Student Interactions in Blackboard: Blogs, Wikis, and Journals

Blogs
A blog is a personal online journal that is intended to be shared with others and has the capability to allow other users to comment on the blog. The commenting allows students to interact with each other and express their thoughts and ideas. Blogs can give insight to how students view or see ideas, their activities, and a way for students to share their knowledge and resources they have found. Instructors create and manage blogs.

For more technical information on blogs, you can go to the Blackboard Help site below: https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Interact/Blogs

Wikis
Wikis allow students to contribute and modify one or more pages of created content and allow for collaboration among students. It is a source of information compiled by course members and they can create and edit pages while it tracks changes and additions to the pages. The instructor acts as the facilitator and the students provide the content. Wikis can also be set up for specified groups within Blackboard.

Here are some ideas for using a wiki:

- Welcome and introduction page for students and posting their photo
- Sign-up sheet for projects or time slots for presentations
- List of resources
- Group presentation of information
- Building an informational resource
- Research projects
- Class collaboration for ideas

For more technical information on wikis, you can go to the Blackboard Help site below: https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Interact/Wikis

Journals
Journals are a private space for students to post that only the instructor can see. The instructor can create specific instructor lead subjects or it can be more open. You can make a journal public so all users can see and comment their opinion on a subject or give their insight. Journals are a great place for:

- Self-reflection
- Individual projects
- Posting ideas
- Opinions/brainstorming on a specific subject
- Concerns they may have with the course
- Perspective or attitudes on subjects and how they have changed
- Their learning process

For more technical information on journals, you can go to the Blackboard Help site below: https://en-us.help.blackboard.com/Learn/Instructor/Interact/Journals