

Title of Session: BlogStreams
Moderator: Bee Dieu
Title of File: 20050403blogstreams
Date: April 3, 2005

Room: Bee Dieu's Office (Bee Hive)

BeeD: Welcome to Blogstreams Salon!

DenyneV: Hello

NWPAdmin joined the room.

BeeD: Hi Denyne! I do not think we have met

AaronPC: Yes...I think this is the first time to meet.

BeeD: I teach EFL at the Franco Brazilian school in Sao Paulo, Brazil

NWPAdmin: Hello. I'm curious about blogstream.

EmilyW joined the room.

BeeD: Hi Emily

DenyneV: Nice to meet you all. I am here with a friend today.....it's the first time for both of us.

EmilyW: Hi

AaronPC: And I teach EFL in Kyoto Japan

BeeD: and NWP?

AaronPC: Hi Emily

BJB2 wonders if NWP admin would use her name?

BJB2 wonders if Bee and Aaron are familiar with NWP?

NWPAdmin: I'm Shirley, and I'm the Coordinator of online events for the National Writing Project.

DenyneV: Both Jo and I are university students completing our Bachelor of Education.

BJB2 is full of wonder!

NWPAdmin: My daughter is an ESOL coach in Philadelphia.

AaronPC: Greetings Shirley

BeeD: We have not been introduced yet...nice to meet you

WendyES joined the room.

AaronPC: Nice to meet everyone.

BeeD hugs Wendy

NWPAdmin: Nice to meet everyone.

EmilyW: I am Emily and I am a recent college graduate and web designer

AaronPC: Hey Wendy!

WendyES: Hi, sorry to be late. Hugs Bee

NWPAdmin waves to everyone.

AaronPC: Welcome

BJB2: Wendy, we're just doing introductions

WendyES: Ok, great - me too?

BJB2: please

BeeD: yes...please

WendyES: (Hi Aaron - how's the little one?)

AaronPC: Oh she's doing just fine. Thanks Wendy.

AaronPC: Sleeping right now.

BeeD: Yes...it's very early for Aaron now

WendyES: Right.. I teach ESL at a community college in Canada - (good, she's a doll!)

BeeD: thanks for being with us

AaronPC rubs his eyes

WendyES: What time is it there, Aaron?

AaronPC: 6am

BeeD: It's already Monday morning

BeeD: in Japan

WendyES: do you do daylight saving?

AaronPC: No...not here

BeeD: The night is just falling here

WendyES: I mean, is it really 5 am?

AaronPC: no...6am

NWPAdmin: It's 5Pm, Sunday in Philadelphia.

WendyES: still early! Bee, does it get dark there about 6pm?

BeeD: 18:17 ...a very warm and sunny day it was...temperature came up to 35 C at noon

AaronPC: Where are you Denyne?

DenyneV: Regina, Sask

WendyES: ah, another Canuk!

DenyneV: Go Canada!

BeeD: we do not have long days here ...even in summer the night falls early

WendyES: I'm in BC

EmilyW: I am in USA (TX)

WendyES: right, Bee, I remember from when I was in CA. - though that's further north

WendyES: Hello Texas!

BeeD: when I visited Alaska in summer...I went to bed at midnight and the sun was still there shining

WendyES: We have light till after 10pm here in summer -

NWPAdmin: This is my first time here. What do you usually talk about?

WendyES: not the weather!

AaronPC: lol

EmilyW: This is my first time here too

BeeD: The bloggers get together on Sundays...and chat informally about any subject

WendyES: Bee, I came early and was looking at your poessays

AaronPC: We talk about whatever arises...

NWPAdmin: I see.

BeeD: once a month we invite a special guest

BeeD: who comes and presents on a topic related to blogging

BeeD: Are you blogging Shirley?

BJB2: there is an archived script that has been posted at www.tappedin.org/transcripts

BeeD: Thanks BJ

NWPAdmin: I participate in two blogs, but I can't say that I am an avid blogger. I prefer email. I'm an addict.

