

Blog Entry Scoring Checklist

As your class begins to craft blog entries connected to controversial issues or classroom content, you can use this checklist to evaluate blogging assignments.

Questions to Consider

1. Has the author tackled a topic that is interesting or appropriate for his or her intended audience? Does the topic connect to something being studied in class? To a broad theme running across content areas?

Your Response / Next Steps:

2. Is there evidence that the author has thought deeply about the topic of study? Are you convinced that he or she is clearly and transparently wrestling with new ideas here?

Your Response / Next Steps:

3. If the author is tackling a controversial issue, has he or she expressed his or her position in an articulate, convincing, and responsible manner?

Your Response / Next Steps:

4. Has the author used statistics, quotations, anecdotes, and stories effectively to express his or her point of view? Are readers likely to be influenced by this post?

Your Response / Next Steps:

5. Has the author included extensive links to reliable outside sites designed to provide readers with evidence for central claims or sources for continued study?

Your Response / Next Steps:

6. Has the author used age-appropriate grammar and mechanics? Has the piece been carefully proofread to ensure that mistakes don't interfere with the reader's understanding?

Your Response / Next Steps:

7. Does the author spark conversations with readers by asking provocative questions or expressing interesting positions in this post?

Your Response / Next Steps:

8. Will readers want to respond to this blog entry? Can they work in new directions, generating posts that build from the strands of conversation introduced by this author?

Your Response / Next Steps:

9. As comments are added to this entry, has the author worked to continue the conversation by responding to readers? Do his or her responses ask questions, challenge thinking, or demonstrate a willingness to be challenged?

Your Response / Next Steps:

10. Will readers walk away from this blog post and ongoing comment conversation knowing more about the topic being studied?

Your Response / Next Steps:

Final Thoughts

What makes you proud about this blog entry? How can this author improve his or her final product?