# edublogs

## TEACHER CHALLENGE

## WORKBOOK

# BLOGGING WITH STUDENTS
## for teachers
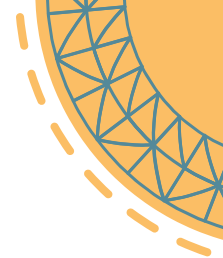
# WELCOME

This free self-paced course guides you step-by-step through the process of setting up a class blog and blogging with students.

Each step includes links to class blogs being used by educators to give you ideas and inspiration.

The activities can be completed at your own pace and in any order!

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# WHO IS THE COURSE FOR?

This Teacher Challenge course can help you whether you:

- Are a classroom teacher, a specialist teacher, or work with students in a different capacity, such as in the library or a blogging club.
- Work with students from kindergarten right up to adult learners.
- Are very tech savvy or only have basic computer skills.
- Have never attempted blogging before, or have dabbled with blogging but want to relaunch your program.

This optional workbook will help to keep you on track and focused as you work through the 11 steps.
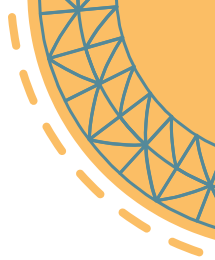
# COURSE DELIVERY

Because you'll be learning about blogging, this course is naturally published on a blog. You'll find it at teacherchallenge.edublogs.org

Each step has its own separate blog post. You will be able to learn by reading through each post, and exploring the links and videos provided.

For each step, you'll be invited to complete a task that develops and demonstrates your learning. When your task is complete, you can leave a comment on the post and share your learning with others.

You can use this workbook to keep track of your progress and document additional reflections and questions.

# OUTCOMES

We've designed this course so you can build on your skills sequentially over the time frame that suits you.

By the end of the course, you'll have a blog with strong foundations that will set you and your students up to enjoy the many advantages of educational blogging.
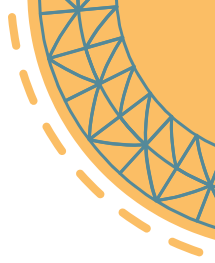
# PD CREDIT

All participants who complete our Blogging With Students Teacher Challenge will have access to a certificate that outlines the modules covered and the time frame. You'll find the form to request this certificate in the 11th step of this course.

We have bloggers from all over the world completing our Teacher Challenges. Different schools and districts have different criteria for awarding professional development credit. Therefore, we can't guarantee our certificate will comply with your school's specific PD criteria.

# ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

This is a self paced course but you don't have to go it alone.

- If you have questions, you can leave a comment on the post you're working on. Our team monitors comments regularly.
- You're welcome to email our support team 24/7 for blogging help (support@edublogs.org).
- Why not ask a friend or colleague to complete this Teacher Challenge with you?

# 11 STEPS TO SUCCESS

We've broken this Teacher Challenge course down into 11 steps.

If you've got the time, you can work through each step over a period of hours or days. Alternatively, you can work at a slower pace; perhaps completing one step each week while allowing time to fully digest each topic.

**The following overview may help you pick and choose** if you only want to complete certain parts of the course.

### STEP 1: Set Up Your Class Blog
The first step has two main aims. Firstly, you will learn more about what a blog is and why educators use blogs. Secondly, we will help you set up your class blog, customize your settings, and change your theme.

### STEP 2: Set Up Pages
The second step is about setting up pages. We'll help you understand how pages are used on class blogs. We'll then show you how to set up an About page, Guidelines page, and Contact page on your class blog.

### STEP 3: Write Your First Posts
In step three you'll be learning how posts are used on class blogs. We'll provide tips on how to write effective posts while teaching you how to publish your first posts.
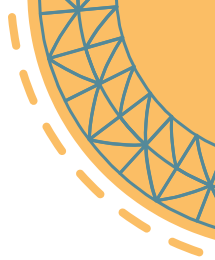
# 11 STEPS TO SUCCESS

**STEP 4: Teach Quality Commenting Skills**
When you've developed your understanding of posts and pages, we'll be moving on to commenting. You'll learn how comments are used on class blogs, and get ideas for teaching students quality commenting skills.

