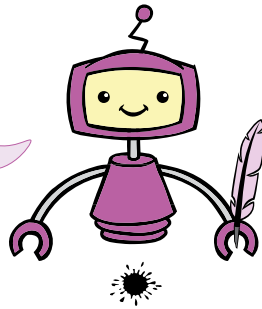


Guess who's coming to dinner

Do you maintain a blog? Blogs are a popular platform for sharing your ideas and opinions. Often, in the blogosphere, hot topics are discussed on a range of people's blogs, and attract a lot of comments. Let's find out more about using a blog to contribute to a topical debate ...



LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 8

Learning Object 4: *Sorry, what was that?*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 3

Module 8 Work Sheet 3: *Where the girls are*

1 Here's what I think

In Work Sheet 3, *Where the girls are*, you learnt a little about blogging, and read Meg's post about women's sports.

Online communities often include a range of people blogging about a shared interest. They might participate in this community by linking to each other's blogs, commenting on each other's posts, and subscribing to each other's blog feeds.

Many bloggers function in a similar way to the more old-fashioned notion of a public intellectual. Their blogs are a platform for delivering information and opinions about their field of interest. Bloggers may post on current trends in the field or offer critiques or reviews, gossip, advice and new information — a whole range of things — but most successful blogs are more than just a source of information. They provide context and colour, personality and pizzazz!

An 'expert' opinion

On a themed blog, most of the posts relate to that theme and will speak to an audience of peers.

Blogging is, by its very nature, a democratic platform. Anyone can write a blog or contribute a comment on someone else's blog. It is the task of the reader to critically evaluate the information presented and the qualifications or knowledge of the author.

Characteristics of a blog

A blog is usually written in an informal tone, using a mixture of first and second person, and writing in a way that is conscious of the fact that people will not only be reading the posts but may participate in the blog by contributing comments. When writing a blog post, remember to:

- include links to relevant sources of information, ideas or images
- include images to create visual interest
- invite interaction by asking questions or inviting others to share their opinions.

The good, the bad and the ugly

Blogs can be a great way to participate in a community, create a network of like-minded contacts, learn new information, gain insights into other people's lives and opinions, connect with people from all around the world, and stay up to date with cutting-edge trends.

Unlike an opinion piece in a newspaper, a blog post is part of a dynamic public conversation with a community of people, so it is also a great way to test your ideas with a broad range of readers.

(continued on following page)

Beware

Nevertheless, there are some important issues of which to be aware.

Blogging is a public activity. Anyone in the world can access your blog, post comments on it, link to it or talk about what you write on their blog, or on any other social networking platform!

Most of the time, people behave in an ethical and respectful way, but it is important to be aware that other people may have very different opinions

from yours, have different communication styles or even behave in a way you consider unethical or disrespectful.

How you manage your online identity, including your blog and the comments you post on others' blogs, is a personal matter. Decisions about how to behave online are very similar to the decisions you make about how to behave in the offline world, they will be influenced by your personality, your sense of community and your ethical decisions about appropriate interpersonal behaviour.



Exercises

Exercise 1

In this work sheet, you will be writing a blog post on an area of personal interest. Your final post will be in Indonesian, but you may do your planning and development (Exercises 1 and 2) in English or Indonesian.

The first step is to think of some ideas for your piece of writing. Write down any ideas that come to you, without worrying about whether they are 'good' ideas or not. The purpose is to generate as many ideas as you can.

1.1 First, choose a general field of interest and give your blog a title that relates to that interest.

For example: My blog is going to be about indie (independent) publishing. I'm going to call it '*Potong dan Tumis*'.

1.2 Think of some ideas for a blog post for your blog. List at least six ideas, in English.

Hint! You might like to seek inspiration by 'going fishing' for some ideas. Read some other blogs on similar themes, visit the library for books, catch up on the evening news or related television programs, or do some other background reading or research.

1.3 Choose one of your blog post ideas and, on a separate piece of paper, write down as many images, phrases, ideas or quotations as you can think of that relate to your idea. If you like, you can also include photographs or drawings that relate to the topic.

In the space below, note your ideas in English, Indonesian or a combination of both, keeping in mind that your final piece will be written in Indonesian.

Blog ideas

1.4 Highlight or circle the ideas that you would like to include in your blog post. Choose the ideas that you think are the most interesting or unique and that would work well together.

Exercise 2

Now that you have some ideas to work on, you can begin to flesh out the plan for your blog post.

Ideally, a blog post should be quite brief. A single 'screen', or about 200 words, is ideal. This is short enough to be read quickly, but long enough to fully develop an idea.

Plan the content of your blog post, which will be four paragraphs long. In English, write some dot points about ideas you can include in each of the paragraphs.

Introduction

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Conclusion
