

# Grade Blog

## Introduction

The Blackboard Blog tool differs from the Journal tool in that students are always able to view each other's entries. This makes it useful for group or small class discussion. Entries can be graded within a Blog. A rubric can be associated with the Blog. A column for the Blog is automatically created in the Grade Center and the grades and feedback you assign within the Blog are automatically recorded. A rubric can be associated with the Blog and filled out to compute the grade and provide feedback for each student's entry. The completed rubric can be viewed by students in their My Grades view.

## Caution


- It is necessary to select the grading option, points possible, and rubric (if used) when creating the Blog. It is not possible to change this setting after the Blog has been created.
- Each student can be assigned one grade per Blog when grading *within* the Blog tool.

## Create Blog Grade Settings

The Grade Settings are found under the heading 5. Grade Settings in the Create Blog page. When Grade: Points possible is selected, the option to Add Rubric displays but its use is optional.

**6. Grade Settings**

Grade Blog  No grading  
 Grade : Points possible :

Show participants in "needs grading" status  after every  Entries

Associated Rubrics

Name	Type	Date Last Edited	Show Rubric to Students
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## Grade Blog Entries without Rubric

1. Blog entries ready to be graded have a green exclamation after the student author's name.
2. Click the student name to view that student's entry.
3. Click Edit Grade to assign a grade, type feedback, or make grading notes. (The grading notes are for the instructor and are not displayed to students.)
4. Be sure to click Save Grade.

The screenshot displays the 'Blog Grade' interface. On the left sidebar, the 'Blog Grade' section includes an 'Edit Grade' button (indicated by red arrow 2). Below it, the student 'Jane Duff (1)' is listed with a green exclamation mark icon (indicated by red arrow 1). The main content area shows the 'Blog Grade' form (indicated by red arrow 3) with the following fields:

- Current Grade Value:** A text box containing '10' out of 12.
- Feedback:** A text area containing the text: "Good points and well done overall. In your next blog, try making your points in fewer words."
- Grading Notes:** A text area containing the text: "Only the instructor sees these notes."

At the bottom of the form, there are three buttons: 'Text Editor', 'Cancel', and 'Save Grade' (indicated by red arrow 4). The 'Save Grade' button is highlighted in yellow.

## Grade Blog Entries with Associated Rubric

For Rubric creation, see the Rubric handout.

1. Click the student name to view that student's entry.
2. Click Edit Grade.
3. To grade with the rubric, either
  - a. Click the chevron to view and fill out the Inline Rubric (in a list view)
    - i. Select the desired radio button for each criteria.
    - ii. If desired, provide feedback in the feedback box at the bottom.
    - iii. If desired, override the grade the completed rubric provided.
  - b. Click the icon to View Rubric in Window and fill it out.
    - i. Click in the desired cell for each criteria.
    - ii. Note that an optional feedback box is provided for each.
    - iii. If desired, provide feedback in the feedback box at the bottom.
    - iv. If desired, override the grade the completed rubric provided.
4. Be sure to click Save Grade when you are finished.

The screenshot shows a 'Blog Grade' window with the following elements:

- Current Grade Value:** A text input field followed by 'out of 12'.
- Associated Rubrics:** A list containing one rubric: 'Global Warming and Polar Bears' with the status 'Used for Grading'. A red arrow points to the 'View Rubric in Window' icon (a document with a magnifying glass) next to this rubric.
- Inline Rubric:** A section header with a red arrow pointing to it.
- Feedback:** A large text area for providing feedback, with a 'Feedback' label above it.
- Grading Notes:** A large text area for providing grading notes, with a 'Grading Notes' label above it.
- Buttons:** At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Text Editor', 'Cancel', and 'Save Grade'. A red arrow points to the 'Save Grade' button.