Let's Pre-Blog! Using Blogs as Prewriting Tools in Elementary Classrooms
Nicole Luongo

Abstract
This article describes the instructional practice of combining prewriting and blogging to teach writing in current elementary classrooms. In today's world, educators need to prepare students for writing and reading in the 21st century. Therefore, schools must start accepting and using new literacies such as blogging when teaching the language arts. This article presents a thorough background and rationale for why teachers should use new literacies such as blogging when prewriting with elementary students. The fundamental basics of prewriting and blogging are discussed. Also, several types of popular prewriting strategies that teachers can use with a blog are explained and illustrated.

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New Horizons for Learning is published by the Johns Hopkins School of Education and The Sheridan Libraries.

Prewriting is a term that describes any kind of preliminary work that precedes the actual paper writing. It doesn't necessarily have to be writing. In fact, prewriting can just be concentrated thinking about what you want to write your paper on. Various prewriting techniques are expanded upon below. What are good prewriting techniques? I'm glad you asked! In the rest of this handout, you'll find a variety of useful techniques to help you get started on pretty much any writing project. If you're not sure where to start, just pick one and try it out. After you've tested a couple, you'll probably develop a sense of your most successful prewriting strategies and can choose the techniques that best suit your writing and thinking style. Brainstorming, Prewriting Strategy #2 Clustering or Mapping, if you prefer to work with information visually, clustering might the ideal strategy for you. Clustering is a technique to generate ideas and show the connection between ideas using circles and lines. To use the clustering technique, follow these steps. Write the main in the center of a piece of paper and draw a circle around it. Write as many ideas as you can in circles around the main circle. Connect the ideas to main circle using lines. Write more ideas and repeat this process as you see necessary.