

What's the Difference between Wikis, Blogs and Journals?

There are three exciting tools that can be used to foster active learning opportunities and reflection for students! However, at first glance, some of these tools may seem very similar in the way they appear, or might be used. This handout helps to distinguish the differences between the three different tools: Wikis, Blogs, and Journals, so you can select the best option for the assignment or activity.

	Wiki	Blog	Journal
Functionality	<p>A Wiki is a collaborative online space for students to view, contribute, and edit content.</p> <p>The instructor can see the process and evolution of the collaborative work and grade each participant individually.</p>	<p>A Blog is short for 'web log' and is considered a shared online diary.</p> <p>The Blog Tools can be shared to whole course, or the settings can allow for sharing between specific student groups and the instructor. Blogs can be used for more engaging content than the text-based.</p>	<p>A Journal is intended to be used as a personal space for self-reflection or private communication with instructor.</p> <p>Instructor comments can help students refine their ideas.</p>
Permissions to View	<p>Collaborative</p> <p>✓ Viewable by all members of the course, or specific groups</p>	<p>Public</p> <p>✓ Viewable by all members of the course, or within specific groups</p>	<p>Private</p> <p>✓ Recommended as a private format for self-reflection and direct communication with the instructor, not as a public space</p>
Common Uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group projects • Research projects • Team writing assignments • Student-filled in study guides • Student generated vocabulary lists • Group editing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual projects, specifically using multi-media, links, etc. • Virtual proposals • Reflective entries to be shared • Peer review and feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal reflection on course topics, projects, etc. • Document Internship, clinical, or other experiences • Meta-cognitive exercises • Personal assessment