

TEACHER LED INNOVATION PROJECT

Professional development session No. 1 - Commenting on student blogs

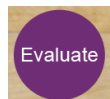
Some guidelines around making quality comments on student blogs that are constructive and enhance learning.

WHY COMMENT ON STUDENT BLOGS?

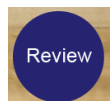
It is important for us to realise that when we comment on student work we are ***modelling how those students should comment*** on the blogs of others. More importantly though, ***we are providing support for our students as they become reflective (thinking) learners.***



<http://teacherchallenge.edublogs.org/step-4-teach-quality-commenting-skills/>

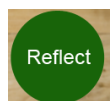


Student evaluates their learning and decides what to blog about prior to adding post.

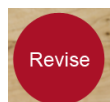


Student reviews their learning via their blog post

*** COMMENTS ARE INVITED/ADDED ***



Comments posted by readers prompt student reflection/thought about their learning/work



Student revises practice/work and the cycle continues; she posts again

Commenting on student blogs also helps ***build relationships*** with students, gives us ***insight into students' prior knowledge and backgrounds***, provides ***opportunity to co-construct/scaffold*** based on learning occurring in other subject areas and provides ***opportunity for brief formative feedback***.

HOW TO COMMENT ON STUDENT BLOGS

Our comments need to be **positive**, **give constructive feedback** and **provide questions that prompt the student to reflect on her learning**.

There are many sites that provide you with a number of tips about commenting in a quality way. A youtube clip we'd suggest you take the time to view is [this one](#) by Nicolas Weiss.

In an attempt to provide you with four easy 'rules' to commenting on blogs we've narrowed it to the following. We suggest this is a model we can all use as staff in order to ensure consistency in our comments to them.

These are -

1. **Be positive/give a compliment**
2. **Be specific**
3. **Add something you know, something factual**
4. **Ask a question that prompts reflection**

There are some structural elements we consider important when commenting also.

Remembering we are modelling commenting to students, it is important we as teachers do the following -

1. **Capitalisation - at the beginning of sentences and for proper nouns**
2. **No 'text talk' - BTW, FYI, LOL etc**
3. **Spell correctly**
4. **Open with a greeting; end with closing**
5. **Always use names - the students and your own**