

Hour of Blog

-Marina Rodriguez

Student blogging is powerful! It's an awesome way to give your students the freedom to live as authentic writers. Learn to teach/guide your students to engage themselves in learning and blog about it.

Why Blog?

Blogging is important because it has fundamentally changed how everyone in our world receives information. However, as a teacher of writing and a new blogger myself, I strongly believe in allowing students the freedom to live as writers, and highly discourage the “micro-managing” of student work. The ability to learn and grow to our fullest potential is not accomplished under strict control and compliance.

Here are just a few of the many reasons why we should use blogging as an authentic writing experience for our students:

1. It helps students learn new things
2. It allows students to become innovators, making something new or better, encouraging “today’s learners to become creators and leaders” (Couros, *The Innovator’s Mindset*, 19)
3. Prepares students for future jobs & for jobs that don’t exist yet.
4. Students become better writers – If we want to learn to write better, must make time to write
5. It helps to boost creativity
6. It’s a powerful opportunity for authentic writing & authentic audience (peers, visitors, the world)

According to the **National Council for Teachers of English** Guidelines:

“Writing instruction must include ample in-class and out-of-class opportunities for writing, **including writing in digital spaces**, and should involve writing for a variety of purposes and audiences, including audiences beyond the classroom.”

<http://www.ncte.org>

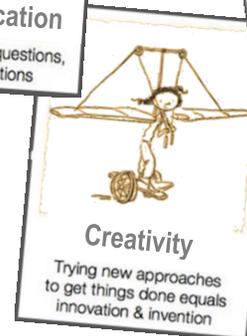
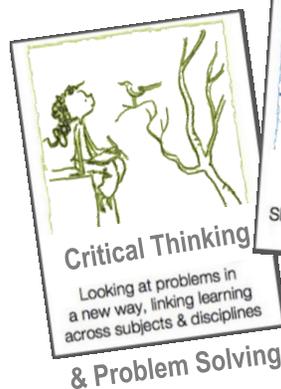
According to the **National Education Association**, skills that are most important to prepare 21st Century Students for a Global Society include:

1. **Critical Thinking & Problem Solving**
2. **Communication**
3. **Collaboration**
4. **Creativity & Innovation**

<http://www.nea.org>

Vocabulary:

- Blog** A work of writing online, or an online journal
- Blogger** Someone who writes on an online journal, or website on a regular basis
- Blogging** The act of writing & posting blogs
- Post** Publishing a new piece of writing for viewing online





Kidblog.org is a blogging site, specifically designed for students. It is one of the best tech tools for authentic writing, allowing students the freedom to live as writers. It promotes independent learning, motivates students to branch out on their own and become experts, and helps students develop important writing skills in the process. This platform creates a naturally engaging digital environment, where students practice: communicating, creativity, critical thinking, collaborating, character building, digital literacy, digital citizenship, and building community inside and outside of the classroom. It is cross-curricular & can be used for any subject! It is also a phenomenal opportunity to create a flipped classroom. Oh, yeah... and your students will love it too. *Kidblog* is a website created by teachers for teachers.

Question No.1

What is blogging?
(What do you think? It's okay to guess.)

Question No.2

How do you think blogging can help students thrive and grow?

Notes / Questions:

Resources...

Top 10 Tips for Student Blogging:

<http://afhogan.com/10-tips-student-blogging>



Marina's Blog - Our classroom's journey into blogging:

<http://www.marinarodz.com/blog/hour-of-blog>



Introducing blogging, *Kidblog* webinar:

<http://bit.ly/2thQgEf>

