

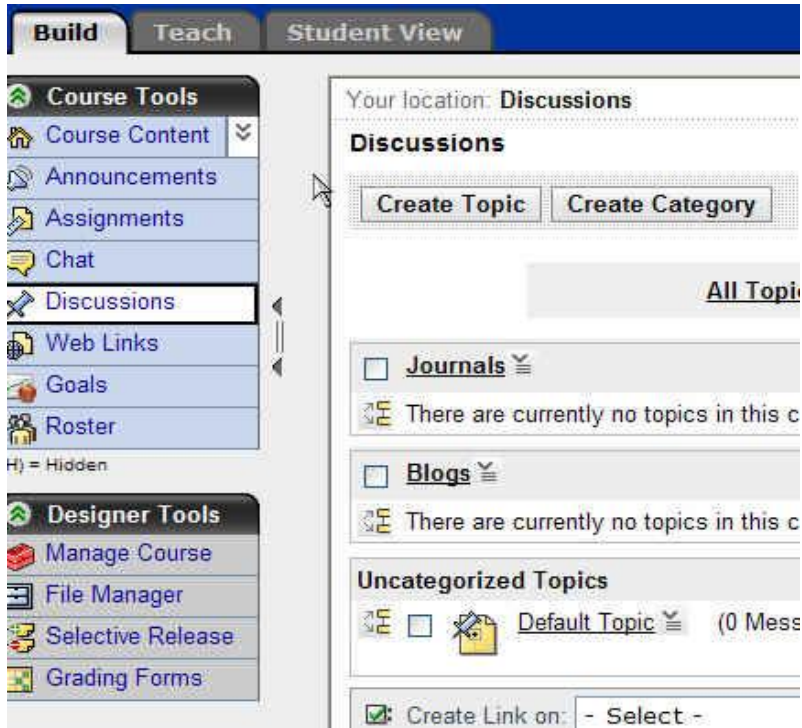
Blogging Tool



Creating a Blog using the Discussion Tool

Step 1: Click the **Build Tab**.

Step 2: In the **Course Menu**, under the **Course Tools** heading, click **Discussions**.



Step 3: Click **Create Topic**.




Step 4: Select **Blog Topic** and click **Next**.


< | Your location: [Discussions](#) > **Create Discussion Topic**

Create Discussion Topic


What type of discussion topic would you like to create?

 **Threaded topic.**

Create a threaded topic for a more traditional online discussion. Users post and reply to messages. Replies that are associated with the same post are grouped together, creating message threads that can be expanded and collapsed.

 **Blog topic.**

Create a collaborative blog (weblog) space by allowing participants to post a chronological series of entries on a particular topic. Participants can then add comments to any blog entry.

 **Journal topic.**

Create a journal topic to give Students a place for their own writing. The journals can be kept private between the Student and the Section Instructor or shared with the class.

Step 5: In the **Title** text box, enter a title for your blog.

Step 6: Enter a **description** if needed.

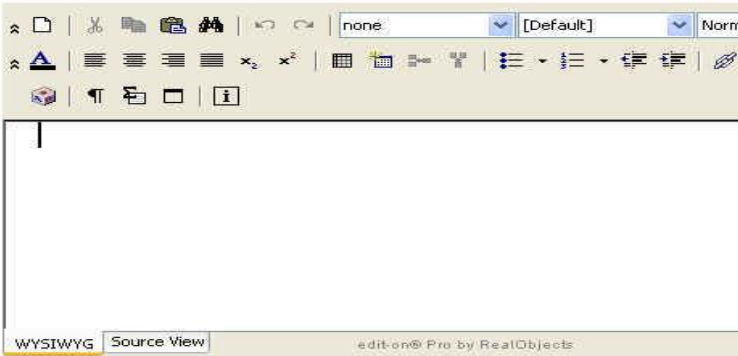
Step 7: Select a **Category** to put your blog if applicable.

< | Your location: [Discussions](#) > [Create Discussion Topic](#) > **Create Blog Topic**

Create Blog Topic

Title:

Description:



Item Visibility: Show Item
 Hide Item

Category: Topics can be organized into categories.
Select Category:

Step 8: Under **Grading**, select your options. (Ex. Topic is not gradable, numeric grade, alphanumeric grade, or grade by rubric)

Step 9: Under **Goals**, select any goals you may want to link to this blog.

Grading

Topic is not gradable

Allow the topic to be graded

Numeric grade: Out of

Alphanumeric grade

Grade by Grading Form:

A column is automatically created for this topic in Grade Book

Grade Book column title:

Release grade to Students in *My Grades*

Goals

Associate goals with this discussion topic.

Step 10: Under **Peer Review**, you can make selections regarding how other students review or respond to blog posts. (Ex. Do not enable peer review, allow students to review messages using a rating scale, allow students to review messages using a rubric/grading form) **See **Peer Review Scale Section** for more on this feature.

Peer Review (Expand this area to see more options.)

Do not enable peer review in this topic

Allow Students to review messages using a simple rating scale

Allow Students to review messages using a grading form

Step 11: Under **Topic Behavior Options**, select options for how students post and reply to messages.

