

Blogs, Journals, Wikis, and Discussion Boards in Blackboard 9.1

The Blackboard 9.1 upgrade offers you new options for using social communication via blogs, journals, and wikis.

Our objectives are:

- Identify similarities and differences between blogs, wikis, journals and discussion boards
- Identify potential uses of blogs, wikis, journals and discussion boards
- Hands on participation in a blog, wiki, journal and discussion board

	Discussion Board	Blog	Wiki	Journal
Common Uses:	Online discussions that are organized hierarchically with forums, threads and replies.	A shared online diary for use in course.	A collaborative space where students can view, contribute and edit content.	Personal writing space for self-reflection and private communication with the instructor.
Potential Uses:	Expand classroom discussion, participation, and collaboration; Q & A – encourage students to use DB to ask questions and share knowledge	Share thoughts about course/course work (e.g., “What we did / will do in class”), can save instructor time by not having to answer individual questions; online discussions about related topics; a place to submit evidence of class participation; “Muddiest Points” of what was covered in class.	Group research projects; study guide (Instructor provides the outline and students collaboratively fill it in); creative writing.	Reflect on personal growth throughout semester, record things learned throughout course, express oneself, document clinical experiences, and “Muddiest Points” that are private.
Bb Notes:	<p>Asynchronous discussions.</p> <p>Discussion boards are easily collapsed, expanded and searched.</p> <p>Users can Subscribe to a forum or thread and receive an email update every time someone adds to it.</p> <p>Printing is managed with a single click.</p>	<p>Blogs are less structured than the Discussion Board, and they’re chronological. The format is more open and conversational in style.</p> <p>Participation Settings: Individual to all students = Entries and grades are separate for each student. To view entry, you click on the student’s name.</p>	<p>This is the only Bb tool that allows multiple students to collaborate within the same text entry area.</p> <p>Wikis can be organized by research topic, work group, etc. Whereas, blogs and journals store student entries separately under the students’ names.</p>	<p>If you set Permit course users to view journal, the journal will not be private, making it more like a blog with commenting turned off.</p> <p>Suggestion: With “permit course users” turned off, ask students to post individual, original responses on a topic. Then make them public for review by everyone, preventing students from repeating remarks in early entries!</p>

	Discussion Board	Blog	Wiki	Journal
	<p>Students can rate posts.</p> <p>DBs can be copied (e.g. copy separate instances for groups.)</p>	<p>Course = All student blog entries are listed together in chronological order with most recent entry on top.</p> <p>Entries can be saved as drafts and posted later.</p> <p>A green “!” designates ungraded blog entries.</p> <p>You cannot select all comments made by a particular student for viewing. Only blog entries made by a particular person can be selected and viewed together.</p>	<p>When a student is updating a wiki page, the rest of the students are locked out of it until it is released.</p>	<p>Muddiest / Clearest Point: Use last 5 minutes of class for summarizing and reflecting in the journal about the day’s content.</p> <p>Entries are listed by student name, and new entries that have not been viewed by the instructor have a thumbtack icon by them.</p> <p>To print, click to open all entries /comments and copy to Word.</p> <p>Show Empty Journals – List of students with no entries.</p> <p>Weekly /Monthly Indexing: Students cannot see indexes, so if a journal is active for more than one week, index monthly.</p>
Internet Equivalent:	YahooGroups	WordPress.com	Wikispaces.com	n/a