

BLOG OVERVIEW

A blog (a contraction of the words *web* and *log*) is an online log or journal consisting of individual pieces of writing, called posts, often devoted to a single subject.

As practice in learning a blogging/website hosting platform, and as practice in formal writing for an online audience, you will create a blog in WordPress, where you will post an introduction to yourself and the revisions of some of the assignments that you write for the course. (See the calendar for due dates.)

DIRECTIONS FOR CREATING YOUR BLOG

- If you do not already maintain a WordPress blog that you plan to use for class, follow the steps for creating a **free** blog at www.wordpress.com. For the free blog option, look for the small pink box on the screen. If you miss it and get to a screen that asks you to choose a fee-based option, back out and start over.
- After you create your blog site, you must launch it before it will be viewable to others. Otherwise, when someone clicks on your link, all that will be visible is a blue screen with the words "Coming Soon."
- If you haven't launched your blog, which is how you make it public, follow these steps: On your WordPress site, scroll down to the settings icon (directly below the wrench), select general, scroll down to "Privacy," and select "Public."
- If you have any issues with your blog, contact WordPress: <https://wordpress.com/help/contact>.

In class we will look at your blog sites on the big screen, and I encourage you to review your classmates' blogs on your own. Also, for short in-class writing assignments, I may ask you to read and post comments on your classmates' blogs or create additional posts on your own blog.

LEARN MORE ABOUT WORDPRESS

The more time you devote to exploring your dashboard, the better you will understand the blogging platform and the easier it will be for you to create and edit blog posts.

HOW TO CREATE AND PUBLISH A POST ON YOUR WORDPRESS BLOG

1. Log into your WordPress account at <https://wordpress.com/>.
2. On the menu bar on the left, click **the home page icon** (the house).
3. Under the heading "**Quick Links**," click "**Write blog post**."
4. Begin typing or click the plus sign on the right to add a block. We will talk about blocks more in class.

5. Click the **plus sign** to add an image.
6. Click the gray **Preview** button on the upper right to see what your post will look like.
7. Continue editing as needed.
8. When you are finished editing, click the blue **Publish** box on the upper right.

INTRODUCTORY BLOG ASSIGNMENT

Creating your first blog entry will orient you to the WordPress blogging platform, and the blog post itself will introduce you to your instructor and your classmates.

GUIDELINES

1. Compose a short piece of writing that focuses on one aspect of your life or one interest of yours. Topics to consider include:
 - a pastime or hobby of yours
 - a sport that you play
 - an organization that you belong to
 - a place you have visited
 - your career plans
2. Compose your introduction, a minimum of 100 words, and include at least one relevant photograph.
3. Your writing does not need to refer directly to your photograph, but what you write in your introduction and/or what you include in the photo caption should convey the relevance of the images. Do not include stock photos from the web in your introductory blog post. Any photos you include should be your own.
4. You do not need to appear in any of the photos you include, but keep in mind that a recent photo of yourself will help your classmates more readily identify your name with your face.
5. Compose your blog entry, give it a title that indicates its focus (don't simply title it "Blog Post"), and publish it before our next class meeting.

TROUBLESHOOT WORDPRESS ISSUES ASAP

If you have issues creating your blog or publishing your first post, visit the support page, <https://wordpress.com/support/>. If you cannot find a solution there, email help@wordpress.com.

GRADE CRITERIA

An **A** blog post includes:

- a title that indicates the focus of your introduction
- an introduction to yourself of at least 100 words that focuses on one aspect of your life or one interest of yours, and
- a minimum of one relevant photograph

An **A** blog post not only meets the requirements above but is also well organized and relatively free of surface errors.

A **B** blog post effectively meets all requirements above but may be flawed by minor issues of organization and/or surface errors.

A **C** blog post meets only some of the requirements above and may also be flawed by issues of organization and/or surface errors.

A **D** blog post meets only one of the requirements above and may also be flawed by issues of organization and/or surface errors.

An **F** blog post fails to meet the requirements above and may also be flawed by substantial issues of organization and/or surface errors.