

## Blogging as a reflective tool in journalism education

Journalism education has a strong experiential component. Reflection can be utilized to encourage critical thinking and to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

Blogging, a form of online communication, can be utilized as one method of reflection.

Potential advantages of blogging include the opportunity for an immediate, feedback; and encouragement of discussion and collaboration.

Blogging offers professional relevance for research, networking, and building an on-line presence for employability.

Blogging is flexible in its application, including group or individual blogs, private and/or group access, as well as subject matter.

Limitations include cost, internet access, support.

Journalism educators can utilize blogs to assess key course learning objectives.

Journalism educators need to be clear about why they are encouraging their students to blog.

Many news organizations have policies and guidelines for blogging and social media usage. We recommend an exploration of such guidelines to help journalism students.

