

What is a Blog Tool?

A Blog Tool is a tool which provides an online forum, diary, or journal. An entire class or selected individuals can access, add new entries and comments, if these settings are enabled by instructors.

How could I use this tool?

With the Blog Tool in Blackboard, the Blog can be shared only between members of the class or it can be configured to be shared only between the individual student and instructor or between specific student groups and the instructor.

Blogs in courses can be used for:

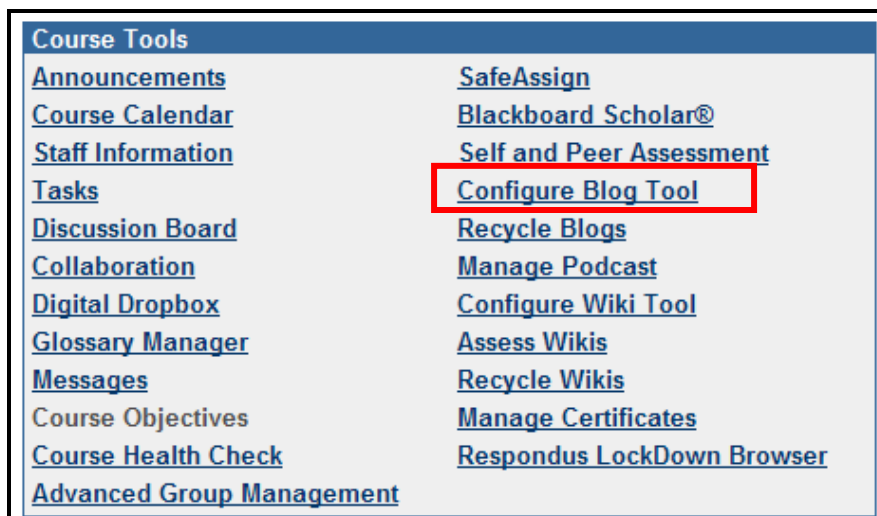
- Reflective journals
- Peer review and feedback
- Critical thinking and creativity

Using group or course-wide Blogs fosters lively discussion of course topics and concepts. When engaged in written debate, students are motivated to sharpen their critical thinking and rhetorical skills


Configure Course Blog Tool

You will first need to configure the course blog tool before you make it available to the students.

1. Go to the **Control Panel > Course Tools > Configure Blog Tool**



2. Select the blog tool options you wish to apply by selecting the radio buttons to Yes or No, then click **OK** to update the changes.

 **Configure Course Blog Tool**

Course Blog Tool Options

Please Note: The settings on this page apply only to the course or organizational level blog tool, not to the group blog tool that can be added in content areas.

Do you want to allow students to create blog entries? Yes No

Do you want to allow users to view posts by other users? Yes No

Do you want to enable a public (unauthenticated) RSS feed? Yes No (Disabled site-wide by administrator.)

Do you want to allow students to permanently delete blog entries? Yes No

Do you want to allow students to export the blog? Yes No

Do you want to allow students to view comments on blog entries? Yes No


Do you want to allow students to add comments to blog entries? Yes No

Choose the dates and times for which students will be allowed to edit the blog tool. Allow Edits After

