

TECHNO ©LPPH

Technology Instruction Page



KidBlog

Blogging -- or Web logging -- most often is thought of as an activity for high school students. However, students as young as kindergarten can now blog on a daily basis in a variety of exciting ways.

At its core, blogging -- or Web logging -- is an online diary or journal. Look at any blog and you'll see the connection between it and a traditional diary. Often arranged in calendar format with the most recent post first, blogs contain messages, wishes, commentary, and anything else a writer thinks about, often with graphics and perhaps even with audio and video elements.

A blog is a Web-publishing concept that enables anyone - including elementary students to publish information on the Internet. Blogs have also become a highly effective way to help students to become better writers. Research has long shown that students write more, write in greater detail, and take greater care with spelling, grammar, and punctuation, when they are writing to an authentic audience over the Internet.

Kidblog is one of the easiest sites to use to set up a blog account to use with students.

From the Kidblog website:

Kidblog is Different:

*Kidblog.org is built by teachers, for teachers, so students can get the most out of the blogging process. Kidblog meets the need for a **safe** and **simple** blogging platform suitable for elementary and middle school students. Most importantly, Kidblog allows teachers to monitor and control all publishing activity within the classroom blogging community.*

Kidblog is safe:

Kidblog's advanced privacy features put safety first:

- *Teachers have administrative control over all student blogs and student accounts.*
- *Your students' blogs are private by default - viewable only by classmates and the teacher.*
- *For "semi-public" blogs, set up guest (e.g. parent) accounts that require a password to view students' posts/comments.*
- *Comment privacy settings block unsolicited comments from outside sources.*
- *Kidblog does not collect any personal information from teachers or students.*

Kidblog is simple:

Kidblog helps your students focus on what's important:

- *No advertising of any kind.*

- *Simple login menus allow students to select their name from a list of students in the class, eliminating the need to memorize usernames.*
- *Clutter-free design means your students will spend less time fussing with widgets/options and more time publishing.*
- *Central blog directory and simple navigation links make it easy for students to find classmates' blogs.*

Let's get started!

1. Set up your free account by going to Kidblog.org and setting up your account. All you need is a Username, Password, and Email.



2. Customize your Kidblog account as you please. One of the great things about KidBlog is that there are only 5 tabs to choose from when making Customization.

Dashboard:

Here you can get a quick view of your blog.

New Post:

This tab allows you to begin a new post for your readers.

Review Posts:

This tab allows you to quickly see all of your posts, make edits, etc. This is where you would go if you created a post and saved it as a draft to come back to later.

Comments:

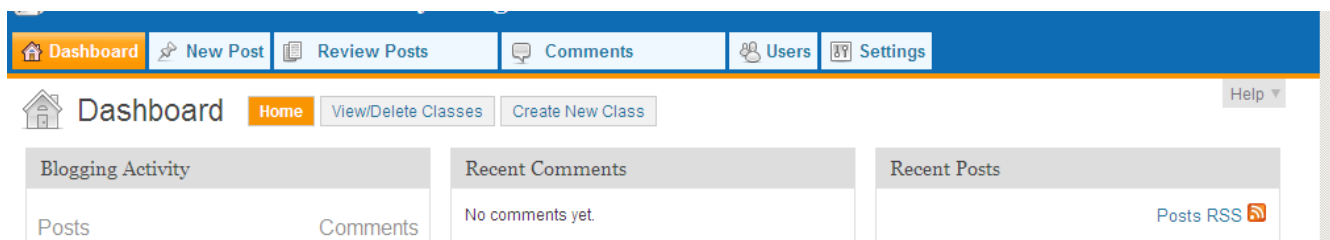
This tab allows you to view comments that have been made by users.

