

From the LLC Guide to Collaborative Learning, Pg. 13-15

A Class Blog Role of the Coordinator VI - Technology Options:

Class Blog

A “blog” is a **diary** that is kept on-line rather than on paper. Just like in a paper diary, a blog is a place to make regular, dated entries; each dated entry usually describes and reflects on daily or weekly experiences--for example, on the class's weekly meetings. In addition, weekly blog entries offer coordinators an easy way to post assignments and to announce upcoming class events. Because the blog is kept on-line, blog writers can easily add photos, images, links and even sound files to the weekly record of class meetings. Importantly, a blog can be set up so that it is viewable and written by class members--and **only** by class members, thus offering privacy to the group. In addition, blogs usually offer a "comments" option in a side bar, so that a few class members can continue to discuss specific ideas and items of interest just to them.

Blogs are easy to set up, fun for class members to read, and easy for approved writers to add content. *Usually within less than an hour*, a coordinator can set up a blog, enroll all class members, and set limits (or not) on the ways class members can contribute to the writing of the entries.

Three free, popular and easy-to-use blog services are: Blogger.com; Tumblr.com; Wordpress.com

User tips:

- As the semester goes along, the best weekly entries usually mix factual information and assignments with more personal thoughts and reflections on class-related subject matter.
- The most interesting blogs also add visual materials and photos that are relevant to the class.