

Blogs

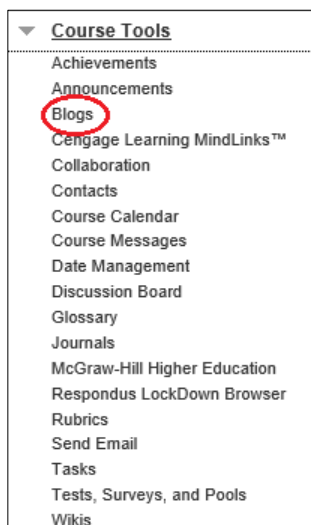
A blog is an interactive tool in Blackboard. Students publish their ideas and can comment on the blog entries of others. These steps will help you set up a blog in your course.

How to Create a Blog

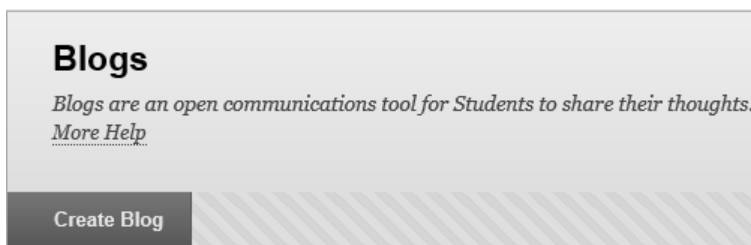
1. **Begin with the edit mode ON.**



2. **Under the Control Panel open Course Tools and click on Blogs**



3. Click on **Create Blog**. The property screen will appear see you can set up a blog. Notice that you have a full toolbar help you compose. Use the Chevron on the far right to show fewer or more tools.



4. Type a name for the blog and instructions for students. You can type instructions in Word and then paste them into the instructions section. *Note: you must include*

instructions here so that students can see them in the blog. Instructions to students will be displayed in a gray box that can be opened and closed.

Create Blog
A Blog is a collaborative tool that allows Students to post their personal reflection about the Course or discuss and analyze Course-related materials. [More Help](#)

* Indicates a required field. Cancel Submit

Blog Information

* Name

Instructions

Rich text editor toolbar: Paragraph, Arial, 12pt, Bold, Italic, Underline, Text Color, Background Color, Link, Unlink, List, Table, etc.

Path:

Words: 0

5. Click “Yes” or “No” to make the blog available to students. If you choose no, you will see (Blog is not available) under the name of the Blog in the list. You may also set a time period for the blog to be available.

Blog Availability

Blog Availability Yes No

Blog Date and Time Restrictions

Limit Availability

Display After
Enter dates as mm/dd/yyyy. Time may be entered in any increment.

Display Until
Enter dates as mm/dd/yyyy. Time may be entered in any increment.

6. Create one of two blog types:
 - a. **Individual to All Students** – each student has a blog; this is useful if students will post on a series of entries
 - b. **Course** – each student posts to a class blog

Blog Participation

Blog Type

Individual to All Students Course

Allow Anonymous Comments

7. Choose an indexing method. To save space, blogs typically index entries (provide links to the full entries) on either a weekly or monthly basis. Determine if students can devise or delete their own entries.

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

8. Click either No grading or Grade. If you're giving a grade, you must enter the number of points. You can set the needs grading number and add a rubric. Note: if you use grade, the blog will automatically be added to the Grade Center.

Grade Settings

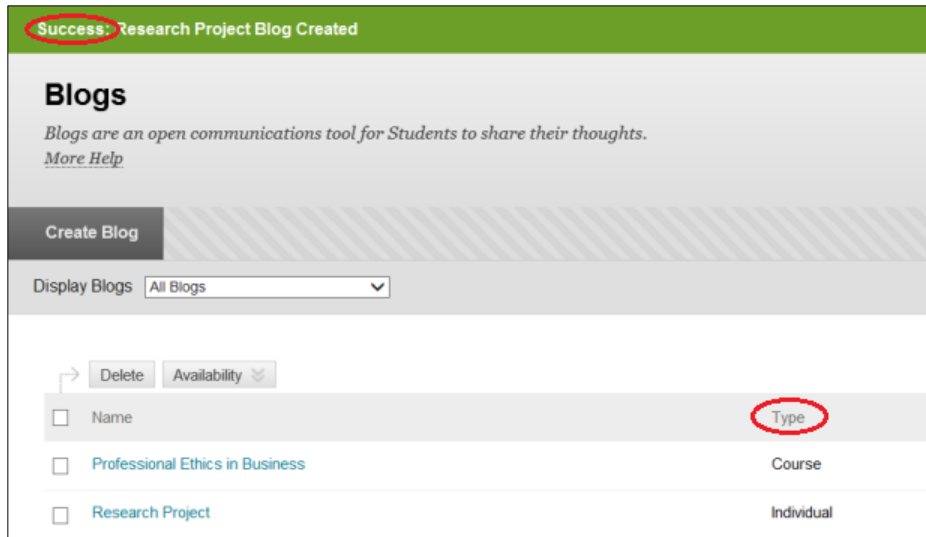
If a Due Date is set, submissions are accepted after this date, but are marked late.

