

Blogging in Education

By: Ryan Shumaker

Blogging in Education is all about social learning. In the “Old Days”, a teacher would ask a student to show his/her level of understanding of a topic by researching and writing a 1-2 page paper that discusses what was learned. Perhaps, if the teacher were really “Tech Savvy”, the teacher would ask the student to type the document using a word processor instead of handwriting. As a student in this type of classroom, I would do what the teacher asked me to do but I often wondered whether the teacher actually took the time to read all of our papers and I knew that no one else would ever see this document so often I did what I needed to get a good grade but never really got excited about what I was writing.

Now, fast forward to the 21st Century. Students are social beings and integrate this with technology. Their minds work much differently and are always “linked in” with others in some fashion or another. To teach them using paper and pencil or even paper and word processor can be an excruciating experience for them. They are just craving to share their thoughts with others and to have their projects shared. They want their work to be read by others. They WILL put more effort into their work if they think their peers/parents/others are going to be reading them.

Objectives and Outcomes:

- What is Blogging?
- Why Blog?
 - Students are already blogging using their favorite social networking sites .
 - Introverted students will be more likely to express themselves while many won't speak out in class.
 - Get students actively thinking, writing, reading, and reflecting
 - Encourage collaboration by students interacting to other students' work.
 - Reduce the use of paper in a classroom (save a tree or two).
 - Get students to learn anytime from anywhere.
- Types of Blogs
 - Teacher Blogs
 - Informational Blogs
 - Student Blogs
 - Journal Entries
 - Research Postings
 - Book Reviews
 - Class Discussion
 - Homework Entries
- Parent Blogs
- Where do I go to blog?
 - I encourage people to use: www.wordpress.com . It is a free Open Source solution that does not use advertising so it looks clean and professional.

Resources:

Training Documents and Help:

<http://wpsdtech.wikispaces.com/>

<http://wpsdtech.wikispaces.com/Blogs>

Sample Blog Site:

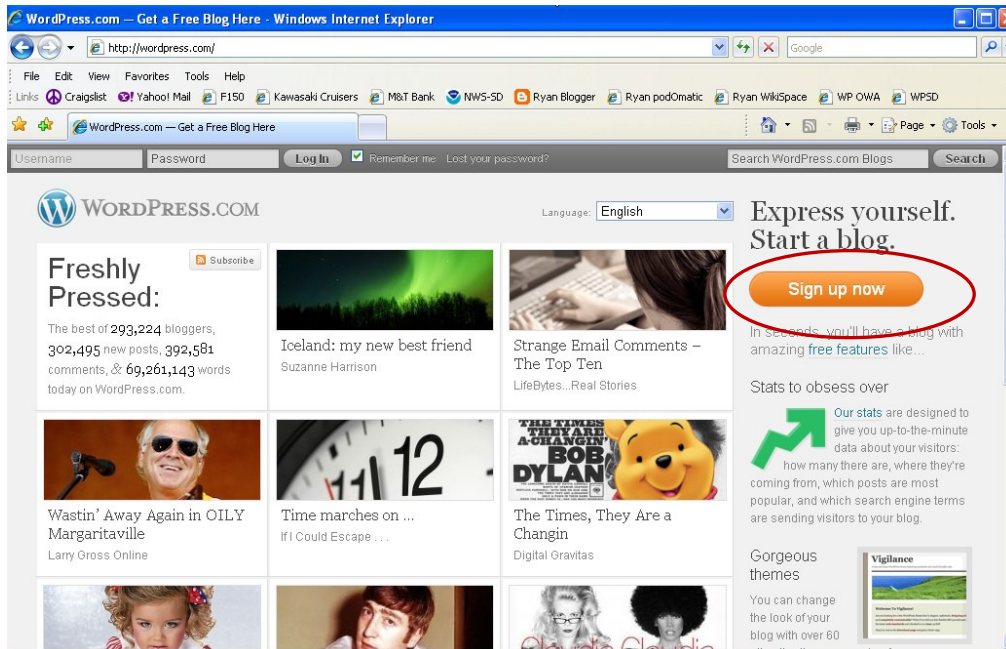
<http://westperrytraining.wordpress.com/>

How to Get Started with Wordpress.com

To Create a Blog for your Classroom

AS THE TEACHER

1. Visit the site <http://www.wordpress.com> (not wordpress.org which requires you to download an app) and Click on **Sign up now**.



2. Enter Your information to Sign Up:

A screenshot of the WordPress.com sign-up form. The form is titled 'Get your own WordPress.com account in seconds' and includes the instruction 'Fill out this one-step form and you'll be blogging seconds later!'. The form fields are: 'Username' (with a note: '(Must be at least 4 characters, lowercase letters and numbers only)'), 'Password', 'Confirm' (with a note: 'Use upper and lower case characters, numbers and symbols like !/£\$%^& in your password.'), 'E-mail Address' (with a note: '(We send important administration notices to this address so trade check it)'), 'Legal flotsam' (with a checkbox and text: 'I have read and agree to the fascinating terms of service.'), and a choice between 'Gimme a blog! (Like username.wordpress.com)' and 'Just a username, please.'. A 'Next >' button is at the bottom. To the right of the form, five callout boxes provide instructions: 'Enter a Username (No Spaces)', 'Enter and Confirm a Password', 'Enter a Valid Email address', 'BE SURE to Click on the Terms of Service. I always miss this step 😊', and 'Choose to Create a blog: "Click on Gimme a blog!"'.

