Ideas for Using Blogging in the Classroom

How might you use a blog in your class?

Course Management
Post assignments, writing prompts, updates, links of interest to a central course site; managed solely by instructor

Individual Student Blogs
Students create their own blogs which they use to respond to assignments, post reflections, ask questions, etc.
- See Georgia Tech’s English 101 course, http://tryon1101.blogspot.com

Group Blogs
All students contribute to a central blog, where they can respond to assignments, comment on one another’s posts, etc.; the instructor can contribute as well
- See UI’s Online Journalism, http://iowajournalism138.blogspot.com
- Marietta College’s economics classes, http://mariettaecon.blogspot.com

Creating Assignments for Blogs

Writing Prompts
Ask student to create a post in which they respond to a structured question or problem posed by the instructor or classmates

Reflection
Students thoughtfully reflect on and synthesize concepts from lectures, readings, labs, or other class activities
- Bryn Mawr’s biology/computer science course on “Emergence,” http://serendip.brynmawr.edu/blog/emergence361/

Learning Journals/Portfolios
Students post to their blog with updates about what they’ve learned, their learning struggles, etc. as a means of tracking their progress
Responding to Rough Drafts & Works-in-Progress
Students post rough drafts of writings, projects, or problems and solicit feedback from classmates or the instructor using blog comments

Research Diary
Students regularly track progress on research, including a list of citations and links to relevant information they’ve uncovered

Problem-Solving
Ask students to explain their process for solving a problem, or to post obstacles to solving a problem

Making Connections
Students post links, new stories, or other material from the web pertinent to course discussions, and solicit comments from other students

- See the University of Iowa’s Electronic Publishing course in the School of Library and Information Science, http://ep.blogspot.com