

# Getting Ready for New Literacies

Using Blogs to Participate in a  
Community of Learners

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# NCTE Definition of 21st Century Literacies

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Literacy has always been a collection of cultural and communicative practices shared among members of particular groups. As society and technology change, so does literacy. Because technology has increased the intensity and complexity of literate environments, the twenty-first century demands that a literate person possess a wide range of abilities and competencies, many literacies. These literacies—from reading online newspapers to participating in virtual classrooms—are multiple, dynamic, and malleable. As in the past, they are inextricably linked with particular histories, life possibilities and social trajectories of individuals and groups.

# Twenty-first century readers and writers need to

- Develop **proficiency** with the tools of technology
- Build **relationships with others** to pose and solve problems **collaboratively** and **cross-culturally**
- **Design and share information** for global communities to meet a variety of purposes
- Manage, analyze and synthesize **multiple streams of simultaneous information**
- Create, critique, analyze, and evaluate **multi-media texts**
- Attend to the **ethical responsibilities** required by these complex environments

# Teachers on Blogging in the Classroom

"Although we saw benefits to engaging in literature-based conversations with our students, this practice didn't stretch them as thinkers, readers, or writers because they viewed teachers as the experts. Students could only peek through the lens we used to view literature. We each searched for more effective ways to create a more interactive classroom reading community, and we found such a tool in class blogs."

-Monica Mohr and Jennifer Orr  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers

# Students on Blogging in the Classroom

This is my only year in blogging and it has been the best year ever since I've been in elementary school. Mrs. C has brought us a long way. I've become a better reader and writer. My vocabulary skills have excelled since I've been in blogging. Blogging is a fun way to learn. It is better than writing on a piece of paper where the teacher only sees it. I want everyone to see how well my classmates and I have done.

I have made new friends outside of school because of blogging. ...I had a teacher from Winnipeg, Canada named Mr. Kuropatwa comment on my blog. He teaches senior math and the children in his class were overwhelmed because of what I knew. He even showed his class my blog and they made a podcast and sent it to me.

# Backing Up...

“So there you have it. It is important to reach out to teachers when they are ready. You need to provide them opportunities to be stretched, from providing access to articles, books, or video clips. But most people will not remember and not get excited until they get motivated and have the spark. Then you have to be ready to let them run.”

Vinnie Vrotny

“Multifacted Refractions” Blog

<http://vvrotny.org/2009/04/03/now-my-wife-gets-it/>

# What is a blog?

- A **blog** (a contraction of the term ***weblog***) is a type of website, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. "Blog" can also be used as a verb, meaning *to maintain or add content to a blog*.

# Anatomy of a Blog

- Heading/Title
- Entries (in chronological order)
  - Timestamp, comments, tags
- About Me
- Blogroll
- Archives
- Categories/Tags
- RSS



## Open Wide, Look Inside

A blog about teaching elementary math, science and social studies, with heavy emphasis on the integration of children's literature across the curriculum.

<http://blog.richmond.edu/openwidelookinside/>

# Blogs by Teachers

**creative literacy**

Living, loving and learning at home and in the classroom

<http://creativeliteracy.blogspot.com/>

A banner for the 'Talkworthy' blog. It features a background image of green ferns. The word 'Talkworthy' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**Talkworthy**

<http://talkworthy.blogspot.com/>

**what the research says**

early literacy research distilled for educators

<http://www.whattheresearchsays.net/>

# Blogs by Literacy Coaches

## COACHING CHRONICLES

I am an instructional coach in a community of learners and leaders. My colleagues are passionate learning leaders who truly believe our journey is a mission from god. Our vision centers on Relationships, Risks, and Results. We... "Risk more than others think is safe. Care more than others think is wise. Dream more than others think is practical. Expect more than others think is possible."



<http://coachingchronicles.blogspot.com/>

## K-12 Literacy Coach

RESOURCES FOR K-12 COACHES

<http://literacycoachonline.wordpress.com/>

## Notes on Instructional Coaching

Comments by Jim Knight, from the Kansas University Center for Research on Learning

<http://jimknightoncoaching.squarespace.com/>

# Blogs about Children's Literature



## A YEAR OF READING

TWO TEACHERS WHO READ. A LOT.

<http://readingyear.blogspot.com/>

## The Miss Rumphius Effect

The blog of a teacher educator discussing poetry, children's literature and issues related to teaching children and their future teachers.

<http://missrumphiuseffect.blogspot.com/>

# Publishers & Organizations



<http://blog.stenhouse.com/>



<http://blogs.scholastic.com/research/>



<http://www.hbook.com/blog/>

# Organizations

**LCC** Literacy Coaching Clearinghouse

<http://www.literacycoachingonline.org/blog.html>

**NCTE** National Council of  
Teachers of English

A Professional Association of Educators in English Studies, Literacy, and Language Arts

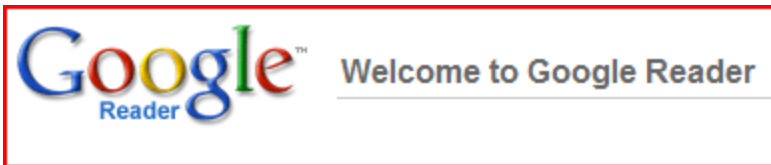
<http://www.ncte.org/>

Reading TODAY *Daily*

<http://www.reading.org/General/Publications/blog.aspx>

# This is great, but who has the time?

- News aggregators!



# Back to the where we started...

“With the investment of a bit of time and effort, I’ve found a group of writers to follow who expose me to more interesting ideas in one day than I’ve been exposed to in the past 10 years of costly professional development. Professional growth for me starts with 20 minutes of blog browsing each morning, sifting through the thoughts of practitioners whom I might never have been able to learn from otherwise and considering how their work translates into what I do with students.”

-Bill Ferreter

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