

# Alternatives to Blogs in Learn@Seneca

Published 11/2/2022 by [Anh Lam](#)

Blogs are not available on Learn@Seneca Blackboard Ultra. As of November 2022, Blogs are planned to be implemented. This article, [Original vs. Ultra Highlights](#), explores other tools that you use in the interim.

Instead of Blogs, you can use Discussions and Journals.

## Discussions as an Alternative to Blogs

The screenshot shows a Blackboard Ultra course page for a discussion titled "Reflection 1: What's your Favourite Core Value?". The page includes a discussion topic, instructions, a rubric, and a list of participants.

**Blackboard Ultra Course**  
Reflection 1: What's your Favourite Core Value? Visible to students

**Discussion Topic**

Just to get the ball rolling in this course, our first assignment is a reflection about the lecture '3 Core Values'.

**Reply to this forum explaining which of the three values you think is the most important or your favourite and give a bit of an explanation of why. There is no right answer here, so just focus on communicating your thoughts in a clear manner.**

You must comment on one other person's thread.

**Answers should be about 150 words. This assignment is worth 5% of your grade.**

The rubric is as follows:  
A score for writing will be given out of 2. This regards proper spelling, grammar and clear writing.  
A score for content will be given out of 2. This regards how well thought out your ideas are and if they make sense.  
A score for comments will be given out of 1. Full marks are awarded for engaging with someone's ideas. Half marks are awarded for saying you agree or disagree. You should strive to add something to someone's post.

**Use the Textbox below to create your response. You must first create an answer before you view others' work. After you're done, browse the submissions and see what other students have written.**

**Responses (0)**

Type a response

**Anonymous**  
3/13/23, 5:43 AM  
Student Response

[Reply](#) | [Show Replies \(1\)](#) • **NEW**

**Anonymous**  
3/13/23, 5:41 AM  
Student Response

[Reply](#) | [Show Replies \(1\)](#) • **NEW**

**Discussion Settings**

- Due Date**  
1/17/23, 5:44 PM (EST)
- Grading**  
[Points](#) | [5 maximum points](#)
- Post first**  
[Discussion activity is hidden until student posts a response](#)

**Participants (8)**

Find participants

- Student A**  
No Responses | No Replies
- Student B**  
No Responses | No Replies
- Student C**  
No Responses | No Replies
- Student D**  
No Responses | No Replies
- Danuta Bobak**  
No Responses | No Replies

[+4 more...](#)

Discussions encourage students to think critically about their coursework, and interact with each others' ideas. You can create course, and group Discussions. Discussions can be graded or ungraded, and can be organized into Folders.

- To learn how to create a Discussion, see: [Creating a Discussion](#).

In a Discussion, the instructor can provide a question or instructions, and students can add their own responses. Each response can be replied to by students or instructors. Users can read replies by scrolling through the page, and comments are shown beneath the response they are replying to. Responses can be easily tracked, and marked for grades.

- To learn how to grade a Discussion, see: [Mark a Discussion](#).
- To learn how to attach a Rubric to a Discussion, see: [Attaching a Rubric to an Assessment](#).

## Journals as an Alternative to Blogs

Blackboard Ultra Course

### Core Values

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#### Journal Prompt

Just to get the ball rolling in this course, our first assignment is a reflection about the lecture '3 Core Values'.

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You must comment on one other person's thread.

**Answers should be about 150 words. This assignment is worth 5% of your grade.**


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A score for writing will be given out of 2. This regards proper spelling, grammar and clear writing.  
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A score for comments will be given out of 1. Full marks are awarded for engaging with someone's ideas. Half marks are awarded for saying you agree or disagree. You should strive to add something to someone's post.

**Use the Textbox below to create your response. You must first create an answer before you view others' work. After you're done, browse the submissions and see what other students have written.**


#### Entries

5 ▾ items per page

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**Student X**  
24 seconds ago, at 2:09 PM

Student Response

[Comment](#)

Page 1 ▾ of 1 < >

Journals are personal spaces for individual students or groups to communicate privately with you. Students can use Journals to post their opinions, ideas, concerns about the course, or discuss and analyze course-related materials. Journals can be graded and ungraded.

- To learn how to create a Journal, see: [Creating a Journal](#).
- To learn how to grade a Journal, see: [Grading a Journal](#).

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## Other Blogging Tools

Depending on how you used blogs in Original, and the goals of these activities, you may find success using licenced tools such as [VoiceThread](#) or [Kritik](#). Both tools integrate with Learn@Seneca and may be worth exploring.

Alternatively, you could look for blogging websites for students to use. However, this solution does not integrate with Seneca's grade center, and might be a learning curve to students.

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tags : alternatives-to-blogs-in-ultra, best-practices, blackboard-ultra, blogs-in-ultra, creating-content, ultra