Topic Behavior Options (Expand this area to see more options.)

Student Posting Rules

Students can post messages and reply to messages

Students can post messages but cannot reply to messages

Students can reply to messages but cannot post messages

Students can edit their messages after posting them

Lock this topic for Students (Section Instructors can post in a locked topic)

Step 12: Under **Author Identification**, select whether authors are identified by user names or anonymously.

Step 13: Select **Save** when finished.



****Peer Review Scale Options**

You can have students rate other student posts and comment on them. You can have custom rating variables to allow for maximum peer review.



Step 1: Click “Allow Students to review messages using a simple rating scale”.

Step 2: Click **Create Scale**.

Create Simple Rating Scale

Step 3: Click **Add Rating** to create a custom rating variable. (Ex. Needs more content, more specific information needed, too vague) Click **Save**.

Step 4: Click **Remove Rating**, to remove a rating from the scale.

Step 5: Click **Save** when finished with the scale variables.

Exercise – Create a Blog

Using the steps for creating a blog, please do the following:

1. Create a new blog.
2. Make it gradable worth 5 points.
3. Make it reviewable to students using a grading scale.



Posting Student Blog Messages

Posting a blog message as a student is very simple.

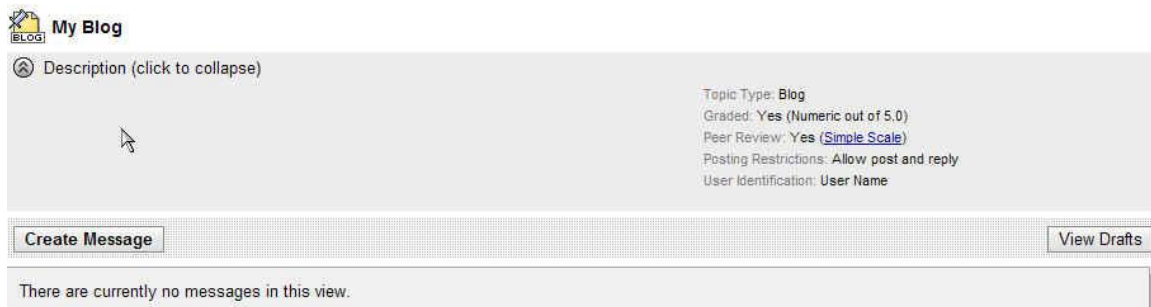
Step 1: Click the **Student Tab**.

Step 2: In the **Course Menu**, under the **Course Tools** heading, click **Discussions**.

Step 3: Click on the blog title. (Ex. “My Blog” below)



Step 4: Select **Create Message**.



**Students can view the peer review scale by clicking on the Simple scale link on right hand side above, before they post their first message.

Step 5: Under **Subject**, enter subject of post.

Step 6: Under **Message**, type message content here. (Make sure to **enable HTML creator**)

Step 7: Click **Add Attachments** to add a file to post.

Step 8: Click **Post** when done with message.

WebCT Blogging Tool

Create Message

*Subject:

Message:

WYSIWYG Source View edit-on® Pro by RealObjects

Insert equation:

Attachments:

My Blog

Description (click to collapse)

Topic Type: Blog
Graded: Yes (Numeric out of 5.0)
Peer Review: Yes ([Simple Scale](#))
Posting Restrictions: Allow post and reply
User Identification: User Name

Select All Deselect All Sort by:

Subject: My first post
Author: Demo Student Date: January 12, 2007 11:02 AM

I would like to comment on the paper by King Tut.

Average rating: *****
(0 Comments / 0 New) (0 Ratings)

Step 9: Click on **Comments**, to comment on a post.

Comments

Subject: My first post

There are no comments to this post.

Create Comment

Use HTML

Insert equation:

Attachments:

Step 10: Click **Post Comment** to submit your comments to the post and to read other comments as well.

Comments

Subject: My first post

Create Comment

1	Author: Demo Student This is a great post.	Date: January 12, 2007 11:09 AM
2	Author: Karri Sanchez I liked the Movie a lot.	Date: January 12, 2007 11:18 AM

Step 11: Click **Comments** to view comments.

Subject: My first post
Author: Demo Student

I would like to comment on the paper

Comments **Edit Message**
(1 Comments / 0 New)

Step 12: Click **Review this Message** to rate a post.

Sort by: **Date** Author Rating

Date: January 12, 2007 11:02 AM

Review this Message

Review Message

Select Rating

<input type="radio"/> *	Need Improvement
<input checked="" type="radio"/> **	Below Average
<input type="radio"/> ***	Average
<input type="radio"/> ****	Above Average
<input type="radio"/> *****	Exceptional

Save **Cancel**

Message

Subject: My first post Author: Demo Student	Topic: My Blog Date: January 12, 2007 11:02 AM
I would like to comment on the paper by King Tut.	

The original message displays at the bottom.

Step 13: Click on a rating option using the radio buttons.

Step 14: Click **Save** to save rating.



