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BLOGGING IN THE CLASSROOM

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"Welcome, to blogging!"

What is blogging? A blog today is a user's personal page in the form of a diary or journal. A blog is usually created by one person who, if desired, can post on his page both text material and photographs, audio and video recordings, links to other Internet resources. Any blog user, having familiarized himself with the content of the site, can somehow react to the published text or viewed photos by posting his comments on the blog. Blogs are considered one of the social services of the Internet, since they create conditions for communication between people united by common interests, but separated by space. For the established objective reasons, the vast majority of research on the use of blogs in language teaching has been conducted in the United States and Western Europe since 1990s [1, p. 245]. According to the American Heritage Dictionary (4th ed., 2006), a blog is "a website containing the writer's or group of writers' own experiences, observations, opinions, etc., and often having images and links to other websites" [2].

The following types of blogs are used in the educational process: a teacher's blog, individual study and collective study blogs. Let's take a closer look at the content and methodological potential of each of the three types of blogs.

A teacher's blog is a type of blog that is created and managed by a foreign language teacher. The blog may contain personal information about interests, hobbies, travel, vacation time, and the teacher's family. In this case, this blog will serve as an example for students to create their own personal blogs. Also, the teacher's blog may contain information about the course or subject:

Course program (for a week, a month, a quarter);

Homework;

Information about the material studied in a particular lesson;

Recommended sources in a foreign language for additional study (reading and listening);

Links to information and reference Internet resources;

Links to educational Internet resources on the topics studied;

Links to network tests on the topics studied for optional independent work (for example, after studying a specific grammatical time, learners can test themselves by taking the test online). Such content on the teacher's blog will be useful for students to refine their homework and get links to additional sources for extracurricular work.

When working with the teacher's blog, students will develop their reading skills in a foreign language. In this regard, the blog will act as a functional type of text, on the basis of which students can develop the following reading skills:

Highlight the necessary facts/information;

To extract the necessary/interesting information;

Evaluate the importance of information.

Individual study blog: the teacher can invite students to create their own blogs. In this case, the teacher's blog will serve as a model for students to build personal blogs. In their blogs in the foreign language they are studying, students can provide information about their date and place of birth, family, hobbies, interests, friends, achievements in school or sports, links to their favorite Internet sites, photos and videos. Due to the fact that Internet resources are available to all users from different parts of the world, students can restrict access to personal information if necessary. In addition, for the same reason, depending on the language training of students, the blog materials can be verified by the teacher before they are posted online.

Students may be asked to add new information on a weekly basis (first about their interests and hobbies, then about the past holidays, etc.), as well as to get acquainted with the blogs of their classmates and comment on the information posted in the blogs of classmates.

At the senior level of secondary education (basic and specialized levels), students' personal blogs can act as electronic portfolios containing a collection of materials (essays, photos) that demonstrate personal achievements over a certain period of time.

When working with personal blogs, students develop the following skills:

- Writing skills – write personal information, about interests and hobbies (the author of the blog).

- Creative thinking skill – write fictional stories and create different ideas.

- Critical thinking – reflect and analyze the written stories.

- Time planning skills-blogging can be compared to a crash course in time management. You should find time for your regular work (if any), family, planning and creating posts, responding to readers ' emails, etc.

- Communication skills – you will learn how to cooperate with different groups of people (customers, readers) in a mutually beneficial way.

- Social media promotion skills – as a blogger, you need to interact with your readers on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and other social networks. You also need to develop your own social media promotion strategy to attract as many readers to your blog as possible.

- Speaking skills – communicate with people all over the world and discuss interesting topics.

- Vocabulary – learn new words and use necessary language means for expressing opinions when commenting on other blogs.

- To give extra reading practice for students.

This reading can be performed by the teacher, other students in the same class, or, in the case of comments posted to a blog, by people from all over the world.

– To guide students to online resources appropriate for their level.

The Internet has a bewildering array of resources that are potentially useful for your students. The problem is finding and directing your learners to them. For this reason, you can use your tutor blog as a portal for your learners.

– To encourage shy students to participate.

There is evidence to suggest that students who are quiet in class can find their voice when given the opportunity to express themselves in a blog.

– To stimulate out-of-class discussion.

A blog can be an ideal space for pre-class or post-class discussion. And what students write about in the blog can also be used to promote discussion in class.

– As an online portfolio of student written work.

There is much to be gained from students keeping a portfolio of their work. One example is the ease at which learners can return to previous written work and evaluate the progress they have made during a course.

– To help build a closer relationship between students in large classes.

Sometimes students in large classes can spend all year studying with the same people without getting to know them well. A blog is another tool that can help bring students together.

Collective learning blog-this type of blog is designed specifically for organizing extracurricular discussion of the subject under study (watching a movie, reading a book, etc.) by the entire study group or class.

The blog can start with a question for discussion or a text (audio, video), followed by comments from students. Depending on the goal, the format of messages/comments can be arbitrary (what will be written), or you can follow a specific format. An example of the latter would be a task to write two messages. For the first time, students must express their first opinion after reading a book / story or watching a movie. The second time – to discuss the opinions of others, to agree with some and disagree with others, to argue their agreement/disagreement.

Before preparing dialogic or monologic statements and before writing the essays discussing different types of blogs will help students to express their own point of view on a subject which is not always possible in the class discussion, and secondly, to hear the opinions of others and learn to accept pluralism and cultural diversity as the norm coexistence in the modern multicultural world, thirdly, to develop skills of critical thinking.

The number of participants in a blog discussion is important. Each new participant is a different mindset and opinion, which is necessary to get acquainted with in order to determine their own position. That is why it is important to involve the maximum number of people in the discussion when organizing work on a blog. Discussion will be of great importance both for increasing the motivation of communication in a foreign language, and for getting acquainted with the opinions of others.

Unlike personal blogs of students, each of which is located on a separate page, the blog of the study group contains comments students are placed on the same page one by one. This makes it much easier to get to know the opinions of others and encourages discussion. Despite the different formats, topics and goals of the blog, it is worth recalling their stable characteristics – blogs are always personal in nature, have a social orientation and a time characteristic.

When creating a blog, each user should keep in mind certain canons that allow you to convey to the user that this is not just a site with this or that information.

The main features of the blog include:

Reverse order of entries (any fresh news or text is always published above outdated information);

Ability to combine different blogs of other authors on one page;

Providing feedback through user comments and questions;

Using a large number of links (each post inside the blog can have its own separate link so that any user can share it).

Thus, we can say that blogging as a pedagogical technology is a new phenomenon, but quite promising. Blogs provide their authors and readers with a wide range of tools for development, learning and communication in a circle of common interests. Blogs can be of interest to a large circle of readers: students, their parents, students. The undoubted advantage of blogs is their versatility. They allow you to develop writing skills, conditions for personal self-expression, allow you to establish contact with a teacher, student, parents of students. Blogs give any person who comes to the site an opportunity to reveal their deeply hidden talents and unique opportunities.

Which Blogging platform will you use?

Blogger

www.blogger.com/start
This free site run by Google is a very public site. You do have options of moderating comments or not. Each student has his/her own blog. You can have access to each blog, as Blogger allows for multiple authors. All blogs and comments are approved by either a student or a teacher prior to posting. Note– Blogger does have a "Next Blog" button on the top of each blog. This button brings readers to another Blogger site, not necessarily related to education [3].

I hope that this article will help you begin to make a change in your classroom. We can make changes one class- room at a time. And blogging is a tool that can help us move toward that change. It is an engaging educational communication tool that easily spans subject areas and is useful for all ages. Welcome to blogging and to a wonderful new world of education for the world as it is now and will be in the future.

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THE USE OF ICT FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF INDEPENDENT WORK OF STUDENTS IN THE STUDY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE.

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Nowadays, in the field of education, interest in independent work of students has revived mainly due to the growing use of ICT. Along with the recent understanding of learning theories, constructivism has also contributed, as a result, independent work of students has taken on a new role. So what is ICT in education? Currently, there are several definitions of ICT, including the definition given by Ajayi. According to him, it is defined as a diverse set of technological tools and resources used to communicate, create, distribute, store and manage information. [1, p.5]

Based on the views of scientists, we understand independent work of students as a series of causal actions that require their creative thinking, such as planning itself, orientation, testing and conclusions while working on a computer.

What is the relationship between ICT and independent work of students or self-study? To clarify the relationship between them, it is necessary to have an operational definition of the self-learning concept, as well as a catalog of digital tools. Only on this defining basis can one learn how ICT can contribute to the development of self-directed learning.

As previously mentioned, independent work comes from a variety of disciplines that have also given him different traits throughout his career. Since the interest of this study is focused on the teaching-learning context of an FL, all the characteristics of self-directed learning typical of this subject will be considered first.