

A blog is a frequent, chronological publication of personal thoughts and Web links posted on this site. A journal is a variation on the blog which is private between you and the student. This section explains how to create blogs (or private journals) in your course through this tool. The options allow you to create different kinds of assignments and learning activities.

Initial Synchronization

Because blog content resides outside of Blackboard, you need to an initial synchronization with that external site. You might do this again after the drop/add period, to catch any new students in your class.

1. From the Control Panel, click the **Course Tools** category and **Manage Campus Pack**.
2. Click **Synchronize Course**.

Creating the Blog

You can create a blog by adding a special kind of content type within a Content Area, such as Assignments or Course Materials.

1. Open the desired content area where you wish to create the blog or journal.
2. From the *More* drop-down list, choose **Add Campus Pack Blog** (or Journal) and click **Submit** to create a New blog.



If you don't see the Blog or Journal option from this menu, you'll need to turn it on for your course from the Control Panel: Customization>>Tool Availability.

3. Enter a Title for your blog and briefly describe this assignment.
4. If you want to connect this blog to the Grade Center, then check the box to create the Entry, enter the Entry Name (grade column), points possible and if students should see the grade column in My Grades.
5. Click **Add**.

To change class participation:

By default, students in your course are blog viewers and authors.

1. To add or remove authors and/or viewers, click **Permissions**.
2. After selecting either the author or view tab, choose additional participants (or members) for this blog. Authors can post entries into this blog; viewers can only contribute comments.
3. When choosing participants, use the **Add** button
4. When done, click **Save**, then **Finish**.

Creating Blog or Journal Entries

1. In the content area where the blog (or journal) resides, click **View**, as in the following example:



A screen like the following appears:

The screenshot shows a Blackboard blog page for "Our Field Experience Project (Blog sample)". The page includes a "Create new blog entry here" button, a "Recent Entries" section with a callout stating "Postings listed here in reverse chronological order", a "Viewer Comments (0)" button, and a "Calendar" showing "November 2010" with a callout stating "Bolded dates indicate postings". A "List of postings" callout points to the calendar. A "Latest Activity" section shows a recent update by Dennis Topel on November 4, 2010.

2. Click **Add New Entry** link.
3. Change the entry name title (if you wish) and click **Continue**. The following screen appears:

The screenshot shows the Blackboard blog entry creation interface. The title field is set to "December 7, 2010". Below the title is a rich text editor with a callout stating "You can change the entry name, if you wish". The editor contains the text: "We're making some progress this month with multiple appointments scheduled..."

4. Create your new blog (or journal) post in the editing pane.
5. Click **Save & Exit** when finished.
6. Comments can be added by entering text in the *Reply* box, and clicking **Post**.

Evaluating Student Contributions

1. Click **Assessment**. You'll see a list of the authors of the wiki page, which includes a count of the number of revisions made per student.
2. Select a student, then click **Evaluate Participant**.
3. If you create a Grade Entry when you created the blog, you can score the student and provide feedback.




Clicking the **Grade Center** button will open a new tab on your browser, displaying the course's Grade Center. Close the browser tab to return to the wiki.

4. When finished entering grades student activity, click **Go Back**.

Managing Your Blogs

To manage multiple blogs, you can turn on a special collaboration space in your course. This is important when you need to delete a student when he/she has withdrawn from your class (this is not done automatically by Blackboard).

1. From the course menu, click the  button and select **Create Tool Link** from the drop-down menu.
2. Enter a name of your choosing (like "Collaboration Space").
3. Select **Campus Pack Collaboration Space** from drop-down menu. (If this is not available, you'll need to turn it on under Control Panel>>Customization>>Tool Availability.)
4. Keep it unavailable to students.
5. Click **Submit**. The link will appear at the bottom of the course menu.
6. Click the link to open the space. From here, you can manage multiple blogs (as well as wikis and podcasts), such as changing author/viewer permissions, memberships, and recycle content.

To remove a student from your course blogs (and other Campus Pack items):

1. From the collaboration space, click **Course Membership**.
2. Under the Student category, click **Edit People**.
3. At the far right, click the student's name, then click **Remove** button.
4. Click **Save & Exit**.