Instructor Guide to Creating Graded Blogs

When creating a new blog in your course, you can set it to be a graded assessment for the whole class, groups of students, and individual students through this process.

Please Note - The option to make a blog a gradable assessment only appears when initiating the creation of a new blog.

Creating a Graded Blog

Instructors can set-up a Campus Pack Blog in any Content Area page in their course. Content Areas are pages where you can add your files, assignments, tests, and activities.

1. Within your Content Area page, scroll your mouse over the “Tools” menu button and select “Campus Pack Blog” from the list of options.

   a. **Single Copy** – Create a single blog for the whole class to contribute to and view.

   b. **One Per Group** – If you have created Blackboard Groups of students, select this option. Use the group selection tools that appear to assign one blog per group. Only the specific group members and instructor can access this blog.

   c. **One Per Person** – Creates an individual private blog for each student. Just the individual student and the instructor can access this blog.

   The settings you indicate here will automatically assign Viewing/Authoring Permissions to the instructor and your students.
3. Next, check the “Create Grade Book Entry” checkbox. Give the entry a name and point value. If you want to show students grades for this assessment, check off the “Display Grades to Students” checkbox.

When you have completed the form, click the “Add” button.

A New Campus Pack Blog will be added to your Content Area page. A new column tied to this assessment will be also be added to your Grade Center.

Grading Blog Participation

Once students have begun to add posts, comments, and replies, you can assess their participation and assign grades when viewing the blog.

1. Go to the content area containing the link to your blog and click its “View” link.

2. If this blog is a class “Single Copy” blog, you will immediately be taken to a page where you will see all the blog’s posts.

   However, if you are trying to view a group or individual blog, you will at first be taken to a page that lists groups or students contributing to a blog. Click on the name of a group or student to view a specific group or individual blog.
3. To access statistics and grading tools, click the “Assessment” link that appears at the top of the blog you are viewing.

4. The “Activity Summary” page will appear. Here you can review overall blog participation statistics.

5. To review the participation statistics of a particular student in detail and assign a grade:
   a. Select a student from the list on this page.
   b. Then, click the “Evaluate Participant” button.

6. Review the “Activity Summary” for the selected student. You will notice that there is a grading form on this page. Click the “Edit” button next to the form to enter a grade, feedback and grading notes.
7. When you are done, click “Submit”. The Grade Center column associated with the blog will be updated with this grading data.

Known Issues

At this time, we do not recommend copying or importing a graded blog into another course. Due to the way this tool was designed, copied graded blogs do not display the grading form or Grade Center button when viewing the Activity Summary page. A column associated with the blog will still be present in the Full Grade center.

If a graded blog was copied or imported into another course, blog grades must be entered in manually through the Full Grade Center.