

Professional Blog Instructions
Revised 4/17/2009
EDM 310
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Carefully review my old Professional Blog as well as my new one (which I am working on). Links to both are on the class blog under Other EDM310 Class Blogs.

In working on your Professional Blog, you will have to take into consideration the TECHNICAL requirements as well as the CONTENT requirements.

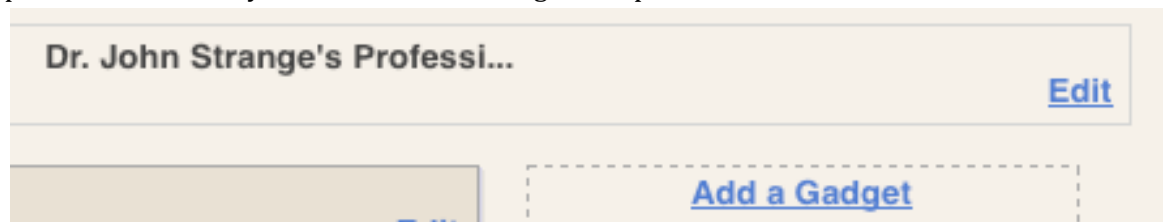
Lets look at the CONTENT requirements first. This blog is assigned for several reasons. First, I want you to learn about other ways you can use a blog. Second, I want you to reflect (I hope this will be ongoing) on your professional practice as a teacher. Since you are not yet teaching, at this stage of your career you have to concentrate on the attitudes, aptitudes, approaches and tools that you plan to use in your teaching. Several of you have decided to title your effort as a statement of your Teaching Philosophy. That is fine. My requirements are that:

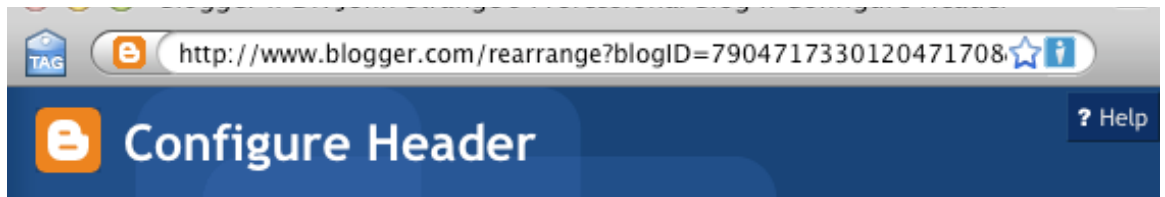
1. You identify at least six unique attitudes, aptitudes, approaches and tools that you intend to use as a teacher. At least one of these must have something to do with technology – a tool that you will use, an approach to the use of technology that you will adopt (including never use if you really mean that – but you will have to defend your position!)
2. Next, make an outline of these in short, precise statements. Look at the kinds of things I have listed in my latest Professional Blog. Each tool, attitude, or approach that I identify as key to my teaching is the title for my posts. In the post itself I elaborate on the tool, attitude, or approach. Note that several are not yet complete. I will complete them soon, but I really will never “complete” them since I intend to review them every semester. That is what I want for you to do as well.
3. When you have your list complete, create posts for each. Just put your short statements into the post tile. Come back later, if you wish, and write an explanation of why you will do this. Give examples if appropriate. Again, see my Professional Blog.
4. At some point (before the end of the class), complete your posts.

Now lets look at the TECHNICAL requirements for your Professional Blog. This picture shows my COMPLETE Layout for my professional blog.



1. You must have a subheader for your blog. To put in a subheader,, you must go to the layout area of your blog. Chick on the Edit button of the very top box (but not the NAV Bar) in the layout. It will have the title of your blog in it. See the first picture below. You will open the Configure Header window. See the second picture below. Add your subtitle in the Blog Description area. Save.





2. You must have your picture in the small column of your layout. Put your name in the Title area. Post your picture as you normally would. The gadget you use is called the Picture gadget. When the window opens it will be labeled Configure Image.
3. Add an HTML/Java Script gadget. In the Title area type Email Me. In the Content area type `John Strange` making two changes. Replace my email address with yours. Replace my name with yours. Yes, there is a space between my first and last name!
4. Drag the Email me gadget under your Picture gadget.
5. Create a Text Gadget and drag it above the Blog Posts Gadget. You may have to drag it under the Blog Posts gadget first and then drag the Blog Posts box down. Leave the Title area blank. In the Content area type: About me... and make bold. (Drag across it and click the b button). Hit return. Write a brief description of who you are. Some of the things you might want to consider including are: year in school, area of teaching you want to enter, why you want to be a teacher, or anything else that could describe you, in a professional way, as a person.
6. Add a text gadget and drag it under the About me... text gadget. Leave the Title area blank. In the Content area type: `My Teaching Philosophy` exactly as I have it. You can change purple to another color (red, blue, green, orange, pink, etc if you want).
7. Add a link list gadget at the bottom of the small side of your layout. Leave the Title blank. You will want to add a link for your entire blog. In the New Site URL area type the URL for your professional blog. You can either copy the URL from your blog or construct it this way: `http://yourlastname yourfirstinitial edm310spring310 pb.blogspot.com` There should be NO SPACES when you finish. Make sure only one `http://` is there. In the New Site Name Area put Entire Blog (Home).

REMOVE CANCEL SAVE

Title

Number of links to show in list *Leave blank to show all links*

Sorting

New Site URL

New Site Name

ADD LINK

Edit Delete ↓	Complete Blog (Home)
Edit Delete ↑ ↓	Change ClassRoom to ClassSpace
Edit Delete ↑ ↓	Learning and Demonstrating Abilities in Public
Edit Delete ↑ ↓	No Burp Back Education!
Edit Delete ↑	Twittering

REMOVE CANCEL SAVE

8. Add a link for all your posts. The URL for a specific post can be obtained by going to your professional blog, clicking on the title of a post, copying the URL from the browser address area, pasting it into the New Site URL Area. In the New Site Name Area type a short for of your post title. For example, one of my post titles is Encouraging the Reflective Practitioner. A good name for this link might be Reflections on Practice. Continue until you have links for all your post titles. Always keep Entire Blog (Home) at the top. Arrange the others alphabetically by clicking on the tall arrows (look closely after the link names. One moves the link up, one moves it down.

Making Your Posts Look Better

Click the Edit button in the Blog Post box. Uncheck everything that is checked. Save. This makes your posts not appear as posts!

OPTIONS

You could opt to use text boxes instead of posts. It actually looks better. For the headers, use the same technique as we used in the text box for My Teaching Philosophy. Type

```
<span style="font-weight: bold;font-size:180%;" ><span style="color:purple;">My  
Teaching Philosophy</span></span>
```

Change the 180 to 120. Experiment with the size if you don't like what 120 does. Change the color, even to black, if you want. Change My Teaching Philosophy to YOUR TITLE for this section.

If you follow this technique you do not need a link button since the text boxes can be moved up and down to achieve alphabetical order.

The above text boxes should be in the large column of your layout. See Johnie Aughtman's Professional Blog (T2) as an example:

<http://aughtmanjedm310spring09pb.blogspot.com/>

Option 2

Angel Jackson (T2) copied and pasted a brief resume into a text box under her Email Me text box.

<http://jacksonaedm310spring09pb.blogspot.com/>

I like it. If you like it, follow her lead!