



Overview

Educational Uses of Blogs and Wikis



OVERVIEW

The nation, the state, and individual districts are engaged in a common pursuit, asking the same question: how do we prepare students for the 21st Century? Through this course, students will gain knowledge, understanding, and practical application of integrating 21st Century skills into appropriate educational settings. Blogs and wikis are two tools that will help transform learning because by nature, they are collaborative and dynamic inviting and nurturing a community of teachers and learners. Focusing on the web-based tools blogs and wikis, participants will explore, explain, and expand upon the purpose and use of these Web 2.0 tools to support classroom instruction.

Each participant will build a blog and a wiki that will be useful in an educational setting. The purpose will be determined by the participant based on real life need. At the conclusion of the course, participants will select one of the course tools and design an instructional plan and sample project, which they will develop during the course sessions. Participants will learn why becoming a blogger and wiki user will most likely change and strengthen understanding and build relationships among teachers, students, parents, colleagues and the world!



GOALS

1. Discuss the research-based rationale for integrating web-based tools to support classroom instruction
2. Participate in an online professional community that supports guided and independent use of the focus web-based tools in the participant's personal practice
3. Create and manage a blog and/or a wiki to enhance curricular content
4. Discuss the dynamic, interactive, collaborative nature of using a blog and a wiki
5. Develop an instructional plan and receive peer and facilitator feedback on its implementation



FINAL PRODUCT

As you work through the course modules, you will be working toward your final project. After choosing one of the course tools (blog or wiki), you will complete a project preview and preliminary instructional plan to be submitted to your facilitator at the conclusion of the course.

Final Project Template:

[Final Project Template \(Microsoft Word Download\) \(65.5 Kb\)](#)



COURSE EXPECTATIONS

This workshop is divided into six one-week sessions (after an initial orientation week) which each include readings, activities, and an online discussion among workshop participants. Participants should expect to spend 4-5 hours per week in order to adequately complete the work.

The outline for the workshop is as follows:

Orientation	Introductions and Navigating Blackboard
Session One	The Nature of Blogs and Wik
Session Two	Creating a Professional Blog
Session Three	Extension and Evaluation of Blogs
Session Four	Wikis, a Valuable Web 2.0 Tool
Session Five	Design of Effective Wiki Environments
Session Six	Collaborating within Wiki Environments, Peer Feedback on Created Environments, and Imagining Possibilities for your Project

These are suggested criteria to be used for evaluating successful participation in and completion of this workshop.

Discussion Board Postings	Participants are expected to respond to the online discussion prompt in each of the course sessions with an original posting. Participants are also expected to respond to the postings of at least two other course participants in each session. Guidelines for discussion postings, as developed by the EdTech Leaders Online, are available at the following URL: http://www.edtechleaders.org/documents/discussion_guidelines.htm
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<p>Readings and Activities</p>	<p>Participants are expected to complete the required course readings and activities as posted in each of the session assignment pages. Optional readings may also be completed, but are not mandatory.</p>
<p>Final Product</p>	<p>Participants are expected to complete and submit the final product during the final workshop session. Final products are individual efforts. Team products are not acceptable without prior, written approval and will only be approved if the product is worthy of the time and effort of multiple participants.</p>



PREREQUISITES



CONTENT AND TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS



ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP

This course was developed by educators as part of the eLearning Delaware initiative. [eLearning Delaware](#) is Delaware's implementation of the [eLearning for Educators](#) Initiative, a project funded through a federal Ready to Teach grant and a multi-state collaboration between ten state education agencies and associated public broadcast stations. eLearning Delaware partners are the [Delaware Center for Educational Technology](#), the [Delaware Department of Education](#), and [WHYY](#).