Journal LX

Blog Tool

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January 2008
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Journal LX gives instructors and students the tools to create rich-media blogs/journals within a course. The software provides the classroom community with a forum to reflect on course-related topics, projects, and ideas.

**Creating Blogs and Journals in a Content Area**

You can create a blog within a course Content Area such as Assignments or Course Documents.

To create a blog:
1. Click **Control Panel**
2. Choose the Content Area (i.e. Course Documents, Assignments, etc.)
3. Select **Blog** from the drop down

   ![Select: Blog](image)

4. Click **Go**

   ![Select: Blog Go](image)

You will create the blog by entering information on the **Create Blog** screen.

**Step 1: Blog Information and Options**

Enter the **Blog Name** and a **Description**. Then continue to fill in the **Options** listed below.

![Create Blog](image)
Do you want to make the blog available?
Choose no if this blog should be hidden from all students.
Choose yes if the link should be visible.

Select the blog type
Choose **Group Blog** if you want all blog members and the instructor to view all entries in the blog.
Choose **Private Journal** if you do not want blog members to view each other’s entries. Note the instructor will still be able to view all entries.

**Allow blog members to view Instructor’s entries?**
This is automatically marked Yes, so blog members will be able to view your entries.

Enable an RSS feed?
This option is currently disabled.

Select the value to use to reference users in the blog
If students are posting to this blog, use this option to specify how their names will appear on the screen.

Text direction for blog content
Choose the direction that you prefer

Step 2: Select Members
If you want to include ALL course members then click the radio button next to ‘All course members’. To select specific groups and course members, click the group or individual name to highlight it in the left column, then click ▶ to move it across to the right column. You can hold the ctrl key to select more than one student at a time. To remove a group or student, highlight the group or student name in the right column and click the ◄.

**Note:** The group option will only appear if groups have already been defined within the course.
**Note:** Journals can be made individual by selecting a single user as the only team member and setting the view dates for other users to dates outside of the course duration.

**Allow students to permanently delete blog entries**
By default, blog members are unable to permanently delete blog entries. When this setting is not enabled, all deletions made by students can be undone -- i.e., the entry can be restored to the blog. If this setting is enabled, students have the option to perform a restorable delete on a blog entry or to permanently delete the entry. Instructors can always permanently delete blog entries regardless of whether this setting is enabled or not.

**Allow members to export the blog**
Enable this option if members of the blog should be able to export the site. Instructors will always have the option to export the site. The "Export Site" link will not be displayed to student users, however, unless this option is selected. Note that this option cannot be selected when the instructor is creating a "Private Journal."

**Comment permissions**
If the View Comments option is selected, then members can only view comments. If "Write Comments" is selected, then members can both view and write Comments. Note that the "Write Comments" option cannot be selected unless the "View Comments" option is also selected.

**Set date and time restrictions for editing the blog**
If blog members should only be able to add and edit content in the blog for a specified time, enable these date settings.

**Step 3: Non-Member Settings**
This is a useful feature in cases where the instructor would like to encourage peer review among students. In this use case, the instructor can assign one or more students in the course as a member of the blog, which allows those students to add and edit entries in the blog. The blog can then be opened up for non-members to view and add comments. This allows other members of the course to provide the members of the blog with commentary on their work.

**Note:** None of the following settings can be enabled when the instructor is creating a Private Journal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Member Settings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allow non-members to view the blog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If yes, set date and time restrictions for viewing the blog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display After: Jan 01 2008 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Display Until: Jan 01 2008 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow non-members of the blog to: View Comments Write Comments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Instructors can allow people in the course who are not members of the blog to view the blog or to have commenting privileges.

**Allow non-members to view the blog**
Specifically, this setting provides access to non-members (i.e., course members who are not selected as members of the blog, as well as course guests and observers) with access to view the blog. Uncheck this field if only members of the blog and instructors should be able to access the blog.
**Date and time restrictions for viewing the blog**

This set of date and time fields allows the instructor to limit blog access for non-members to specific time periods. If neither of the checkboxes are selected, then non-members can view the blog for as long as they have access to the course. This set of date and time fields allows the instructor to limit blog access for non-members to specific time periods. If neither of the checkboxes are selected, then non-members can view the blog for as long as they have access to the course.

**Comment permissions**

If the View Comments option is selected, then members can only view comments. If "Write Comments" is selected, then members can both view and write Comments. Note that the "Write Comments" option cannot be selected unless the "View Comments" option is also selected.

**Step 4: Create Gradebook Entry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Create Grade Book Entry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Create a Grade Book entry for this blog: [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry Name: [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category: [Group Project]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Points Possible: [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make grade visible to students? [ ] Yes [ ] No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the checkbox to create a gradebook entry. Enter the name of the gradebook column. Select a category (this will be helpful if you decide to weight grades). Enter the points possible. Select the availability to the students.

**Step 6: Click OK**

Click "OK" to finish. Click "Cancel" to abort this process.

**Receipt**

🌟 Receipt

Journal "Commutative Property Lesson Plan" created.

**Students’ View**

The students will click View below the title of the blog/journal to access it.

🌟 Commutative Property Lesson Plan

Read the math lesson plan located at the following URL: http://www.lessonplanspage.com/MathArtCommutativeProperty35.htm. Is this an appropriate lesson? Explain.

Provide alternate ways you could accomplish teaching the commutative property.
Creating a Private Journal

To create a Private Journal follow the directions in the Creating Blogs and Journals section and choose the following options while completing the steps:

1. Select "Private Journal" as the blog type.
2. When selecting members, select "All Students".
3. Determine whether students should be able to see instructor's entries and enable or disable this setting accordingly.
4. Consider changing other options to suit your particular usage.

