

## The Art and Aspirations of a Commenter

I believe in the power of a free exchange of ideas. I also recognize that words or access to some information can be of harm to others, intentionally or unintentionally. As a commenter, I therefore aspire to participate responsibly in the great online conversation by:

- treating all bloggers with respect.
- seeking first to understand what is being said.
- celebrating another's accomplishments.
- using school appropriate language.
- rephrasing ideas in the blog that made me think, made me feel, or helped me learn to let the blogger know his/her voice has been heard.
- commenting specifically and positively, without criticism. If I disagree, I will comment appropriately, politely stating my perspective.
- being mindful always that I may be a role model to my audience, especially if they are younger than I.
- making no reference to, link to, and/or giving access to any information that may be inappropriate for a school setting.
- asking at least one question in my comment with the hopes of continuing a conversation and deepening thinking.
- using a triple check before submitting any comment: Would I be happy to have my mother read this comment? My grandmother? My favorite teacher?

*(Adapted from*

<http://newballetcommenting.blogspot.com/2006/03/art-and-aspirations-of-commenter.html>)