Blog Posting—Explanation Writing

CC20.4a,i

Blogs

* A blog is an abbreviation of the words “web log”
* Blogs are web sites that maintain an on-going account of information ordered by date.
* Some blogs focus on a particular subject, such as travel blogs, book blogs, food blogs, or fashion blogs.
* When writers put content on blogs, their text is usually called a post.
* Bloggers strive to write posts that are engaging, entertaining, and informative, so that readers are attracted to their websites and return frequently for updates.

How to write a blog:

1. **Plan your explanation** using a graphic organizer. Writing in complete sentences is not necessary on the organizer. Use phrases that can be developed into sentences when you write the blog post. Be sure to include the how and reasons why of your explanation.
2. **List the date** of your blog posting.
3. **Create an eye-catching, interesting post title** in the header section of your blog. This should draw reader interest to your posting.
4. **Craft an opening paragraph** that introduces the topic and outlines the focus of your blog posting.
5. **The main content** of your posting contains the how and why of your explanation. The content needs to be clear and focused, in a logical order and complete to ensure reader understanding and interest.
6. **Summarize the information** related to the main points in the footer section of your post. This is the conclusion of your blog and states the importance of your explanation and should inspire readers to return to your blog and follow your postings.

Here are some links to blogs that you might find interesting:

* Cal Newport Study Hacks Blog Decoding Patterns of Success <http://calnewport.com/blog/2013/04/10/in-choosing-a-job-dont-ask-what-are-you-good-at-ask-instead-what-are-you-willing-to-get-good-at/>
* Fashion blog: <http://youngpolishedandprofessional.blogspot.ca/>
* Stacey Shand—Regina Ultra Athlete <http://raceystacey.wordpress.com/>
* The Preacher’s Wife (Steven Furtick’s wife—SF is an Awesome Preacher I like). <http://hollyfurtick.com/>

Task

1. Write a collaborative blog post
2. Write a blog post, in which you explain **how your society** **and culture has attended to your needs as a child and youth.**

Setting up a blog

The most popular free blogging platforms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Blogging Platforms | Strengths/Weaknesses/Advantages/Disadvantages |
| WordpressWordpress.com | * Has the most flexibility and versatility in terms of theme and display
* Has the most plugins and widgets and other features
* Huge theme library
* Has best word processing capabilities
* It can be more difficult to navigate
* To take full advantage of it, you need to host it on your server
 |
| WeeblyWeebly.com | * Flexible themes and display options
* Ability to attach photos, graphics and video
* Drag and drop construction
 |

Set up your blog

1. Choose one of these free platforms
2. Ensure that you have a working email address because you need that to sign up for the blogging site.
3. Sign up for a blog account. Record your username and password!
4. When you are signing up, you will be required to give some personal information. You can give the school’s address if you don’t want to use your own. (2601 Coronation St, Regina, SK S4S 0L4)
5. You need to give your blog a unique URL. Be sure that you name it something school-appropriate and also remember that you are using it for academic purposes in this course so don’t choose anything goofy, i.e., yodawgz.blogspot.com. You can do something with your name and the course: janedoe’selablog.tumblr.com.
6. Navigate around on the blogging platform to familiarize yourself with the site. You can learn how to choose themes and how to add tags, etc. You need to explore.

Blogging Requirements

1. Write in paragraphs with complete sentences and correct punctuation.
2. Incorporate media (images, photos, video, audio) into blog to add interest and to break up the text.

Observe Netiquette:

* 1. Remember the Human: there is a real person to whom you are communicating. Even though the computer mediates between human contact, keep it human. *Would I say this to a person’s face?*
	2. Adhere to the same standards of behaviour online that you follow in real life: people may be conscientious about following the law in their real world, but online they may be less ethical, i.e., don’t steal, don’t slander, don’t
	3. Know where you are in cyberspace: before you comment on or post anything find out culture of the site you’re visiting so that you communicate accordingly.
	4. Respect other people’s time and bandwidth: before you send direct messages/emails to people ask yourself if these people really need to know/want to know this information AND ensure that they’re not receiving repeat information.
	5. Make yourself look good online: In real life you are often judged on your appearance which is not at all fair. In virtual life, you are judged on your writing skills and your tech savviness! And don’t use profanity!
	6. Share expert knowledge: You do have something to say. What you have learned and are learning is information that you can share to others. Your opinions, if you take the time to make thoughtful opinions, can be useful for other people to read as well.
	7. Help keep flame under control: Flaming is “what people do when they express a strongly held opinion without holding back any emotion. It's the kind of message that makes people respond, ‘Oh come on, tell us how you really feel.’ Tact is not its objective.” Flaming is okay, but don’t perpetuate it beyond its reasonable spark. Also, don’t let it turn into mud-slinging or let it take up excessive band-width.
	8. Don’t abuse your power: Respect other people’s privacy

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

Blog Post #1

* How has your society and culture attended to your needs as a child and youth? Assess your society. What kinds of services and community offerings are there that support children’s needs. What kinds of cultural activities are available to you in your society?
* Upload any interesting photos/illustrations
* Embed a link to a community website
* Quote from one of your favourite childhood books, movies, TV shows
* Describe an activity in which you participated as a child

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Evaluation for blog post #1

Offers a thoughtful response (at least five+ sentences) /25

Provides specific details about services /5

Uploads photos/illustrations /3

Embeds a link /3

Includes a quotation /2

Provides a description of a personal childhood activity /2

Correct spelling, syntax, diction, and organization /5

Stylistically pleasing /5

Total /50