer’s bias
How I Use Wordpress in My Classroom

4. **Tool to Introduce Bi-Weekly Learning Modules:** Students write blog posts on Monday-introduces them to the module we will be learning about in class. Ex. “Your Connection to this Aina” or “Should AI be Trusted?”

5. **Narrative Writing:** Students write about themselves- past experiences, where they will be in the future, best/worst memories. This helps build community and understanding among students and gives you the instructor a lot of insight into your students.
Some Benefits of Using Blogs

* Easy for both student and instructor to track student progress in writing

* Can be graded or not
(I grade my students- 10 points per blog post and 3 points for every comment they leave- I do not grade for grammar or technical writing ability)

* Fully Online & It’s Free!
No assignments for students to submit or you to collect, easily accessible from laptop or smartphone- and it is a free resource
Some benefits of using blogs

*Cuts down on your workload!
You can pre-schedule all of your posts at one time and reuse your site and posts from semester to semester. Your site can be linked directly to Laulima

*Offers flexibility to practice many different skills
Blogs can be used for any subject, topic, and/or discipline

*Students love it!
No student has ever said they did not like blog writing. This is one activity your students WON’T complain about. I guarantee it....
Mahalo!!

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My Wordpress:  http://esl13fall19.wordpress.com

Wordpress Site:  WordPress.com

Please email me if you would like any other information about using Wordpress with your students or if you would like me to visit your class to help you and your students get set up.

I will be creating a video soon for instructors on the technical tips & tricks for Wordpress to make your instruction easier!