Grade Blog

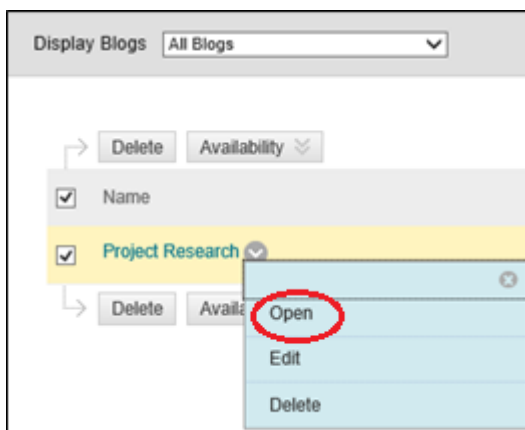
No grading

Grade : Points possible :

9. Click on the Submit button to create the blog. You should see a green success message telling you the blog was created. The new blog should be in the list. The examples below show both types of blogs.

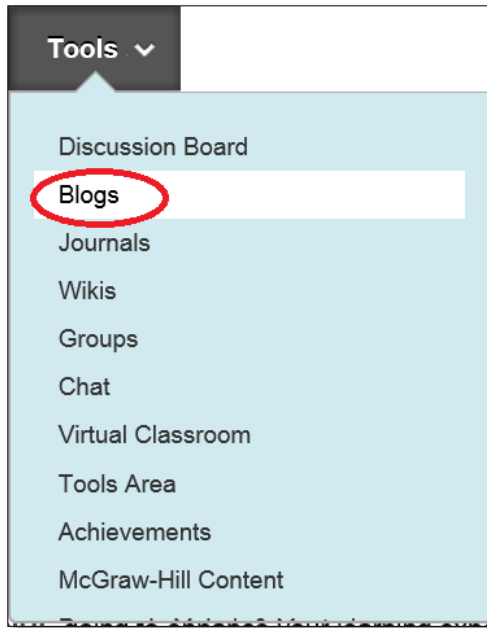


10. Move your cursor to the right of a blog title and a pull down menu will appear. From this menu you can open a blog, edit its properties or delete it.



Create a Link for Students in the Content Area

1. In assignments or another content folder, create a direct link for students to a specific blog. From the action bar click Tools then Blogs.



2. Select Link to the Blogs Page (shows all blogs in the course) or Link to a Blog and select the specific blog to link to. Note that you can also create a blog from this page.
3. Click Next

CREATE LINK: BLOG

Link to the Blogs page, link to a specific Blog, or create a new Blog.