Users:

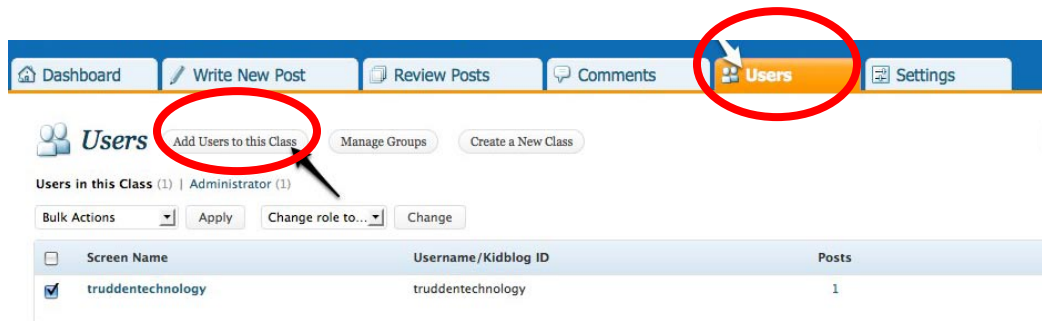
This tab is where you go to set up your classes and students.

Settings:

This tab allows you to modify the settings of the blog as a whole. This is where you can also change any permissions and backgrounds.



3. Add students to your class. First click on the Users Tab. Then click on Add New users to this Class.

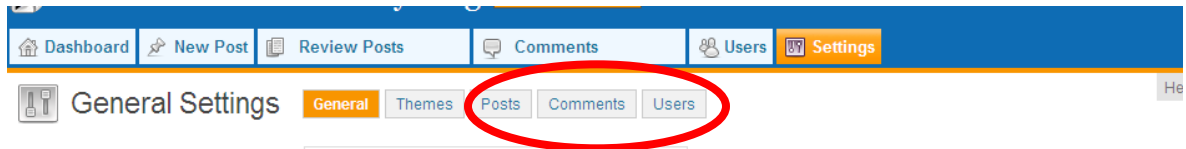


Next, add your users. You can decide on the format you want to use to give your students usernames or you can also make it generic like student1, student2, etc. Make sure you select "student" as their Role. Decide on a password to give each student or use the same password for all students. You can also add parents if you wish for them to be a part of your blog.

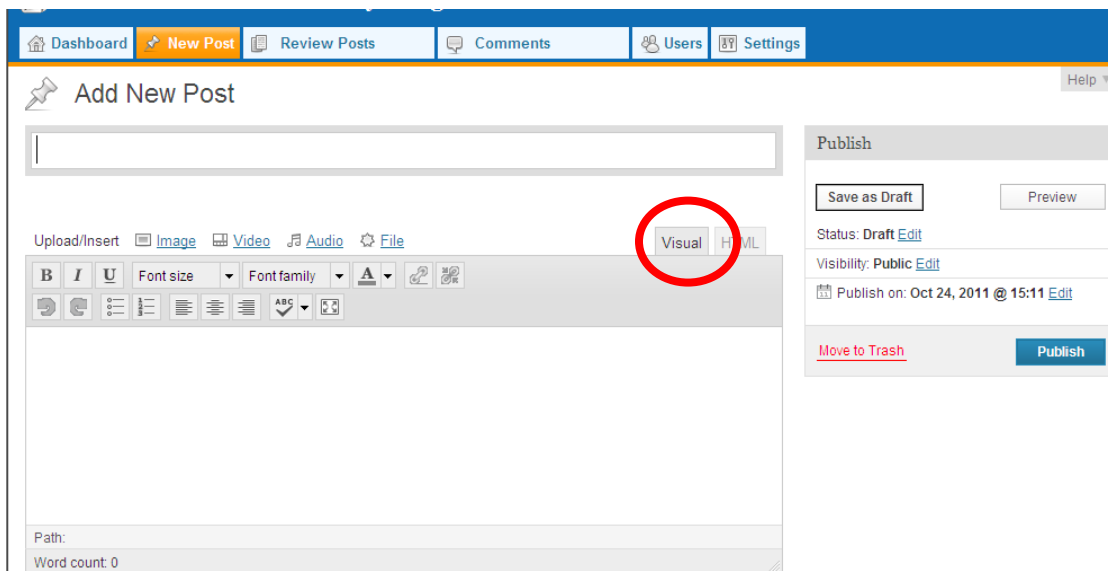
The 'Add New User' form is shown. It has a title 'Add New User' and a link 'Back to List of Students/Users'. Below the title, there's a yellow box saying 'New user added:'. The main form area has instructions: 'Use this form to create new users and add them to your Kidblog class(es). Or [add existing users](#) from other classes. Or [bulk-create](#) new users by uploading a "CSV" file.' The form fields are:

