

Denice Buchanan

Beverly Choltco-Devlin

IST 605

August 4, 2008

Lesson Plan: How Students can Create a Blog for a Library Media Center

Outline of Objective

The lesson would involve teaching students a general background of blogs and why they can be useful. The lesson would also cover how to “blog safe,” as students and library media specialist would begin the process of creating a blog for the library media center. This project would potentially be something that is ongoing throughout a semester or even school year. Students would be active participants in the blogs creation and growth, able to post original ideas, as well as comment on other students’ posts.

Target Audience

This lesson would be appropriate to teach to a group of students in grades 7-12.

Preparation

- find good resources online that can help to teach blog safety

(<http://www.safeteens.com/teen-guide-to-safe-blogging/>)

- research different sites that host free blogs, such as Blogger and Wordpress, and decide which one will work best for the media center (needs to allow for multiple posters so all members of the class can participate in original posts and responses to other students posts)
- find other junior/senior high school media centers who utilize a blog, and bookmark these site to share with students during lesson
- prep a computer and projector for lesson
- get permission forms prepared for students to take home to parents/guardians (need permission before creating individual account names)

Procedure

- discuss what a blog is and what makes them so popular
(<http://weblogs.about.com/od/startingablog/p/WhatIsABlog.htm>)
- discuss rules of “smart” blogging and it’s relation to internet safety
- talk about the objectives of our libraries blog (write book reviews, promote activities in the library) – ask students to come up with idea for what to post about
- have students break into small groups (2-3 students) and brainstorm ideas for the blog’s name
- create account on Blogger, which allows for team blogs with a system administrator (library media specialist – administrator can set settings and permissions for each user)
- on their own, students create accounts for our blog, and, in collaboration with other classes (possibly language arts), post items (book reviews, etc.) throughout the semester, pending parent permission

Desired Outcomes

- Students writing and communication skills will be improved. Students lagging in reading and writing skills may be motivated to try something different.
- Students will develop an understand of not only basic Internet skills, but also how to be safe on the web.
- Students will become inspired to read and write about a variety of books, as each will become a published book reviewer.
- Students will develop skills necessary to examine and evaluate the information they find on the web.

Assessing the Learning Experience

After the first library session, ask students to write on note cards what the most important item they learned was, if anything. Discuss these results the next time the session meets. Also, if time allowed, it would be interesting to conduct a quick survey before the session to see what students were familiar with blogs and how many of them currently have or read them.

Many of the outcomes need to be assessed throughout the semester (such as developing better literacy skills). Posts could be saved to a student file, and throughout the semester, it can be determined if their writing skills are progressing and if they are using more critical thinking skills.