Blogs, Wikis, and Journals: Overview

What are Blogs, Wikis, and Journals in Blackboard?

Blogs, Wikis, and Journals inside of Blackboard are tools that enable students to use social media to actively participate in their learning.

On the technical side (how it works, how you set it up, etc.) all three of the tools are very similar. The differences lie in the permissions.

The wiki is public (within the class). Everyone is an editor and everyone can read and comment. All of the text is changeable.

The blog is public within the class. Each student is an editor, but only she can edit her original text. Everyone can read and comment.

The journal is private. Each student is an editor. Only he can edit his original text. Only he and the instructor can read and comment.

Why would I use The Blackboard Wiki?

Blackboard Blogs, Wikis, and Journals Promote Active Learning

Learning is not a spectator sport. Students do not learn much just sitting in classes listening to teachers, memorizing prepackaged assignments, and spitting out answers. They must talk about what they are learning, write reflectively about it, relate it to past experiences, and apply it to their daily lives. They must make what they learn part of themselves.

Your students can use the Blogs, Wikis, and Journals to:

1. Annotate a text
2. Build an annotated bibliography.
3. Review and edit peers’ essays.
4. Post journal entries on an assigned reading
5. Develop an online glossary for an assigned reading
6. Collaborate on a project.
7. Co-author a paper or story