

## Setting up a Web Page/Blog/Wiki

*Materials Required:* Computer with Internet access

*Books (Optional, see list below)*

*Activity Time:* 2 hours

*Concepts Taught:* Learn how to create a basic Web Page, Blog, and Wiki in cyberspace

### **Introduction:**

The World Wide Web (www) has opened a new vista of communication that is not limited by time and space. Web pages, blog and wiki are the tools of www. The www also ushered in a complete new set of vocabularies that were not in existence before. Therefore, before we move further let us try to understand the meaning of the terms—web page, blog and wiki.

A **Web Page** is a resource of information that is suitable for the World Wide Web and can be accessed through a web browser. This information is usually written in HTML (**HyperText Markup Language**) or XHTML (**Extensible HyperText Markup Language**) format, and may provide navigation to other web pages via hypertext links.

A **blog** (abbreviated form of web log) is a website containing a journal (or newsletter) that is frequently updated and intended for general public consumption. Blogs generally represent the personality of the author or the Web site. The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs.

A **wiki** is a software engine that allows users to create, edit, and link web pages easily. Wikis are often used to create collaborative websites and to power community websites. An example of wiki is the dictionary site “wikipedia.”

In course of the short, interactive lessons the basics of setting up a Web Page, Blog, and a Wiki to communicate with parents and students, post assignments, and answer questions are highlighted. This class emphasizes the basics of extending your classroom into the cyberspace. The opportunities provided by these tools encourage the student to utilize his or her own free time and space, outside the confines of the classroom, to express their thought and make personal analysis of their work. Instead of doing this in a pen and paper format students will keep personal blogs on a free server. This lets students to easily respond to other’s works and self publish their thoughts online, something important and special for them. It encourages students to write for an audience. Also it enables a collaborative environment where students can give and receive feedback with the “comment” option.

From this point onward the learning is completely interactive and collaborative between the instructor and the learner. The outline followed is given below for each of the three topics:

### **Website:**

- The instructor provides a step-by-step introduction to HTML so that the learners have a basic understanding of what is really going on "inside" the browser.
- The learners decides upon an area of interest to them; one in which they would like to share with others around the Web.

- The learners learn how to create links to other sites with a similar interest.
- The learners create their web site and post their "Web Pages" on one of the free hosting web sites. (<http://www.free-webhosts.com/>)

### **Blog:**

- The instructor introduces the "Blog" format. A free server must be chosen (blogger.com, livejournal.com, blog.com, thoughts.com) and the learners must register for an account in the computer lab or at home.
- The instructor opens a blog, shows how to use that blog site and asks learners to participate in blogging on a selected topic.
- The instructor shows how the blog format can be used to communicate with parents and students outside their regular classroom hours.

### **Wiki:**

- The instructor introduces the "Wiki" terms and format.
- The instructor illustrates the purpose and uses of the website: wikimmunity.org, whose goal is to build an informational database on every community in the world which includes information about local attractions and local businesses.
- The instructor shows learners how to create a page on a topic, by simply replacing the text on the home page, "Main Page," with "Whatever\_the\_topic\_is"

### **Related Websites to Blog:**

- <https://www.blogger.com/start>
- <http://www.livejournal.com/>
- <http://blog.com/>
- <http://www.thoughts.com/>

### **Related Websites to Wiki:**

- <http://www.wiki.com/>
- <http://www.wikimmunity.org/>
- <http://wiki.debian.org/>
- <http://twiki.org/>

### **Related Websites to Web Page:**

- <http://www.make-a-web-site.com/>
- <http://www.pagebreeze.com/>
- <http://www.htmlkit.com/>
- <http://www.w3schools.com/>

### **Books (Optional):**

- HTML in 10 Steps or Less - ISBN-10: 0764541234
- Creating Web Pages For Dummies - ISBN-10: 0470080302
- Creating Web Pages with HTML Simplified - ISBN-10: 0471786470
- The Complete Idiot's Guide to Creating a Web Page & Blog - ISBN-10: 1592572677
- Wikis For Dummies - ISBN-10: 0470043997