Get your own WordPress.com account in seconds

Fill out this one-step form and you'll be blogging seconds later!

Username
(Must be at least 4 characters, lowercase letters and numbers only.)

Password

Confirm
Use upper and lower case characters, numbers and symbols like !/£\$%^& in your password.

E-mail Address
(We send important administration notices to this address so trade check it.)

Legal flotsam ☐ I have read and agree to the fascinating terms of service.

☒ Gimme a blog! (Like username.wordpress.com)
☐ Just a username, please.

Next >

Enter a Username (No Spaces)

Enter and Confirm a Password

Enter a Valid Email address

BE SURE to Click on the Terms of Service. I always miss this step 😊

Choose to Create a blog: "Click on Gimme a blog!"

3. After entering all of the values in these fields, click on the "Next" link at the bottom of the page.

4. On the Next page, fill in a Blog Domain name, Blog Title, choose the language, and Choose Privacy Settings:

The screenshot shows the WordPress.com Sign Up page. The form fields are as follows:

- Blog Domain:** ryaneshumaker.wordpress.com. A callout box says: "Choose a Blog Domain name (no spaces): Example: 'Shumaker1stPeriod'"
- Blog Title:** Ryan E Shumaker's Blog. A callout box says: "Choose a Blog Title (can have Spaces): Will show up at the top of the Blog Page."
- Language:** en - English. A callout box says: "Most likely keep the Language at: 'en-English'"
- Privacy:** ☒ I would like my blog to appear in search engines like Google and Technorati, and in public listings around WordPress.com. A callout box says: "Choose Privacy Settings: Most likely remove CheckMark so as to hide your Blog from Public Searces"
- Signup:** A button labeled "Signup →". A callout box says: "Click Signup."

5. While waiting to receive Confirmation E-mail, fill in your Profile information: First Name, Last Name, and About Yourself. Then go check your e-mail to Activate your Blog.
6. In Your e-mail, click on the Activate your Blog link:

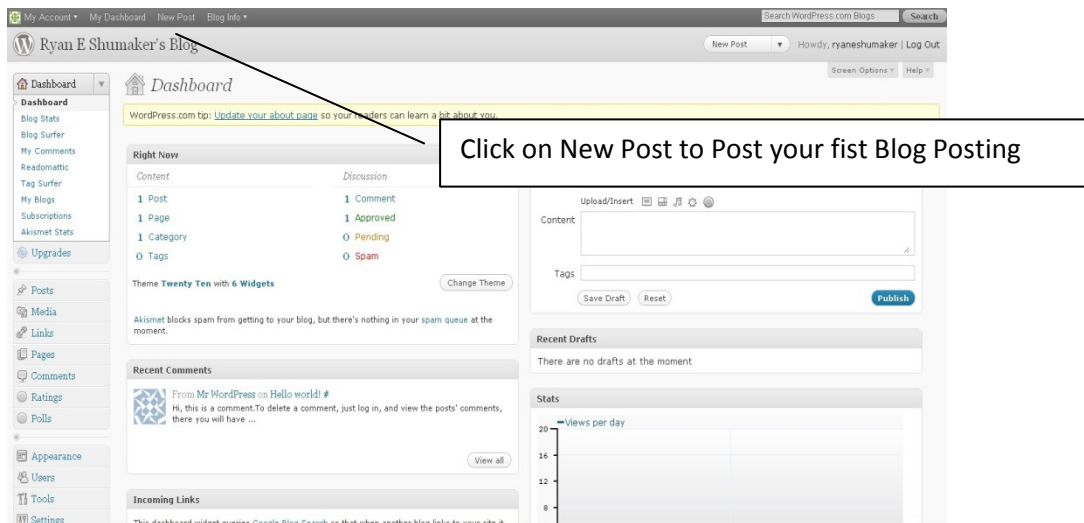


7. You will be taken to a link that tells you your blog is activated and will prompt you to login:

The screenshot shows the WordPress.com login page. The text "Your account is now active!" is displayed. Below it, there are input fields for "Username:" and "Password:". The username field contains "ryaneshumaker" and the password field contains "*****". At the bottom, there is a "Log In" button.