Link to the Blogs Page

Link to a Blog

Link to a Blog

----Select Blog below----

practice blog

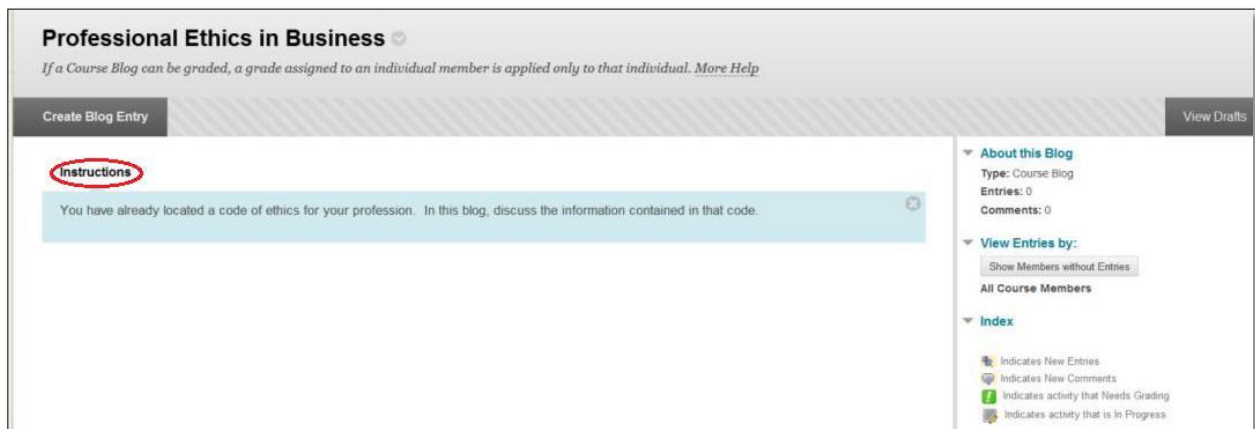
Create New Blog

4. Click Submit
5. Students recognize blogs by this icon

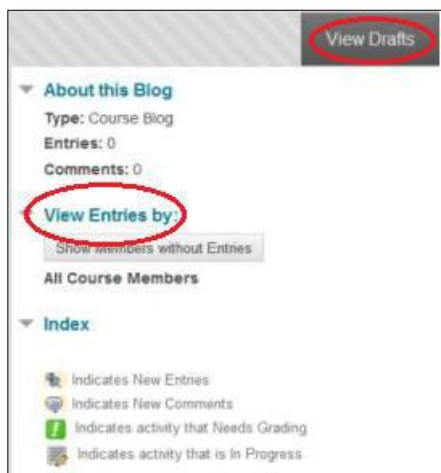


Instructor Information

1. Instructions for students are always displayed in a shaded box that can be opened and closed.



2. Click on the box View Drafts to see if the student has made revisions.
3. View Entries by: Once students create blog entries, their names will appear here. You can read them or grade them. A student can see other blogs, but not other students' grades. You can also see the students who have not blogged by clicking on Show Members Without Entries in a course blog or Show Empty Blogs in an individual blog.



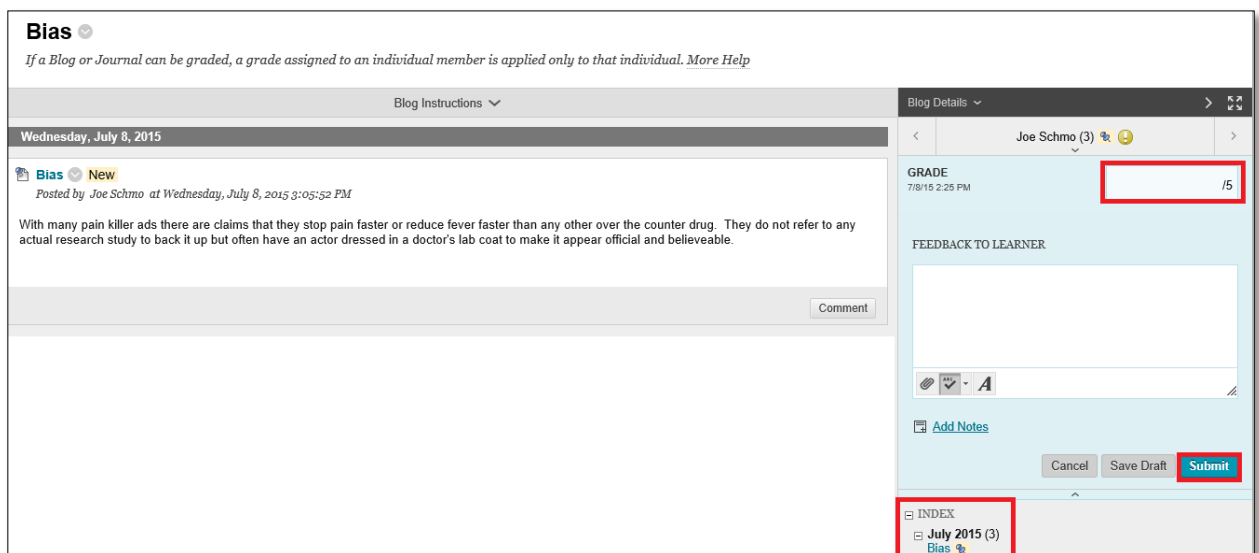
4. FEEDBACK: Comments that you type into a grading section Feedback are for the individual students only.

Grading the Blog

1. Access the blog from Needs Grading under the Grade Center in the Control Panel (if graded), or from the blogs link under Tools.



2. View student blog entries. On the blog topic page there are two frames – you can see the student entries on the left side and grading information on the right side. Entries appear under Index.
3. Enter a grade, feedback and click Submit.

A screenshot of a Blackboard blog grading interface. The main content area on the left shows a blog entry titled 'Bias' with a 'New' icon. The entry text discusses pain killer ads. Below the text is a 'Comment' button. On the right side, there is a 'Blog Details' panel. At the top of this panel, the user 'Joe Schmo (3)' is listed. Below that, the 'GRADE' section shows '7/8/15 2:25 PM' and a red box containing '/5'. Underneath is a 'FEEDBACK TO LEARNER' section with a text area and a rich text editor. At the bottom of the panel are 'Cancel', 'Save Draft', and 'Submit' buttons. A red box highlights the 'Submit' button. At the very bottom of the page, there is an 'INDEX' section with a red box around 'July 2015 (3)' and 'Bias'.

Additional Resources: Blackboard Help <https://help.blackboard.com>