

Implementing Online Journaling

The importance of journaling:

Feedback and assistance from a variety of learners.
Being available for students to answer questions about the course.

Accessibility and communication about where to find outside classroom web pages and resources.

Minimizing misunderstanding by responding to peers opinions.

Increases writing skills.

Recommended Journaling Websites:

- Livejournal.com
Resource search bar, mobile updates
- Blogspot.com
Embed videos, direct comment updates
- notebook.zoho.com
Organize course content per journal
- <https://docs.google.com>
Full online collaboration and resources

Create an online journal:

1. Choose a Web 2.0 tool to implement your online journal depending on the needs of your class.
2. Put a link on Blackboard that will make your online journaling website easily accessible for students.
3. During the first week of class have your students sign up for the site also.
4. Have students email you their URLs and develop a list on your blog or journal website so that every student can be linked in one online community.
5. Encourage students to blog or journal everyday and restate directions for posting comments, including how to comment positively and constructively.

A variety of Web 2.0 tools to choose:

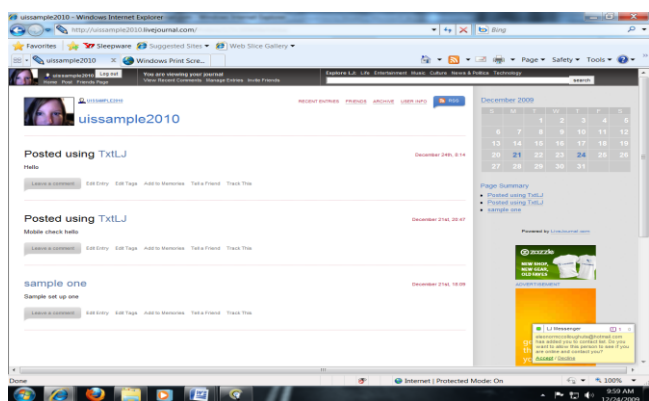


Fig. 1 Livejournal.com

Livejournal.com

Link to other Live journals.

Easily create a "Flist" (friends list).

Divide your friends into sub-groups.

Search bar for topic related journals.

Easily access archived journal posts.

Can be set to private or public journal.

Large typing window, change font, size, color, etc.

Premade layouts or copy one from another journal.

Update a journal and comment using a mobile device.

Calendar when posts are made by administrator of the journal.

Blogspot.com

UIS supported.

Embed videos easily.

Your own URL per blog.

Add a new blog with one click

Constant contact with blog followers.



Fig. 2 Blogspot.com

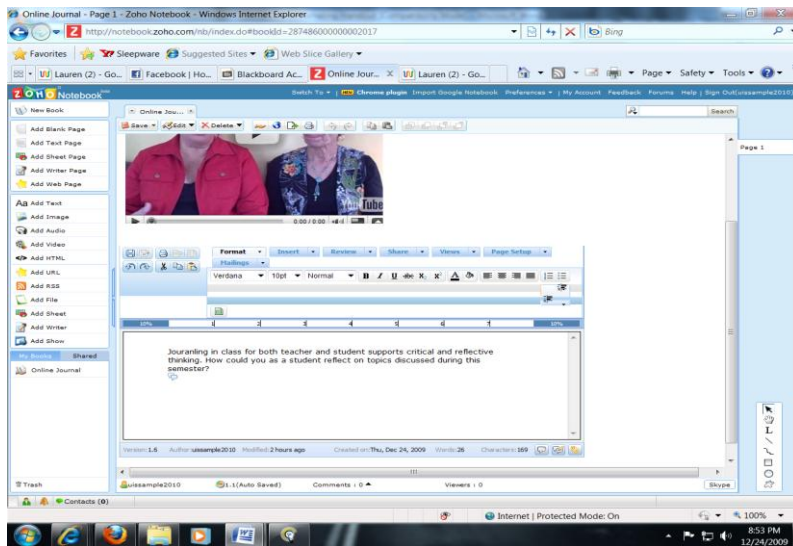


Fig. 3 Zoho Notebook

Zoho Notebook

Add a new notebook.
Organize course information.
Add sheets and pages as needed.
Allows for collaboration on writer.
Option buttons are easily displayed.
Extensive formatting options in writer.
Insert RSS feed to update automatically.
Embed photos, videos, and audio quickly.
Multiple pages for keeping many journals.
Share with users by email or post as a blog.

Google docs

Collaborate on one document.
Teacher planning or student projects.
FREE and has most features of MS applications.
Live editing and commenting features.
Embed videos, audio, and tables.
Organize docs per project or job.
Share documents with other people through email.

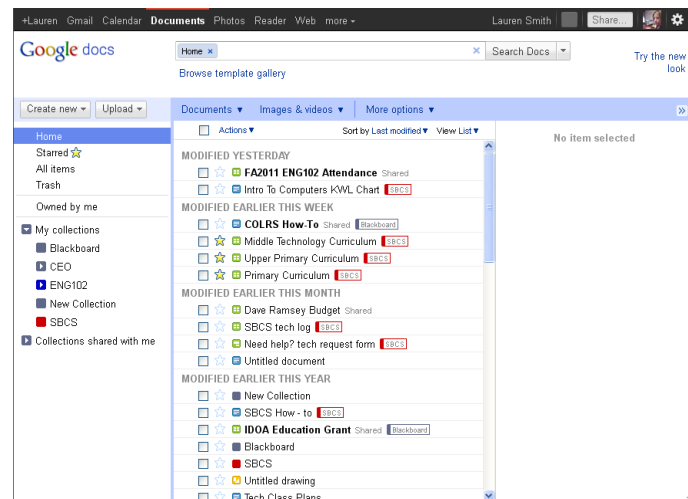


Fig. 4 Google Docs

Summary:

Journaling in higher education has been proven to increase writing skills, increase time personally reflecting upon topics discussed in class, and reduces stress. Online journaling offers collaboration with a group of students with diverse background and world views, assists the students in strengthening problem solving and critical thinking skills, and allows the student to independently seek information through online resources to extend the classroom environment beyond a teacher-led setting.

For more information please see the following websites about journaling:

<http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/actbank/sjournal.htm> - Offers explanations of different journaling formats.

<http://www2.ups.edu/community/tofu/lev2/journaling/writemath.htm> - Implementing math journals.

<http://www.plantingscience.org/index.php?module=pagesetter&func=viewpub&tid=4&pid=16> - Elements of a science journal.

More resources at <http://goo.gl/sdJHW>