

Title: **‘Mirror, Mirror on the Wall?’ Blogging as Reflection**

Presenter: **Ruth A. Smith**
University of Central Lancashire

Abstract:

Session Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this session, delegates will be able to:

- Describe ways in which blogging can be used as assessment
- Outline the benefits of blogging in assessment
- Explain how to overcome potential issues in using blogging as assessment

Session Outline

The purpose of this session is to explore with delegates how blogs can be used in student assessment. Drawing on two case studies where students blog as one part of their assessment, this session will consider the practicalities of blogging for students. In particular, the session will focus on the benefits that students can derive from blogging, particularly with respect to reflection. It will also offer practical advice on how to get students started; potential problems and pitfalls to avoid, for students, self and institution and how to maintain student interest throughout the blogging period.

Session Activities and Approximate Timings

Presentation:	Why use blogs in assessment? Getting started with blogs Benefits and Barriers of blogging Overcoming Issues Encouraging reflection	20 mins
Case Studies:	Selected examples	15 mins
Questions:	Building a support network	10 mins

References

Blood, R. 2002a. *The Weblog Handbook: practical advice on creating and maintaining your blog*. Cambridge MA: Perseus Publishing

Boud, D. 2001. 'Using journal writing to enhance reflective practice'. Available at <URL:<http://blogs.ubc.ca/csl2/files/2009/04/journalwritingreflectivepractice1.pdf>> [Accessed 23 April 2010]

Catalano, F. 2005. 'Why Blog?' *T.H.E.Journal*. Available at: <URL:http://thejournal.com/Articles/2005/12/01/Why-Blog.aspx?sc_lang=en&p=1> [Accessed 23 April 2010]

Clyde, L.A. 2005. 'Educational Blogging', *Teacher Librarian* 32 (3), 43-45

Downes, S. 2004. 'Educational Blogging', *Educause Review* 39(5) 14-26. Available At: [URL: http://www.educause.edu/EDUCAUSE+Review/EDUCAUSEReviewMagazineVolume39/EducationalBlogging/157920](http://www.educause.edu/EDUCAUSE+Review/EDUCAUSEReviewMagazineVolume39/EducationalBlogging/157920) [Accessed 23 April 2010]

Ferdig, R.E. & Trammell, K.D. 2004. 'Content Delivery in the 'blogosphere'', *T.H.E. Journal* 31 (7). Available at: [URL: http://thejournal.com/Articles/2004/02/10/01/Content-Delivery-in-the-Blogosphere.aspx?p=1](http://thejournal.com/Articles/2004/02/10/01/Content-Delivery-in-the-Blogosphere.aspx?p=1) [Accessed 23 April 2010]

'Higher Education in a Web 2.0 World' (2009)
[URL: http://jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/publications/heweb20rptv1.pdf](http://jisc.ac.uk/media/documents/publications/heweb20rptv1.pdf) [Accessed 10 June 2010]

Shirky, C. 2003 'Social Software and the politics of groups'. Available at: [URL: http://www.shirky.com/writings/group_politics.html](http://www.shirky.com/writings/group_politics.html) [Accessed 23 April 2010]