

Step 10: Connect with other classes

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Welcome to the tenth step in our free professional learning series on **class and student blogging!**

The aim of this step is to explain the value of connecting with other classes and the types of projects educators use to develop global connections through blogging.

Why connect with other classes?

Connecting with other classes can have a huge impact on your class blog because:

1. Your students benefit from having an authentic and global audience
2. You gain from being supported by other educators — increasing your skills and developing new ideas that benefit your students

Watch Slivia Rosenthal Tolisano, Andrea Hernandez and their students explain why connecting with other classes is important in the [The Possibilities of student blogging](#).

An authentic and global audience is important because:

- When students are writing or publishing for an audience other than the teacher, it impacts how they view what they are doing and the intrinsic motivation they have.
- Students love seeing their work on the Internet and adore getting comments from people. It motivates them to write as it gives them an audience that is real. The blog opens up a whole new world of people who can offer encouragement and feedback.
- Blogging provides an authentic educational experience, where what they write is not only seen and commented on by their teacher, but by their peers and the “public.” For most students, it’s a bit of extra motivation knowing their peers will see their work.
- There is an authentic audience – a global audience – one that is willing to connect, share, challenge, discuss and communicate with classes. This audience can provide further information, opinions, suggest resources, seek answers to questions and so on which pushes blogging further.
- Provides real world problems and solutions to share.

Summarized from [The State of Educational blogging in 2012](#).

Read Kathleen Morris’s [Do and Don’t for forming friendships with other blogging classes](#).

How to get started?

There’s a wide range of options for connecting your class blogs (or student blogs) with other classes including:

Student Blogging Challenge

[The Student Blogging Challenge](#) runs twice yearly starting in March and September. It is made up of a series of 10 weekly tasks all designed to improve blogging and commenting skills while connecting students with a global audience and being supported by a team of blogging mentors.

The Challenge is open to both class blogs and to individual student bloggers from all over the world and of all ages. Participants can complete as many of the tasks as they like and in any order.

March, 2014 Challenge has over 110 Class blogs and 1300 student blogs participating from approximately 18 different countries.

Student Blogging Challenge
Challenge yourself to connect and learn through blogging

Home About Class Blog Help Register for March 2014 Class March 2014 Student March 2014

APRIL 13, 2014 BY MISS W.
Week 6: My visitors

Photo Credit: Ed Youdan via Compfight

You have been blogging now for at least five weeks.

Have you been getting many visitors?

Have you been receiving many comments?

Subscribe by Email
Completely spam free, opt out any time.
ex: someone@mydomain.com
Subscribe

March 2014 magazine
Flipboard
March 2014 Student Challenge
by lasreach

QuadBlogging

[QuadBlogging](#) involves connecting your class to a Quad group of four schools/classes.

Each Quad team has a coordinator who is responsible for making sure each of the quad members know what is going on and when. The Quad team rotates so that each week a different class blog is the focus of the task with the other three blogs visiting and commenting on that class blog during that week.

You can learn [more and register here for QuadBlogging](#) or learn more by [watching this video](#).

Since 2011, over 500,000 pupils from over 50 countries have taken part in Quadblogging!

Since its conception more and more teachers from across the globe have used Quadblogging to gain a genuine audience for their learners. Whether you are a Nursery teacher in Nigeria or an University Lecturer in Uruguay, Quadblogging will Quad you and your learners up with three other classes matching your preferences selected in the sign up process.

As a group of four, each week, a different class will be the focus class allowing the other three classes to visit and comment on the focus class blog. Over a cycle of 4 weeks, each class has their week as the focus class. Each Quad gets to decide how many cycles are completed and when you have completed the cycles, you simply come back and register for a new Quad. Quadblogging will now be a fluid project with no set timings aiming to give each participant a more flexible experience.

To learn more about Quadblogging, please visit the old site Quadblogging.net to browse through the information available.

[LEARN MORE](#)



To register for Quadblogging, please click on the the sign up button below. Quads have now been released, to view these click on the button below!

David Mitchell
@DeputyMitchell
Quadblogging Founder

[SIGN UP HERE!](#)

[VIEW THE CURRENT QUADS!](#)

100 Word Challenge

The 100 Word Challenge is a weekly creative writing challenge for children under 16 years of age.

Each week a prompt is given, which can be a picture or a series of individual words and the children can use up to 100 words to write a creative piece. This is posted on a class blog and then linked to the 100 Word Challenge blog. The link is usually open from midnight on Wednesdays until midnight the following Tuesdays.

You can read more about the [100 Word Challenge here](#) and [sign up here](#).



Comments4kids

Comments4kids is a hashtag used by educators to tweet student posts that deserves to be commented on such as a post that is awesome or student that needs encouragement.

Read [more about Comment4 kids here](#).

Refer to [The Twitteraholic's Ultimate Guide to tweets, hashtags, and all things Twitter](#) to learn how you can use Twitter to connect with other classes.

What now?

How did you go?

Also feel free to leave any questions you are having (or tips/advice) as well.

Or go to [Step 11: Set up student blogs](#).

