

Interacting Online - Software Comparison

Category	Blogs/Journals	Discussion Board	Wikis	VoiceThread
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal writing space for self-reflection. <u>Journals</u> allow for private communication with the instructor only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online discussions that are organized hierarchically with forums, threads, and replies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A collaborative space where all students can view, contribute, and edit content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online discussions that utilize audio, video, and/or text for threads and comments
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraged, but not the focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment driven - requires comments/replies in order for discussion to take place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments are separate from the actual wiki 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment driven - requires comments/replies in order for discussion to take place Comments can be made using text, audio, or video either recorded in VoiceThread or uploaded
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content displayed with most recent post first Indexed by week or month Blogs can be set up* as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Course blog</u> - see all entries on one screen <u>Individual blog</u> - Can still see all entries, but only one at a time by clicking on student name. *Once an entry is posted, setting can't be changed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Threaded or list view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There can be a single page or multiple pages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be a single slide or multiple slides Any initial comments play as a continuous video/audio file at the end of the original post Replies are inserted after the comment in which they are associated
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflective writing and review Editorial writing CATs (e.g. muddiest point, minute paper) Instructor/student introductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class discussions Debates Question & Answer Role play Instructor/student introductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate & synthesize Group projects Collaborative writing Instructor/student introductions Sign-up sheets Knowledge bases Couse glossary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class discussion Collaborate & synthesize Speaking/listening Instructor/student introductions Narrated presentations ePortfolio Audio feedback
Privacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Blogs</u> are open and can be viewed by anyone with access (group or entire course) and allow for anonymous posts and/or comments <u>Journals</u> are by default private between instructor and student. Can be made public to the rest of the class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be viewed by anyone with access (group or entire course) Allows for anonymous posts (when in Standard View only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be viewed and edited by anyone with access (group or entire course) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructor can moderate comments VoiceThread Assignments are private between student and instructor
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blog/Journal tools are available during group setup in Blackboard Tied to the Grade Center (shows in needs grading) Allows for uploading images, documents, multimedia, and Mashups within the Content Editor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Board tool is available during group setup in Blackboard Tied to the Grade Center (shows in needs grading) Allows for uploading images, documents, multimedia, and Mashups within the Content Editor Can be collected and organized by author Allows users to subscribe and receive an email when someone posts Posts can be ranked Can be setup to require students post before seeing other posts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wikis tool is available during group setup in Blackboard Tied to the Grade Center (shows in needs grading) Allows for uploading images, documents, multimedia, and Mashups within the Content Editor Has a complete version history and previous versions can be restored Shows participation summary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VoiceThread is NOT available during group setup in Blackboard Can be graded when Enable Evaluation is checked Tied to the Grade Center but does NOT show in needs grading Allows for uploading images, documents, and multimedia within the VoiceThread Tool Can be utilized both inside and outside of Blackboard Users receive a "Daily Digest" email with user activity