Viewing Peer Review Ratings

To read the peer reviews from other students on your own posts:

Step 1: Click **View all Reviews** in lower right hand corner of your post.

The screenshot shows a message interface with a 'Create Message' button on the left and a 'View Drafts' button on the right. Below these are 'Select All' and 'Deselect All' buttons. The message content includes a subject line 'Subject: My first post', an author 'Author: Demo Student', and a date 'Date: January 12, 2007 11:02 AM'. The message text is 'I would like to comment on the paper by King Tut.' Below the message are 'Comments' and 'Edit Message' buttons. In the bottom right corner, there is an 'Average rating: *****' and a 'View All Reviews (1 Ratings)' button.

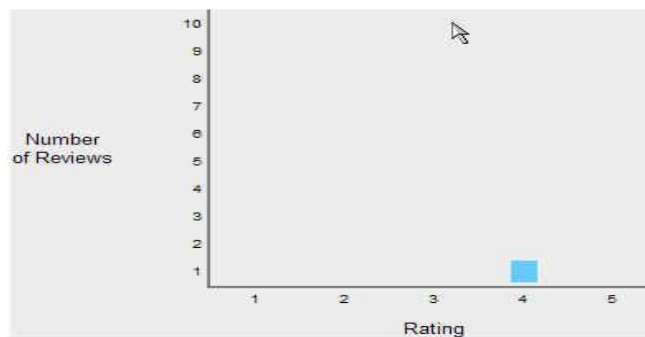
This close-up shows the 'Date: January 12, 2007 11:02 AM' and the 'Average rating: *****' with a 'View All Reviews (1 Ratings)' button below it.

Step 2: Under **Message Peer Reviews**, you get a detailed graph and a list of peer reviews and ratings.

Message Peer Reviews

Last Name	First Name	User Name	Role	Rating
Sanchez	Karri	demo3	Student	*****

Ratings distribution



Message

The screenshot shows the original message content: 'Subject: My first post', 'Author: Demo Student', 'Date: January 12, 2007 11:02 AM', and 'Topic: My Blog'. The message text is 'I would like to comment on the paper by King Tut.'

Step 3: Click on **ok** or **print** if you want to print graph and reviews.



Grading and Reviewing Blog Posts.

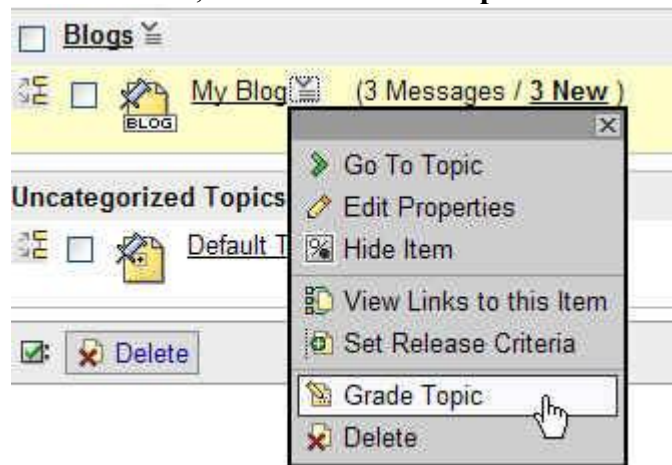
As an instructor you have various options in which to grade and review student blog posts. An instructor can view all comments, lock down the message, review the message, grade the message or view all the student reviews of the message.

To grade the blog messages:

Step 1: Click the **Teach Tab**.

Step 2: In the **Course Menu**, under the **Course Tools** heading, click **Discussions**.

Step 3: Click on the action link, and select **Grade Topic**.



Grade Discussions for: My Blog

Class Averages
 Average Messages Read: 2
 Average New Messages Posted: 0
 Average Replies Posted: 1
 Average rating: ***** (View Rating Report)

Grading Criteria:
 Numeric out of 5

Name	Grade
Karri Sanchez	<input type="text"/>
Demo Student	<input type="text"/>

Your location: [Discussions](#) » [Discussion Activity Overview](#)

My Blog

Description (click to collapse)

Topic Type: Blog
 Graded: Yes (Numeric out of 5.0)
 Peer Review: Yes (Simple Scale)
 Posting Restrictions: Allow post and reply
 User Identification: User Name

Discussion Activity Overview

To view messages posted by a Student, click the Student's name and then click View Student Posts.

Name	Messages			Average rating	
	Total Messages Read	New Messages Posted	Replies Posted	Received (total)	Given (total)
Karri Sanchez	3	0	1	***** (0)	***** (1)
Demo Student	2	1	1	***** (1)	***** (0)

Step 4: Student activity is on the right. Place to grade is on the left.

Step 5: Click on student name to view students post.

Step 6: Put grade under grade box for each student and hit **Save Grades**.

Grade Discussions for: My Blog

Class Averages
Average Messages Read: 2
Average New Messages Posted: 0
Average Replies Posted: 1
Average rating: ***** ([View Rating Report](#))

Grading Criteria:
Numeric out of 5

Save Grades

Name	Grade
Karri Sanchez ⌵	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Demo Student ⌵	<input type="text"/>