BJB2 . o O (from BlogStreams)

BeeD: Tell us what makes you prefer the email over the blog Shirley

EmilyW: I started blogging a few months ago, but I haven't updated my blog in a month

WendyES: (same here Emily - been really busy with other stuff

NWPAdmin: I like the immediacy of email. You have to understand, though, that I'm a little unrealistic. I've been known to send out an email, fold my arms, and wait for an answer.

WendyES: lol

BeeD: lol

WendyES: are you usually disappointed?

NWPAdmin: What do you think? I just talk to myself a lot.

WendyES: I've found it's sometimes amazing how fast people reply

DenyneV: We have been involved in blogging through our university class and we both love it!

NWPAdmin: That's true.

NWPAdmin: What appeals to you about blogging?

DenyneV: You can talk about anything you want to, and it's amazing how many different people respond.

EmilyW: not many people reply to my blog

EmilyW: which is why I lost interest in writing in it

WendyES: do you have an RSS feed?

AaronPC: Maybe they don't know about it Emily.

EmilyW: yes

NWPAdmin: I see blogging as a good work space, but I'm not attracted to it as a kind of diary.

BeeD: Not many reply to mine either....but I keep writing occasionally

BeeD: I use it mostly with my students

EmilyW: I am on a bunch of lists and websites and people do know about it

NWPAdmin: What is RSS feed?

WendyES: I think it's a good place to keep a record of some of the stuff I'm doing

AaronPC: Denyne...I perhaps your prof was here last week?

DenyneV: possibly.....I am not sure

EmilyW: The problem is, I am not doing anything to write about

WendyES: I'm not the best one to answer that - since I haven't got one yet myself (RSS feed)

JeanMC joined the room.

BJB2 hugs JM bonjour

JeanMC: Hello, Hola, salut

BeeD: A way to syndicate your blog Shirley, and allow people to aggregate your blog to a reader

AaronPC: An RSS feed is a syndicated version of your blogs content, allowing others to subscribe to it.

BeeD embrasse JM

WendyES: Hola Jean Michel

NWPAdmin: Hello Jean Michel.

JeanMC: Merci Barbara

AaronPC: They then can be notified immediately when your blog is updated...

JeanMC: Salut le Japon

AaronPC: kind of like email...only public

AaronPC: Saludos Jean!

BeeD: It makes your life really much easier...

NWPAdmin: I get it.

BeeD: and allows you to read what other people have posted

BeeD: without having to visit each site

DenyneV: I think blogs should be used to state general information, about things you want responses from, and email should be used for personal or directed questions or topics

JeanMC: good system when you need to visit 20 or more blogs

BeeD: absolutely

WendyES: brb

CandaceP joined the room.

BeeD: Hi Candace

CandaceP: Hi

AaronPC: Well...what I love about blogs is that they are so flexible Denyne...

BeeD: There are all kinds of blogs

AaronPC: they can be used in different ways by different people.

BeeD: . o O (Aaron seems to read my thoughts)

AaronPC: Greetings Candace.

BeeD: Some like to post their reflections

BeeD: others just report

CandaceP: Hello everyone. I am new to TI and this is the first time I have joined a chat room

WendyES: and they are easier to handle than websites

WendyES: reflections and report (smiling)

HananH joined the room.

BeeD: you can update them from anywhere you are

JeanMC: welcome to TI and in weblogging

DenyneV: Does anyone have examples of how they have used blogging in their classrooms?

JeanMC: Hello Hanan

BeeD: Welcome to TI Candace and make yourself at home

WendyES: Bee, you should talk a bit about how you use blogs with your students

HananH: Hi Jean

CandaceP: Thank you.

BeeD: Hi Hanan

HananH: Hi everyone

AaronPC: Hello Hanan

HananH: This session started half an hour ago right?