8. Click the Login link and log in using your newly created username and password

9. This will take you to your Dashboard View:



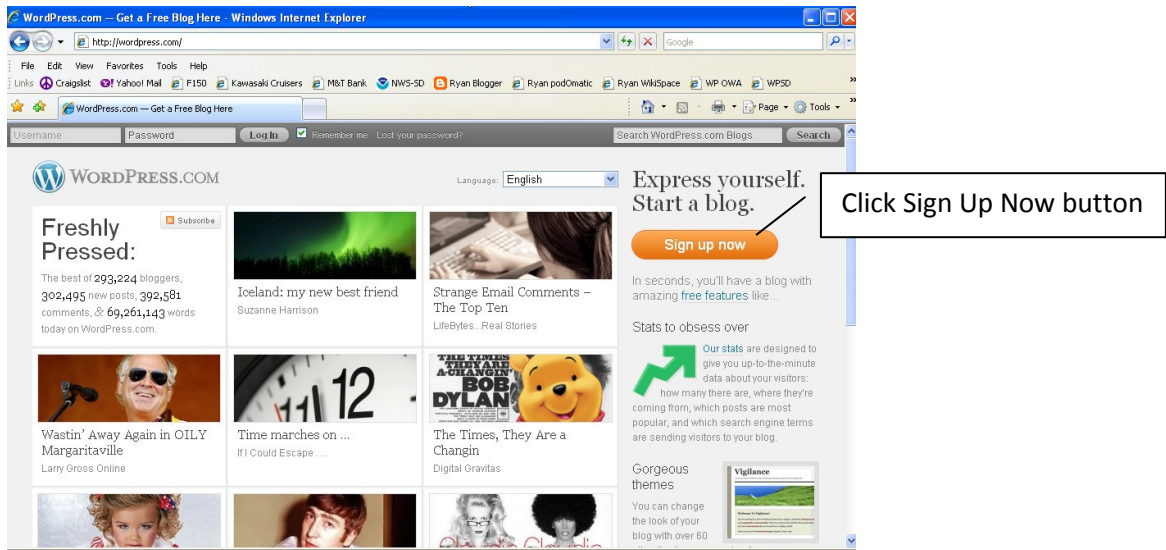
10. New Post looks and acts much like an e-mail message. There is a Subject Line, A Body, and a Publish (instead of Send) button. The only other thing to keep in mind is to use “Post Tags” to help categorize your posts for future recall purposes, such as: “Lesson One”, “ClassicLiterature”, etc.
11. That’s it to Get Started! Explore, get comfortable, have fun, and engage your students! Feel free to explore the other parts of the Wordpress blog Settings.

When You Are Ready to Invite Students to Contribute

1. Have your students sign up for their accounts using the page that follows. They will only choose to signup but create just a username. Have students go to: <http://www.wordpress.com>
2. Have students open another internet window and go to <http://10minutemail.com> to have students create their accounts and confirm their email address (to avoid AUP violations of e-mail use for students). <http://10minutemail.com/>
3. Have them complete the WordPress User Name Index Card (See Page 6 of this document). Be sure to gather their email address (10minutemail address). You may also want to collect their WordPress user account name, and their password in case they forget.
4. Once you have collected all of the WordPress User Name Cards, login to your account, go to your Dashboard, and under Users (lefthand toolbar).
5. Under Users, scroll to the bottom and in the User E-Mail: field, type the 10minutemail addresses for each student you wish to add to your class blog.
6. Then choose the role of “Author” and click the Add User Button. (If you wish to approve posts before they become active, choose the role of “Contributor”).
7. Your students should be all set to go!

To Create a WordPress User Name: For the Student

1. Visit the site <http://www.wordpress.com> (not wordpress.org which requires you to download an app) and Click on **Sign up now**.



2. Enter Your information to Sign Up:

A screenshot of the WordPress.com sign-up form. The form is titled 'Get your own WordPress.com account in seconds' and includes a sub-header 'Fill out this one-step form and you'll be blogging seconds later!'. The form contains several input fields: 'Username' (with a note 'Must be at least 4 characters, lowercase letters and numbers only'), 'Password', 'Confirm', 'E-mail Address' (with a note 'We send important administration notices to this address so triple check it'), and 'Legal flotsam' (with a checkbox 'I have read and agree to the fascinating terms of service'). There are also radio buttons for 'Gimme a blog! (Like username.wordpress.com)' and 'Just a username, please.'. A 'Next' button is at the bottom. Several callout boxes with black borders and white text provide instructions: 'Enter a Username (No Spaces)', 'Enter and Confirm a Password', 'Vist <http://10minutemail.com/> to get a temporary e-mail address to use to Register. (keep 10minute mail open)', 'BE SURE to Click on the Terms of Service. I always miss this step ☺', and 'Choose "Just a username, please."'. A callout box at the bottom points to the 'Next' button with the text 'Click Next'.

3. Go back to your 10minutemail.com page, and wait for your email to arrive. You may have to press the "Give me 10 more minutes" link until the message appears.
4. Open the message and copy and paste the active URL: <http://signup.wordpress.com/activate/...> Into a new Internet Window to confirm your account settings.
5. Login with your Username and Password that you selected above.
6. You are all set. Be sure to give your teacher your username so that they can approve you to post to the Class Blog.

Name: _____

Period: _____

My Word Press User Name:

WordPress Password:

My 10MinuteMail Address:

Name: _____

Period: _____

My Word Press User Name:

WordPress Password:

My 10MinuteMail Address:

Name: _____

Period: _____

My Word Press User Name:

WordPress Password:

My 10MinuteMail Address:

Name: _____

Period: _____

My Word Press User Name:

WordPress Password:

My 10MinuteMail Address:
