

Comments from student evaluations over three years of using the blogs:

I feel I have become a lot more aware in composing in print and digital. The blog work made me “digitally sound”...

I am more aware of writing to a specific audience...

For the blog posts, I'd like you to teach us how to be more engaging (to write more engaging posts)...

What was challenging about the course was using the blog because I'm not good at computers...

I learned how to make a blog and I feel like a more rhetorically aware composer...

I became more digitally aware by using a blog...

Overview:

*Those who commented positively on the blog did so when asked whether it helped them to become “rhetorically aware.” Students noted their realization that there were different audiences to compose to, and their new awareness of rhetorical situation as a result of using digital vs. print composing techniques.

*If students did not like the blog component, they were sure to say so in the feedback. Most said that it was because they did not like technology. Usually this was one or two evaluations out of twenty.

*Students felt that the blog added work to the course—about half described it as “challenging” while the other half described it as “too much” work. Those who said it was challenging said it created pressure but overall they appreciated the course and learned a lot. Those who said it was too much work indicated that they were less adept or enthusiastic about “technology” or “computers.”

*Students appreciated the daily calendar updates.