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Blogs Overview

A Blog "is an open communications tool for Students to share their thoughts." (From Blackboard) The Blog Entries are shown chronologically.

A blog consists of:

- **Blog Entries:** Text, images, links and attachments posted by students and open for Comments.” (From Blackboard)
- **Comments:** Remarks or responses to Blog Entries made by others.” (From Blackboard)

There are three different types of Blogs:

- **Individual to All Students Blog:** “Only the owner of the Blog is able to post Blog Entries. All other users enrolled in the Course are able to view and add Comments” (From Blackboard)

- **Course Blog:** “All enrolled users are able to post Blog Entries. All enrolled users can post Comments to Blog Entries.” (From Blackboard)

- **Group Blog:** All members enrolled in the Group are able to post Blog Entries or make Comments on Blog Entries. (Blogs is one on the Group’s settings options.) We will not be covering Group Blogs in this manual.
**Interactive Communication Tools**

eCampus offers three interactive communication tools:

• **Discussion Board** is a public --*public within a course / organization*-- bulletin board that allows faculty and students to communicate asynchronously with each other, usually, about a particular subject/Thread. Students post to and reply to a Discussion Board Forum's Thread postings.

• **A Blog** "is an open communications tool for Students to share their thoughts. All users can post Comments to Blog Entries." *(from Blackboard)* The Blog Entries are shown chronologically.

• **A Journal** is a self-reflective tool for students. Only the student and the Instructor are able to Comment on Journal Entries. However, Journals can be made public by the Instructor to allow other enrolled users to read the entries." *(from Blackboard)*

**Note: “Blogs are similar in function to Journals, as both tools allow posting of new entries and comments to entries. However, the main difference is that blog entries are read and commented on by other enrolled users, whereas journals are typically shared only between the instructor and student (although the instructor can allow class members to view each others' journals)“ *(From Blackboard)*
Creating a Blog

In this example, we will show how to create a Blog.

After logging into eCampus,

1. Access your desired Course.
2. In the Control Panel, expand the Course Tools.
3. Select **Blogs**.
4. Select **Create Blog**.
5. Enter the desired **Blog Name**.
6. Enter **Instructions** for the **Blog**. (optional)
7. Scroll down and set the **Blog Availability** to **Yes** or **No** (**Yes** is the default).
Setting Blog Participation

As mentioned earlier there are three Blog types:

- **Individual to All Students** (It organizes the Blog entries by user)
- **Course** (It organizes the Blog entries sequentially)
- **Group Blogs** (Not covered in this tutorial. See the Blog tutorials for information on Group Blogs.)

**Individual to All Students** is the default. In this manual, both Blog Types will be shown. In this first example, we will use the **Individual to All Students** Blog Type. (The most common Blog Type is **Course**.)

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Note: If you wish all the postings to be displayed one after the other, select **Course**. Once a post is on a blog, the Blog Participation Blog Type cannot be changed.
If you choose to **Allow Anonymous Comments**, the students do not have to identify themselves when posting comments.
Blog Settings

Index Entries

"Select the time frame, **Monthly** or **Weekly**. For a selected user, view the list of Entry titles posted during the index span." *(from Blackboard)*

8. Select the desired **Blog Settings**.
Grade Blog Settings

5. Blog Settings
   - Index Entries
   - Monthly
     *Indexing will organize entries by the chosen time-frame.*
   - Weekly
   - Allow Users to Edit and Delete Entries
   - Allow Users to Delete Comments

6. Grade Settings
   
   *If a Due Date is set, submissions are accepted after this date, but are marked late.*
   
   - Grade Blog
     - No grading
     - Grade: Points possible:

7. Submit
   
   *Click Submit to finish. Click Cancel to quit without saving changes.*
   
9. Select the desired **Grade Blog** options.

**Note:** **No grading** is the default setting.
In this example we are going to make this Blog gradable.

10. Select the **Grade** option and type the number of **Points possible**.

**Note:** V9.1 and later versions now have the option of **Grading Blogs**. If the Grade Blog's **Grade Points Possible** (with points) is selected,

- A **Blog** column will be created in the Grade Center and

- A "**Needs Grading**" icon will appear on the **Blog Page** next to the names of the students that have a Blog post.)

- You can now determine how many Entries a student must submit before the needs grading (📅) icon will appear in the Grade Center.
You can now add a Rubric and show the Rubric to your students. For additional information on Rubrics, please view the Rubrics tutorials located in the **BT101, Manage Content tutorials**.

11. Select **Submit**.
The **Blog** is ready to be used.

![Blog table]

**Note:** The **Blog** topics appear in alphabetical order on the **Blogs** listing page. Columns can be sorted by clicking the column title.
How to Access a Blog

1. Open the desired Course.
2. If previously set, from the Course menu select Blogs.
   or
   From the Course menu, select Tools and then select Blogs.
3. Select the desired **Blog**.
Graddable Blog

Example of a Blog that had the Grade Blog set to:
Grade, Point Possible 100.

To view list of blogs to be graded, expand the Users’ list.

1. To view and grade a Blog entry, click on the student’s name.
2. Enter Grade.
3. Enter the desired grade and select **Submit**. Note that you can provide **Feedback** and create some **Grading Notes**.
No Grading Blog
Example of a Blog that had Grade Blog set to: No.

Expand the list of users.

Notice that there are no Needs Grading icons.
With the Individual Blog, you have to select a name to view that student’s blog entries.

Select an individual to view that student’s Blog entries. (i.e., Student June)
**Individual Blog**
This is an example view of an *Individual Blog* entry.

This is Student June’s *Blog* entry.
Course Blog
This next example is a Course Blog.

(The Course Blog option is found on the Create Blog or Edit Blog page, under item 4, Blog Participation.)

Select What is Art?
If the Blog Type **Course** is selected, the **Course** Blog entries are posted in chronological order. All entries are shown by default.
To view only one person’s Blog entry select All Course Members.

Then select the Member.
Blog Comments

View Comments

Monday, December 23, 2013

What is Art?

Posted by [Name] at Monday, December 23, 2013 10:26:38 AM CST

I have always thought that there was something very creative people do as an emotional outlet. I enjoy seeing the expression of the individual through different types of art.

Select **Comments** to view the **Comments**.
1. To post a comment select **Comment**.
2. Type your comment.
3. Select **Add**.
Delete Comments

To delete a Comment(s):

Select the delete **Comments** option.
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