



Pedagogical Assessment of:
Modern Tool Rating: 4
Website: www.blogger.com



Usage

Blogger is a tool from Google that allows its users to create blogs. It is completely free and includes hosting and analytics. Displaying ads is allowed and, in that case, its users share in the profits.

Created blogs can be used for a variety of purposes; from discussing your point of view on some topic to updating your friends and family. When setting a new blog there are several options: using a default URL, using an existing domain or buying a new domain.

Ease of Access

As Blogger is a web-based application (it can be found at www.blogger.com), accessing to its content is possible as long as an Internet connection is available. In order to use Blogger it is necessary to have a Google account. However, another option available is to create a “limited profile” which lets users blog anonymously. It is an easy-to-use tool. In fact, it is possible to have a new blog created in less than 10 minutes.

Pedagogical Assessment

Blogger can be used for several purposes in learning environments. It allows students to share their ideas and points of view. Not only does this contribute to the development of a more sophisticated and professional style of writing, but content found on other blogs can also help to expand a students learning horizons.

Since group blogs are allowed and can be edited by several contributors, Blogger can be used to run a collaborative project. As communication, teamwork, shared problem solving and research skills are important for tertiary level education and the modern workplace, this tool is useful where these skill areas are concerned.

On the other hand, educators can take advantage of this tool since it is a great way to post information related to their subjects. Moreover, parents can keep track of the activities that their children have to do by reading an educators blog.

Reviews

“Blogger has many applications in class. I like it because it is easy to use and works well for anyone who has a gmail account It also syncs with Google drive documents, Google calendar, and generally allows for smooth compatibility between different Google services”.

Amy L. – (Educator)

“Blogger is a great tool for students to start writing on the web and keeping a blog. While it doesn't offer many customization for the user, it does offer the basic features necessary for any educator to encourage their students to blog. The interface of Blogger is minimalist and the user doesn't need to have an extensive knowledge of programming or HTML coding in order to get the most out of Blogger, unlike some other blogging platforms. If it had a text-to-speech feature, I think that would be a highly desirable functionality for student bloggers, especially those who are emerging writers or special needs students.”

Janice L.A – (Educator)

<http://bit.ly/2dFrXu8>

Advantages

- Both students and teachers can take advantage of its many potential uses.
- It is completely free.
- It is easy to set up and create a new blog.
- It is possible to keep blogs only visible to certain people (family, classmates, etc.).
- It is a quite robust secure platform.
- There is no storage limit so its users can publish as much content as they desire.

Disadvantages

- Educator's guidance is necessary in order to ensure that the information published by students is only accessible to certain people.
- It is been a long time since its last major update.
- Students can access inappropriate content.
- Moving a blog to a different platform is not an easy task.

Conclusion

Blogger has great potential for classroom uses. Educators can be creative and use it according to their needs. From a student perspective, Blogger is simple to use and