**STEP 5: Add Widgets**
This step explains how widgets are used on class blogs. We'll introduce you to the commonly used class blog widgets, and show you how to add widgets to your sidebar.

**STEP 6: Help Parents And Students Connect**
In this sixth step you'll learn a number of different ways you can help parents and students find and use your class blog.

**STEP 7: Images, Copyright, And Creative Commons**
This important step introduces you to copyright, fair use, and using images on blogs. You'll learn how to find and add Creative Commons and public domain images to your blog posts.

**STEP 8: Embed Content In Posts**
In step eight, you'll learn about creating content with free online tools and embedding different content into posts and pages.
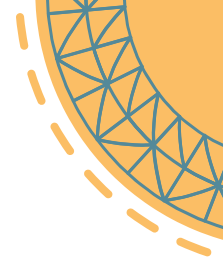
# 11 STEPS TO SUCCESS

**STEP 9: Creating And Using Video**
The aim of this step is to provide an overview of creating and using videos with students. We'll help you get started using/creating videos, or get more out of using videos.

**STEP 10: Connect With Other Classes**
In step ten, you'll learn about the value of connecting with other classes. We'll explain the types of projects educators use to develop global connections through blogging.

**STEP 11: Set Up Your Student Blogs**
The final step in this series guides you through the process of setting up your student blogs. If you're not up to having student blogs, you might like to read through the information and keep it in mind for the future.
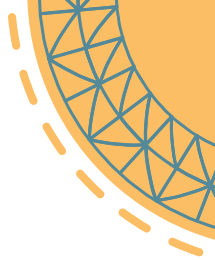
# RECORD YOUR BLOG DETAILS

URL

Username

Email address

# CHECKLIST

**STEP 1:** Set Up Your Class Blog

**STEP 2:** Set Up Pages

**STEP 3:** Write Your First Posts

**STEP 4:** Teach Quality Commenting Skills

**STEP 5:** Add Widgets

**STEP 6:** Help Parents And Students Connect

**STEP 7:** Images, Copyright, And Creative Commons

**STEP 8:** Embed Content In Posts

**STEP 9:** Creating And Using Video

**STEP 10:** Connect With Other Classes

**STEP 11:** Set Up Student Blogs

# STEP 1: SET UP YOUR CLASS BLOG

## TOPICS

- What is a blog?
- Why educators use blogs
- Examples of class blogs
- Sign up for your class blog
- Create your blog
- Update your profile
- Upload your user avatar
- Check your settings
- Customize your blog theme
- Using the theme customizer
- Upload custom header image
- Upload background image
- FAQs

## NOTES

## TASK

- Visit some example blogs.
- Leave a comment about your favorite blog(s).
- Reply to another participant's comment.

# STEP 2: SET UP PAGES

## TOPICS

- Introduction to pages
- Why you need an About page
- Examples of About pages on class blogs
- Visual editor overview
- Blogging guidelines
- Creating a contact form
- Overview and examples of other types of pages
- Setting up page links
- FAQs

## NOTES

## TASK

- Create an About Page, How to Comment page, Blogging Guidelines page, or Contact page.
- Reply to another participant's comment.

# STEP 3: WRITE YOUR FIRST POSTS

## TOPICS

Introduction to posts

Who writes posts on class blogs?

First post examples

Integrating blogging into your day

How to publish a post

Introduction to the visual editor

Putting it all together: PDF guide

Tips for writing better blog posts

Commonly asked post questions

## NOTES

## TASK

- Check out the post examples and publish your first post OR
- Explain how you introduced blogging to your students and integrate blogging into your day.
- Reply to another participant's comment.

# STEP 4: QUALITY COMMENTING

## TOPICS

- Why comments are important
- The blogging cycle
- How comments work
- Examples of comments on class blogs
- How to add comments
- Teaching quality commenting skills
- How to teach quality commenting
- Six activities for developing commenting skills
- Commonly asked questions about comments

## NOTES

## TASK

■ Complete one of the activities in the post for developing quality commenting skills. Leave a comment to explain how you went.

■ Reply to another participant's comment.