Under these settings, students will only see their own entries in the journal and will be unaware that other students are posting into the same space.

Creating an Individual Blog

To create an Individual Blog, follow the directions in the Creating Blogs and Journals section and choose the following options while completing the steps:

1. When selecting members, choose just one member - the owner of the blog.
2. Be sure to select either the "Group Blog" or "Private Journal" blog type depending on whether people other than the blog owner should be able to view the blog.
3. Consider changing other options to suit your particular usage.

Repeat these steps for each blog you would like to create.

Creating a Group Blog

To create a Group Blog, follow the directions in the Creating Blogs and Journals section and choose the following options while completing the steps:

1. When selecting members, add multiple members.
2. Be sure to select "Group Blog" as the blog type.
3. Consider changing other options to suit your particular usage.

Repeat these steps for each blog you would like to create.

Configure Course Level Blog Tool

To configure the course blog tool:

1. Click Control Panel
2. Click Configure Blog Tool in the Course Tools box
3. Select the Course Blog Tool Options

Configure Course Level Blog Tool Options

Please Note: The settings on this page apply only to the course or organizational level blog tool, not to the group blog tool that can be added.

- Do you want to allow students to create blog entries? Yes No
- Do you want to allow users to view posts by other users? Yes No
- Do you want to enable a public (unauthenticated) RSS feed? Yes No (Disabled site-wide by administrator)
- Do you want to allow students to permanently delete blog entries? Yes No
- Do you want to allow students to export the blog? Yes No
- Do you want to allow students to view comments on blog entries? Yes No
- Do you want to allow students to add comments to blog entries? Yes No
- Choose the dates and times for which students will be allowed to edit the blog tool.

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Do you want to allow student to create blog entries?
Choose no if the instructor will be the only person posting entries. Choose yes if students can post as well.

Do you want to allow users to view posts by other users?
If students can post to this blog, should they see each other’s entries, or just their own?

Do you want to allow students to permanently delete blog entries?
Choose yes if students are allowed to permanently delete entries in the blog.

Do you want to allow students to export the blog?
Choose "Yes" if the "export site" link should appear for students in the blog sidebar. This link will always be available to instructors regardless of what is selected for this setting.

Do you want to allow students to add comments to blog entries?
Select "Yes" to allow students to add comments to blog entries. Note that you cannot select "Yes" for this option unless you have also enabled students to view comments on blog entries.

Choose the dates and times for which students will be allowed to edit the blog tool.
Use the date range fields to specify the date/time range in which students can add and edit content in the course blog tool. By default there are no date restrictions placed on editing. However, you may choose to place restrictions editing the blog if you want to prevent students from editing the blog while you are grading or after an assignment is due, for example.

Choose the dates and times for which the blog tool can be viewed by students.
Use the date range fields to specify the time range in which students can view pages. By default there are no date restrictions placed on viewing, if viewing is enabled for the user.

How shall public references to students be displayed?
If students are posting to this blog, use this option to specify how their names will appear on the screen.

4. Choose Alternate Language
5. Click OK

Note: These settings only apply to the course level blog. They do not apply to blogs created within a content area such as course documents or assignments.
**View Course Level Blog**
1. Click Tools or Course Tools on the left menu
2. Click on Blog Tool

**Add Entry**
To add an entry to the blog or journal:
1. Click the content area where the blog is located
2. Click **new entry**
3. You may change the **Blog Entry Title**
4. Enter your text in the **text box** - notice you have formatting options, including adding images
5. Click Save

**Edit Blog/Journal Entries**

To edit an entry to a blog or journal:
1. Click the content area where the blog is located
2. Click **Edit**
3. Enter changes
4. Click **Save**

**Note:** A history is kept of all changes a student makes to a blog.

**View Entries**

You as the instructor can see all of the students’ work in one place:
1. Click **View** to access the blog
2. Using the filters options click on the dropdown menu next to **Show**
3. Scroll down and choose **All Authors** to view everyone’s blogs
Commutative Property Lesson Plan

Discovery School - edit | history | delete
Created on Tuesday, 01/02/2007 3:57 PM by Test Student2
Updated on Tuesday, 01/02/2007 3:57 PM by Test Student2

Here's another website that looks at math computations:
http://school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/DM_computation/

I'm thinking of other materials that may be handy to make this lesson beneficial in my classroom. I'll share what I find.

Post on January 2 2007 - edit | history | delete
Created on Tuesday, 01/02/2007 3:46 PM by Test Student1

This is a unique way to teach the commutative property. I would recommend having good discipline in the classroom before trying it 😃

I found this interactive website for the commutative property: http://www.a1math.com/pro2/4b-propertiesmnl.html

Note: If you want to view just one student's work, use the dropdown menu to choose a student. It shows a list of all of the people who have posted in the journal, along with the number of entries they have made.

Commenting

You can comment on students' postings by using the Comment feature. To comment:

1. Click View
2. Click Comments
3. Enter text
4. Click Add Comment
Export Site

Blogs can be exported and stored on your computer. This allows you to browse the site offline, back up your material, or post the material to another web site. To export:

1. Click View
2. Click export site
3. Click Save in the File Download box
4. Select the location for the file
5. Click Save

Exported sites are saved as a .zip file. To view the content, extract the zip and browse it in your web browser. Start first by opening the index.html page.

Help

If you have a question, a help feature is available at the top right of the blog entry page. Click 📜.

Technical Assistance

For technical assistance, contact Julie G. Wolfe at jwolfe2@bloomu.edu or x5375. Provide Julie with as much information as possible to troubleshoot the problem.