

## What happens when ELA students are taught to blog?

I wanted to do this research to prove what I felt to be true, that technology can be an amazing tool when used with ELA students. I have seen the projects and tools that GT or honor students were doing with these tools, but I had not seen these tools used with the students that I work with and care about.

I have personally experienced the growth in my own learning as a student and as a teacher by creating and reflecting on my own blog. I wanted my students to have the same experience and opportunity. I wanted to see if blogging would improve student writing, the classroom community and students' ability to reflect on content.

### Treatment Process

Time period: four weeks

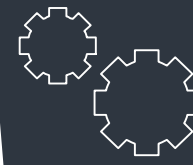
- Students created and designed their own blogs using [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)
- Students viewed the blogs of other professionals to understand what a blog was
- Students answered a question posted on the teacher's blog
- Students reflected about the class period on their blog daily
  - Reflected using a teacher created writing format
  - Reflected using their own format
- Once a week students commented on the blogs of other students
  - I agree statements



### Conclusions

My findings were very positive. It appears that my students improved in all the areas I was looking at: writing, community and reflection on content. I would like to continue blogging with my students and encourage others to do so. As well I would like to make these results more valid by having a larger sample group and creating a better way to measure students' ability to reflect or look at their metacognition. I would also like to have them "cross-posting" more frequently and I would like to survey them to see how they felt about blogging and if they felt that they were growing in the areas that I was measuring.

I would also like to stress the importance of seeing blogging, and any other technology as a tool. It is not a lesson, nor is it a teacher. As with any new tool. It is important to teach the students how to use it if it is to be successful.



...80% of the students felt like they were part of a classroom community.  
...80% of the students improved their attitudes towards their classmates, their school and their classroom



...All students reached partially-proficient on the writing rubric  
...80% of the students moved an average of 4 points on the rubric  
...60% of the students improved their writing organization  
...100% of students improved the content in their writing



...students were able to discuss what they knew and didn't know  
...the word "learned" was used 50 times in their blogs