BeeD: I started using blogs with a class of 15-16 year olds in 2003

BJB2: no, officially just a half hour ago, Hanan, but we're just getting over intros

HananH: oh, ok, thx

BeeD: I wanted to provide them with a space for interaction outside the classroom

BeeD: and also make them write about their contact with the language

BeeD: reflect on their learning process

HananH: Oh, nice idea

BeeD: and record what they remembered

HananH: can you tell me a bit about blogs, please

WendyES: did you give them assignments to do on the blog? or was it pretty loose to start?

BJB2: . o O (for those new to Tapped In, go to the Actions menu in the top right of this chat window and click on DETACH)

WendyES: thanks BJ -

AaronPC: For most students, I think assignments are best at first.

BeeD: it was very loose at the beginning...and it still is...lol...as I am constantly experimenting

CandaceP: Thank you, that is much better.

DenyneV: thanks for the hint, BJB

WendyES: how much reflection do you get - ?

BeeD: Various degrees

BJB2: I think all good teachers are always trying different and new things

WendyES :-)

BeeD: some reflect better than others

WendyES: Do you try to direct it?

BeeD: others report

BeeD: some just post things that have nothing to do

WendyES: but the students see the rubric - so they know it's part of what's expected?

BeeD: they do

BeeD: but not many follow

BeeD: you see

BeeD: we are in a system that is geared towards results

WendyES: that's so true

WendyES: but that's one reason I like your rubric system

BJB2 agrees sadly. No time for any of us to really reflect!

BeeD: so it takes time for them to get it right

BJB2: Do you have a link to your rubric, Bee?

WendyES: it validates reflection, to mention only one aspect

BeeD: just a second...let me get it

DenyveV: yes, the rubric would be great

AaronPC: Yes...I think that is very important Wendy

AaronPC: Validating reflection

BeeD: http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/crit2.html

CandaceP: I have just been introduced to this TI program and I was wondering if it is a good tool for students to get involved in discussions or is it better in these blog websites?

AaronPC: That should somehow figure into those "results" in a meaningful way.

BJB2: click on the url. If you have a pop up blocker hold down the ctrl key as you click

AaronPC: Well Candace...blogs allow for more reflection, writing, and thinking than do these synchronous chats.

AaronPC: I think it just depends on what you want to emphasize.

BJB2: . o O (although Tapped In has a K-12 student campus with threaded discussions in each group room)

BeeD: Let me show you a class that has just started blogging

BeeD: they are weak

BeeD: not very motivated

BeeD: and rebellious

JeanMC: rebellious??????

CandaceP: I wasn't thinking so much of chat rooms but for discussion topics in our office locations or group locations

WendyES: how old are they Bee?

BeeD: 15-16

WendyES: ok

WendyES: goes with the territory

BeeD: I gave them an assignment

BJB2: Candace, threaded discussion boards are asynch

WendyES: the rebellious part anyway

WendyES: go on Bee

BeeD: took me 3 weeks (1 hour a week) to open an account with blogger, one with flicker and syndicate their blogs

DenyneV: could you have had the students do this step?

JeanMC: I took you 3 weeks because they didn't work as you wanted?

BeeD: no...because we had to open the accounts first

BeeD: and check whether all was correct

JeanMC: who has opened the accounts?

BeeD: They did

WendyES: how long is that in relation to the term?

BeeD: in class

BeeD: computer class

JeanMC: OK

BeeD: this was their assignment

BeeD: http://members.tripod.com/the_english_dept/rubmug.html

JeanMC: I understand, thank you

BeeD: and rubrics

WendyES: so, can you show us what they've done?

BeeD: <http://beeonline.blogspot.com/>

BeeD: You can find the 2005 blogroll on the right

BeeD: Some students managed all right

BeeD: still very simple...they are not very autonomous

WendyES: (still looking)

BeeD: but they got motivated when they saw their and the others content online

AaronPC: Bee...will the students follow this with other assignments?

BeeD: yes

BeeD: they are terribly slow

AaronPC: I noticed some of them only posted once, but Stan posted four or five entries.

