

## Blogging: What? Why? How?

### What? The Definition of Blog

**(n.)** Short for *Web log*, a blog is a web page that serves as a publicly accessible personal journal for an individual. Typically updated daily, blogs often reflect the personality of the author.

**(v.)** To author a web log.

Other forms: Blogger (a person who blogs).

From: <http://webopedia.com>

### Why? Blogging Ideas

*Options for instructors using blogs:*

- Content-related blog as professional practice
- Networking and personal knowledge sharing
- Instructional tips for students
- Course announcements and readings
- Annotated links
- Knowledge management

*Options for students using blogs in your courses include:*

- Reflective or writing journals
- Knowledge management
- Assignment submission and review
- Dialogue for groupwork
- E-portfolios
- Share course-related resources

From: <http://awd.cl.uh.edu/blog/>

### How?

Interested in blogging? There are many sites you can use to sign up for a free blog. What follows are directions for WordPress:

- Go to <http://wordpress.com>
- Click the icon: Get a WordPress Blog now
- Add a username and email address and check off the “terms of service” box
- Click Next

Join over 500 thousand other bloggers...

Get a WordPress Blog now »



The screenshot shows the WordPress.com sign-up page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the WordPress logo, the text "WORDPRESS.COM", and links for "Home", "Tags", and "Forums". Below this, the main heading reads "Get your own WordPress.com account in seconds" followed by the instruction "Fill out this one-step form and you'll be blogging seconds later!". The form contains three input fields: "Username:" with a note "(Must be at least 4 characters, letters and numbers only.)", "Email Address:" with a note "(We'll send your password to this address, so triple-check it.)", and a "Legal flotsam:" section with a checkbox for "I have read and agree to the [fascinating terms of service.](#)". Below the checkbox are two radio button options: "Gimme a blog! (Like username.wordpress.com)" and "Just a username, please.". A "Next »" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

- Add your blog domain (cannot be changed!) and blog title
- Click Signup

- Optional: Update your profile if you would like
- Check your email to confirm your blog request
- You will be brought to a page with your username and password
- Write it down and click Login
- You can now log on by going to <http://wordpress.com/> at any time and putting in your Username and Password

Now that I am logged in, what do I do?

- There are three options along the top of the web page
- My Account
  - Click on My Account and Edit Profile to update your profile and/or password
- My Dashboard
  - Click on My Dashboard to do anything! See below for more information
- New Post
  - Click on New Post to go directly to a page where you can add a new post
  - For any post you add, click Save to save it and post later or Publish to make it “live” and be published on your blog site
  - “Tag” your post by adding a new category (right-hand side) an/or by checking off existing categories



### **More about My Dashboard**

- There are many things you can do in your dashboard:
  - You can check out the latest posts
  - Update your profile
  - Add a post
  - Change the look and feel of your blog
    - Go to Presentation and click on the template of your choice