Making the Blog Tool Available to Students

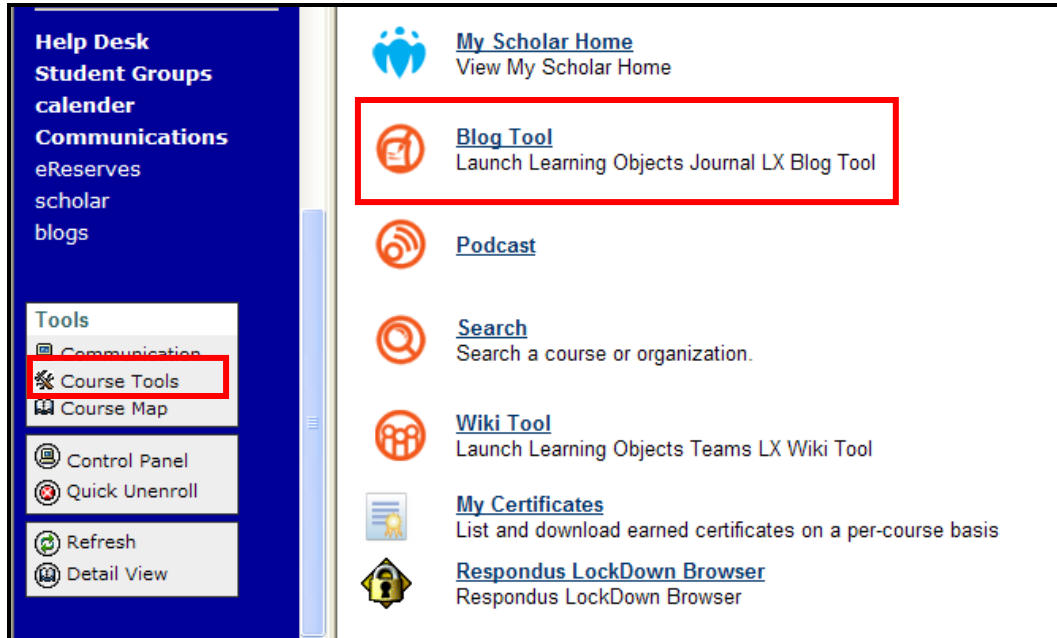
You will need to make the Blog Tool available for the students to access.

1. Go to the **Control Panel > Course Options > Manage Tools > Building Block Tool Availability > Blog Tool**, check the **Available** box > then **Submit**

 **Building Block Tool Availability**

| Tool | Available |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Advanced Group Management Advanced Group Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Blackboard Scholar Blackboard Scholar | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Blog Tool Blog Tool | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

2. To access the Blog Tool, the student will need to go to **Course Tools > Blog Tool**



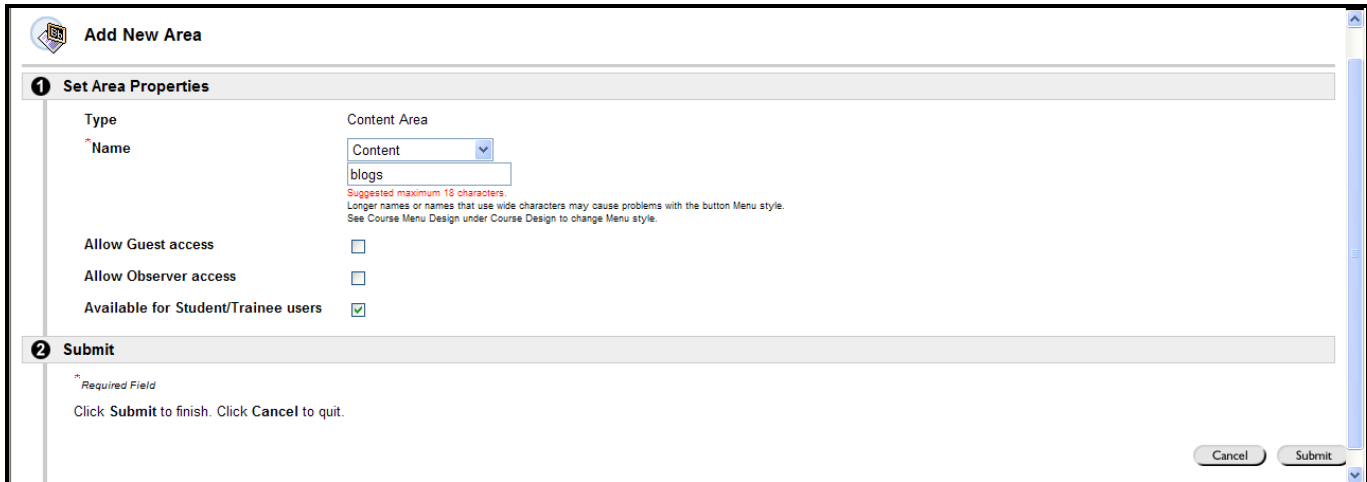
- Users can create a new entry that includes text formatting, external links and embedded images.
- Entries are shown in chronological order, with the newest entries appearing first on the list. Participants can use a calendar to examine older posts.
- When viewing an entry, participants in the course can leave a comment on a post.