- Username: 12s058
- Password: masked with asterisks
- Role: Student (dropdown menu)
- Buttons: 'Add User' (blue) and 'Cancel' (grey)

4. Once you have created your class, be sure to go to the "Settings" tab and beside "General Settings" check the "Posts," "Comments," and "Users" tabs to make sure the settings are the way you want them for your own specific class.



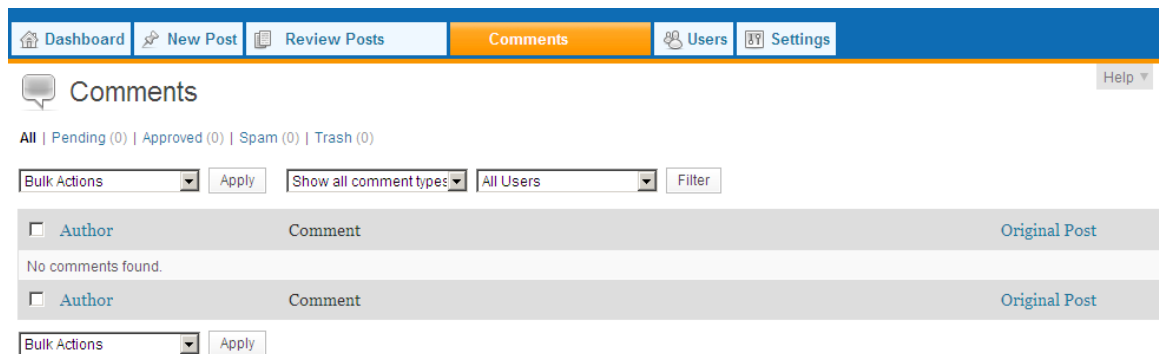
5. Once you have added all your students and checked your settings, now you are ready to make a post. Go back to the dashboard and click on "New Post."



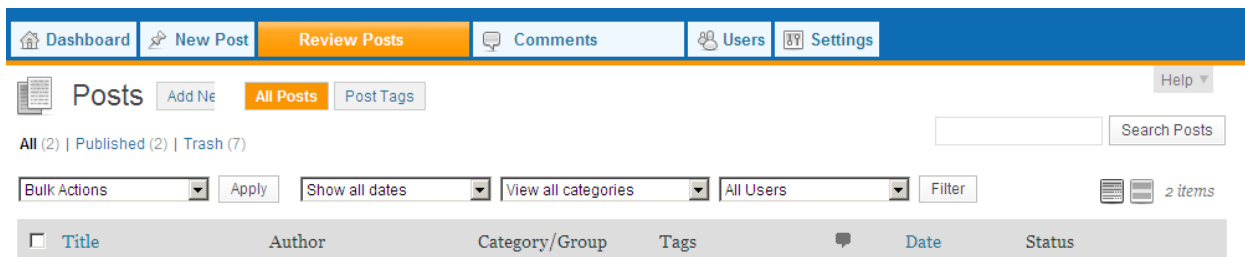
Type in a title for your post and then type your message. You can change the font type and color and explore other options in the

“visual” text box. Click on “Publish” when you are ready for your post to show.

Under the “Comments” tab, you can approve or delete comments to your post. Be sure to check here often to approve comments so that others in the class can view what is being posted by their classmates!



You can check to see who sent the comment and when it was sent under the “Review Posts” tab.



Now you are ready to start your class blogging!

Name_____Date_____

Grade Level_____

Documentation Page



KidBlog

I have created a Kidblog account and have posted at least 3 new posts for my students to respond to throughout the year. I have linked my Kidblog site to my teacher webpage, wiki, or my own personal class webpage that I use with my parents and/or students. I have sent my LMS an invitation to be a member of my blog and he/she has responded on at least 3 of my blog posts.

Signature_____