AaronPC: <http://heavy-metal-grizzly.blogspot.com/>

BeeD: compared to my other class

DenyneV: it's a great way of making them feel "professional and important" when they see their work published online

BeeD: Stan is doing his year again

BeeD: and has blogged with me before

AaronPC: That's a good point you bring up Denyne...authenticating and validating there work.

BeeD: he told me the other day he was shocked at the level of the class...lol

BeeD: Let me show you the class who blogged last year

AaronPC: That can be motivating.

BeeD: and who is blogging again this year (some of them are new to it though...and you see the difference)

WendyES: It's interesting to see the progression - when they rewrite their posts

BeeD: <http://beeonline2.blogspot.com/>

BeeD: In this class I have a boy who got comments from outside readers

DenyneV: how many students do you usually have in your class, Bee?

BeeD: It depends...between 20 and 30

AaronPC: And do you meet in a computer room each time?

HananH: Bee, is that your English as a second language class?

BeeD: No always

WendyES: pretty big classes

BeeD: they do most of their stuff at home

BeeD: I teach EFL

BeeD: In the first example , the stds have had 4 years of EFL

BeeD: while in the 2nd one...5 years

BeeD: they have 3 X 50 minute classes a week

BeeD: 150 minutes a week

WendyES: so in the class time you do all the usual stuff?

BeeD: We have normal classes..where we brainstorm, discuss, they learn new vocabulary and structures

WendyES: reading, other writing, listening speaking, etc

BeeD: and then they have to report and reflect on their blogs at home

DenyneV: sounds interesting

WendyES: you brainstorm?

BeeD: like on heroes

WendyES: so the focus is towards the blog work?

HananH: I think that's a great tool, how long have you been using the blogs?

BeeD: not exactly...sometimes it is

BeeD: sometimes it is a complement

BeeD: like the Bruno Bozetto movie for instance

BeeD: have you seen it?

HananH: I haven't!

WendyES: not me - can you tell us more?

BeeD: this was an extension to our class on stereotypes

AaronPC: Your students must not complain of access problems like mine do.

WendyES: there goes another stereotype! - Japanese kids don't all have computers at home?

BeeD: Caroline has done a report on it, posted a pic and gave the links....have a look at

BeeD: <http://dontlettomorrowcome.blogspot.com/>

WendyES: sorry Bee, keep going

BeeD: You are free to comment on the blogs

BeeD: the students will be happy

AaronPC: What a great blog!

HananH: Bee, when did u start using blogs in your classrooms

BeeD: in 2003

BeeD: do you want to see what the first posts were like?

HananH: sure

HananH: Is there a downfall for the blogs?

WendyES: I'm still looking at Caroline's

WendyES: loading the movie

BeeD: http://beeonline.blogspot.com/2003_05_01_beeonline_archive.html scroll to the bottom...this is when it all started

AaronPC: Gotta go folks. Great chatting with everyone! Off to work...

AaronPC: See you next week!

BJB2 waves bye to Aaron. Thanks!

HananH: thx

BeeD: Have a nice day Aaron

JeanMC: saludos, feliz semana

AaronPC waves goodbye to all

AaronPC left the room (signed off).

BeeD: Aaron has just started at another university

BeeD: and his schedule has changed

WendyES: Hope he's enjoying it

BeeD: He is starting today...big day!

HananH: Bee, is there a downfall for the Blogs strategy?

WendyES: I start tomorrow in a new department, and that's hard enough

BeeD: good luck Wendy

WendyES: In fact, I should get going. Get some sun before I get to work prepping

BeeD: I must be going too

WendyES: thanks Bee

HananH: Thank you Bee

WendyES: same time next week?

BeeD: See you all next week?

BJB2: Nice discussion, Bee.

BeeD: Yes 21:00 GMT

CandaceP waving goodbye to all. This has been interesting to learn about all you have done, Bee. I enjoyed my visit. I must go now. Thanks again everyone.