Why Might Blogs be Important to our Students?

Many university students are part of what's been termed the *Millennial Generation* (age 18-22). Characteristically, these students:

- Gravitate toward group activity
- Believe it's cool to be smart
- Are fascinated by new technologies
- Are focused on grades and performance

They are also:

- Digitally literate - having grown up around computers and the Internet
- Connected - always plugged in to technology
- Immediate - they multitask and expect fast results and responses
- Experiential - they tend to learn best by doing
- Social - they prefer teamwork and learning through collaboration
- Interactive - they crave engagement and inductive learning
- Visual and kinesthetic - they prefer image-rich, dynamic environments

However, while technology might be an integral part of their lives, their lives are not about the technology itself. They think in terms of the *activity* technology enables them to do.

Blogs help to meet these learning needs by providing an opportunity for interactive, collaborative, experiential learning in a public forum.

Adapted from:

"Is it Age or IT: First Steps Toward Understanding the Net Generation," Diana Oblinger and James Oblinger, EDUCAUSE
http://www.educause.edu/IsItAgeorIT%3AFirstStepsTowardUnderstandingtheNetGeneration/6058