# STEP 5: ADDING WIDGETS

## TOPICS

- What are widgets?
- How widgets are used on class blogs
- Examples of widgets on blogs
- Widgets and blog design
- How to add widgets
- How to remove widgets
- Overview of available widgets
- Add widgets using embed code in text widgets
- Visitor tracking widgets
- Link widgets on class blogs
- FAQs about widgets

## NOTES

## TASK

- ■ Try adding some of the widgets from the widget demo blog to your class blog. Comment explaining which widget you tried and why.
- ■ Reply to another participant's comment.

## TOPICS

- Why help parents and students connect?
- Educating parents
- Finding your blog on the internet
- 21 ideas to help educate and involve families and students
- Infographic: ideas for involving families in your class blog

## NOTES

## TASK

- Try one of the 21 ideas in the post for connecting with families or students. Leave a comment to explain how you went and share any resources you created.
- Reply to another participant's comment.

# STEP 7: IMAGES, COPYRIGHT, AND CREATIVE COMMONS

## TOPICS

- Intro to copyright, fair use, and images in posts
- Intro to Creative Commons
- Flickr Creative Commons images
- Finding Creative Commons images
- Creative Commons attribution
- Adding images from Compfight
- Free and public domain images
- Adding images from Pixabay
- Using your own images
- Using student photos online

## NOTES

## TASK

- Add a Creative Commons or public domain image to your post. Or use a tool mentioned to create an image. Leave a link to your post so others can take a look.
- Reply to another participant's comment.

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## TOPICS

- Embedding content in posts
- A note on age restrictions
- Audio hosting websites
- Brainstorming tools
- Book creation tools
- Comic and cartoon tools
- Curation tools
- Polls, surveys, and quizzes
- Presentation tools
- Slideshow tools
- How to embed content in posts
- Cheat sheet

## NOTES

## TASK

☐ Choose one or more of the tools embedded in the post and try using it. Leave a comment with a link to your creation.

☐ Reply to another participant's comment.

## TOPICS

- Why educators use video
- Video creation and editing
- Video techniques
- Copyright and video
- Video hosting websites
- Embed videos in posts
- Using the video URL
- Using embed code

## NOTES

## TASK

- Try out one of the tools or services mentioned in the post. Leave a comment with a link to your blog so others can check it out.
- Reply to another participant's comment.

# STEP 10: CONNECT WITH OTHER CLASSES

## TOPICS

- Why connect with other classes?
- How to get started
  - Student Blogging Challenge
  - Quad Blogging/Team Blogging
  - 100 Word Challenge
  - International Dot Day
  - Skype in the Classroom
  - Projects by Jen
  - The Global Read Aloud
  - Twitter
  - #Comments4kids
- Other tips
- Learn more about connecting

## NOTES

## TASK

- Leave a comment and let us know which of the collaboration options mentioned you'd like to try with your students and why!
- Reply to another participant's comment.

# STEP 11: SET UP STUDENT BLOGS

## TOPICS

- Why educators use student blogs
- Examples of student blogs
- Tips for creating student blogs
- Create your student blogs
- Get started with My Class
- Create student blogs using My Class
- Add student blogs link
- Navigate between dashboards
- Moderating posts and comments
- Reading student posts
- Getting students started

## NOTES

## TASK

- If you have student blogs (or have in the past), leave a comment and explain how they work. If you don't have student blogs, leave a comment sharing your thoughts on using student blogs in the future.
- Reply to another participant's comment.

# More Free Learning Opportunities

**For Teachers**

**Personal Blogging** — Learn how to set up a personal/professional educator blog (https://teacherchallenge.edublogs.org/personal-blogging)

**Building Your PLN** — Become a connected educator using a range of different tools (https://teacherchallenge.edublogs.org/creating-a-pln)

**For Students**

**Student Blogging Bootcamp** — This self-paced course guides students through the process of setting up and using their blog. (https://studentchallenge.edublogs.org/blogging-bootcamp)

**Student Blogging Challenge** — Held every March and October, this supported challenge helps students and classes learn about blogging while connecting with others. (https://studentchallenge.edublogs.org)

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