Document 9 Print Version blog kind social media tool allows one share ideas authentic audiences engage audiences conversation blogs look something like journals series “ posts ” appearing blog reverse chronological order newest posts top older posts Blogs address number topics travel food parenting politics written single authors groups writers Typically blogging software easy use also flexible enough allow customization style structure Although people often think social media space non-academic interactions blogs helpful tools instructors interested enhancing students ’ communication skills increasing students ’ investment learning Blogs spaces informal formal writing students capacity blogs support multiple forms media images videos links help students bring creativity communication blogs includes tools commenting discussion enabling students engage ideas conversation others either within local learning communities open Web Student writing often seen one person planet instructor make writing assignments feel like “ busy work. ” dynamic interaction writer audience blogs facilitate help students see real value academic writing take writing seriously Moreover public persistent nature blogs help students practice integrative learning finding connections among personal professional academic experiences writing blogs students experiment interact digitally relaxed low-risk environment Blogs excellent balance rigor structure formal written assignment freedom experiment ideas arguments Instructors interested teaching blogs face number decisions incorporating blogs courses three important decisions teaching blogs dynamic blog classroom online writing environment act extension classroom Make interaction digital learning environment classroom clear students expressing expect blog work contribute course ’ overall learning goals blogging platform use learning curve educational blog use steep choosing platform designing interaction structure many options arise using blogs Making decisions time consuming students ’ blogs public private Consider want outside community members comment view possibly interact course blog also important understand rules institution determine photos blog pages student writing samples releasable public