

The Case of Blog

Blog = a website that allows users to reflect, share opinions, and discuss various topics in the form of an online journal sometimes letting readers comment on their posts.

People who participate in blogging are familiar with the genre or shared set of communicative practices of the blogging discourse community and they use appropriate terminology or jargon and adhere to some kind of code of conduct.

Occasionally, a need is felt to reinforce what is suitable and non-offensive language when boundaries of acceptable style and register are breached.

A code for bloggers

Recently the blogging world has faced criticism, from without and within, concerning the low standard and tone of cyber debate.

Online discourse is sometimes characterized by personal insult, childish mud slinging, meaningless fueds, self-serving digression, pranksterish vandalism and empty threats.

Two blogging pioneers Tim O'Reilly and Jimmy Wales proposed a code of conduct which would exhort bloggers not to say anything online that we would not say in person.

Civility Enforced: O'Reilly's draft code

1. We take responsibility for our own words and for the comments we allow on our blog
2. We won't say anything online that we wouldn't say in person
3. We connect privately before we respond publicly

4. When we believe someone is unfairly attacking another, we take action
5. We do not allow anonymous comments
6. We ignore the trolls (troll= message for discussion)