

Best Practices: Blogging



What is blogging?

A blog is a type of website that is updated often. Blog posts are usually written by one person, and others leave comments to continue the discussion. Blogs are used in the classroom for purposes of online communication and interaction. Hays CISD uses: <http://wordpress.hayscisid.net>

Why do we use blogs?

- **Engage Students:** Blogging is a real life experience in the writing process. Students are motivated to write on a blog because they know others are reading it.
- **Improve Writing Skills:** Blogging requires students to organize and process their thoughts and communicate what they're thinking to a broad audience.
- **Helps Students Develop Ideas:** Blogging allows students to hear other perspectives.
- **Encourage Higher Level Thinking:** Blogging helps students articulate their thoughts, develop ideas, synthesize research, and benefit from constructive criticism.
- **Publish Easily:** Teachers and students can quickly communicate information online and interact with peers
- **Use Relevant Tools:** Many of our students blog already! Blogging is a 21st century communication tool.

Lessons Learned

- Blog with a purpose. Know why you want to do it and what your outcome is.
- Create and organize your blog. Set up categories and tagging guidelines so that your posts can be organized by topic for easier navigation.
- Establish standards for blog posts and comments. Require students to write in paragraph form, utilize correct grammar, spelling, and capitalization.
- Include blog standards, expectations and instructions as a page on your blog for quick reference.
- Make sure comment moderation is turned on!
- Start small ~ your blog will grow over time!
- Model blogging with the students. Kids are not natural bloggers. Show examples of quality blog posts and comments so students understand your expectations.
- Teach vocabulary associated with blogging.
- Have students sign a code of conduct and enforce consequences for violations.
- Emphasize the importance of internet safety.
- Don't leave the blogging to the students. Participation is increased when teachers are blogging too. Encourage discussion by responding to students - ask questions, challenge their thoughts, help them draw conclusions.
- Provide students adequate time to read other blog posts and respond.

Resources & More Articles About Blogging

[Avoiding The 5 Most Common Mistakes...](#)

[The Prose and Cons of Blogging](#)

[Why Blog?](#)

[Five Don'ts of Classroom Blogging](#)

[Blogging Tips For Beginners](#)

More Information

Wordpress Training Guide

Wordpress Training Video

Examples of Hays CISD Blogs

“Students who blog also write more, and write better.” *From Writing, Technology and Teens by the Pew Interent & American Life Project*

"Blogging makes students more precise with their writing, more exact, more focused; they have to use their words more wisely." *From The Prose and Cons of Blogging*