

## Using Journal LX in Blackboard: Creating a Blog in your Course

*Creating and configuring a blog for yourself and your students*

**Consider this:** While there are many external blogging tools, Journal LX allows you to create and modify blogs within a course in Blackboard. You are allowed to set permissions on the blogging tool to create a personal, one on one reflective blog between yourself and a student, or allow for a group conversation.

### How do I do it?

1. Start by launching your web browser and logging in to Blackboard. Launch the course (in Blackboard) in which you'd like to use the blogging tool.
2. Click on the CONTROL PANEL in the Blackboard left hand menu. Once in the control panel, click on CONFIGURE BLOG TOOL in the course tools area (see *graphic at right*)
3. Once in the blog tool configuration, notice the very first option – “allow students to create blog entries.” Once you locate this item, click the option YES.
4. For the other options in the blog configuration tool, please select items according to your discretion. For most courses, clicking YES to allow students to VIEW and ADD comments to course blogs is a useful option.
5. After configuring blog preferences, click OK at the bottom of the page. Click OK again on the page with a smiley face.
6. Back in the control panel, click in any CONTENT AREA in which you would like to deploy a blog.
7. In the content area, click on the right hand pull down menu and select BLOG. Then click GO on the right hand side of the pull down menu.
8. In the blog creation menu, give your blog a NAME, add a description if you would like, and decide whether you want a group blog or a private blog – in a private blog, students will see only their own entries, not those of their classmates.
9. In the blog creation menu, you can also add students to GROUPS and/or allow for select individuals to see/use this new blog. Typically, you would also want for students to view and write comments as shown in the graphic on the right.
10. Click OK twice to go back to your content area. You can view the newly added blog at the bottom of this page. Click on VIEW to see your blog. Then click on NEW ENTRY in the right hand side of your screen. (*Graphic*). Type in your new blog entry in the text field, then click SAVE.



Allow members of the blog to:

|                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | View Comments  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Write Comments |



11. You have just created your first blog in blackboard! You can also make comments on the blog using this tool. In addition, group blogs allow for public comments and discussion. You can see the comments option on the right hand side of the page.