

# Blog it!

## Using blogs to promote reflective practice with students

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TUANZ Education Conference  
March 2007

### What is a blog?

- Weblog = **blog**
- social software
- promotes interaction

### Education applications

- Promotes regular, ongoing writing
- Provides an audience
- Learner centred
- Student ownership
- Reflective practice

### Free blog sites

Learnerblogs  
<http://learnerblogs.org/>

Edublogs  
<http://edublogs.org>

Blogspot  
<http://www.blogger.com>

### Reflective practice

- Reflective practice promotes:
  - intrinsic motivation
  - student ownership and autonomy
  - higher order thinking
  - future goal setting
- Self-monitoring of learning has been found to influence behaviour, even without tangible reinforcements (Mace, Belfiore, & Shea, 1989)

### Intrinsic motivation

- An intrinsically motivated student undertakes a learning activity for:
  - enjoyment
  - the learning it permits
  - feelings of accomplishment

## **When to reflect?**

- Reflecting *before* learning
- Reflecting *during* learning
- Reflecting *after* learning

## **Key competencies**

- Opportunities to develop competencies occur in social contexts (p 11)
- Provide a framework for designing learning environments and experiences (p 29)
- Continue to develop over time, shaped by interactions with people, places, ideas, and things. (p 29)

## **Security issues**

- Advertising
- Pop-ups
- Spyware
- Spam
- Inappropriate comments/replies to postings
- Unsolicited contact from random bloggers

## **Enhancing security for students**

- First names only
- No contact/email details
- No directory listing
- Word verification for comments
- Enable comment moderation

## **What can teachers do to enhance security?**

- Administrator rights
- Check security options
- Protocols for postings and comments
- Regular monitoring
- Remove spam postings and inappropriate messages
- Encourage students to be web-safe