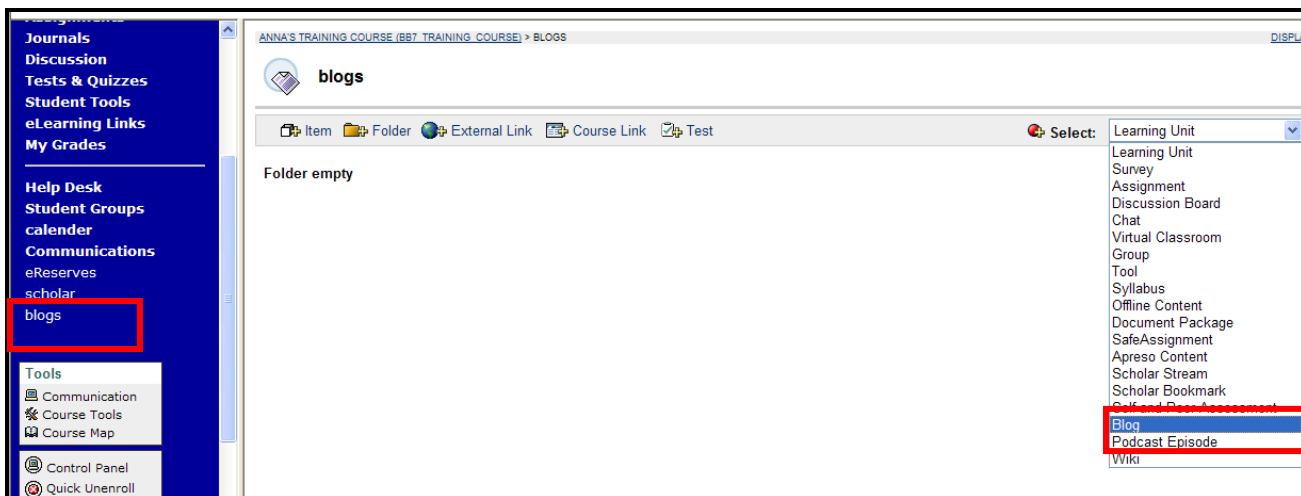
Group or Individual Blog

Each course has one Central Course Blog but can have many individual or group blog sites. To create, configure and access individual or group blogs are from any the content area (Course Documents, Assignments, etc.).


1. Go to **Control Panel > Course Options > Manage Course Menu > Add Content Area > name it **Blogs** > then **Submit****



2. From the side menu, select the content area which you just created called **Blogs** and from the drop down menu, select **Blog** > then **Go**



3. Create the Blog and choose the relevant settings (ie Group Blog, Private, Individual etc). When you are done, click **OK**

 **Create Blog**

Blog Information

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Name | <input type="text"/> |
| Description | <div>B <i>I</i> <u>U</u> ABC ↻ ↺ 📌 ☰ ☰ HTML</div> <input type="text"/> |
| Make the blog available | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No |
| Select the blog type | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Group Blog In group blogs, all blog members and the instructor can view all entries in the blog <input type="radio"/> Private Journal In private journals, blog members are unable to view each other's entries, but instructors can view all entries in the blog |
| | Allow blog members to view Instructor's entries? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No |

Specify whether an RSS feed should be created for this blog. If enabled, the feed link will be displayed to anyone with access to the blog. Note that publishing the blog via an RSS feed means that anyone with access to the blog could make the contents of the blog public to people outside the system. For this reason, you cannot enable RSS feeds on a Private Journal.

Reference

http://blackboard.duke.edu/help/blog_tool.html