

# Teaching Resources

## Blogging in the Feminist Classroom

PowerPoint is all the rage, and classroom response systems are picking up in popularity. Who hasn't noticed that new technologies for teaching and learning are proliferating, and that teachers at all levels are being encouraged to integrate these technologies into our classrooms? At the same time, blogs or weblogs on every topic imaginable are popping up all over the Internet. For example, in the 2004 presidential campaign, Howard Dean spread his campaign message online through his Blog for America (<http://blogforamerica.com>).

If you are unfamiliar with the format, blogs are like online diaries that often focus on a particular topic. Blogs typically contain links to other websites and other blogs. In addition, readers are often invited to leave comments. The idea is to create an online forum.

Blogging might very well be the newest form of consciousness raising and feminist networking. A brief search on websites that index blogs, such as [www.globeofblogs.com](http://www.globeofblogs.com), [www.blogwise.com](http://www.blogwise.com), and [www.bloglines.com](http://www.bloglines.com) results in multiple listings for weblogs about feminism, women's studies, and gender studies. Other websites like <http://feministblogs.org/>, which imagines itself as "a community of weblogs by self-identified feminists, women's liberation-

ists, womanists, and pro-feminist men . . . in order to raise awareness, bring together feminist voices, and promote cross-linking and discussion between feminist bloggers" contains listings for hundreds of self-identified feminist blogs.

Asking students to create their own blogs and to read other feminist blogs is potentially a way of integrating technology into the classroom while connecting students with feminist communities. In the classroom, blogs can do the work of journals, response papers, and class discussion simultaneously. Through blogging and reading blogs, students may encounter new texts, discover an activist project, or simply encounter the range of feminisms and feminist issues being discussed on the web.

For a great introduction to blogging, check out Vicki Tobias's "Blog This! An Introduction to Blogs, Blogging, and the Feminist Blogosphere" at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/fc/fcblogs1.htm>. Tobias gives a brief history of blogging, describes various kinds of blogs, and provides links to websites featuring weblog software. For listings of resources, including workshops and presentations for educators and for links to teaching blogs, visit [www.weblogg-ed.com](http://www.weblogg-ed.com).

How have you used blogs in your teaching? Send your stories and teaching tips to [feminist-teacher@uwec.edu](mailto:feminist-teacher@uwec.edu).