KS Blogs Tutorial

Wikipedia definition of a "blog":

"A blog (a portmanteau of web log) is a website where entries are written in chronological order and commonly displayed in reverse chronological order. "Blog" can also be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a blog.

Blogs provide commentary or news on a particular subject such as food, politics, or local news; some function as more personal online diaries. A typical blog combines text, images, and links to other blogs, web pages, and other media related to its topic. The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs."

Some KS Blog definitions:

A "post" is an entry. You can include text, photos, videos, audio files, and links in a post.

A "blog" is a collection of these "posts." They are time-stamped, with the recent posting placed at the top. A blog is sort of like an online journal.

A "comment" is a response to a "post" by the viewer of the post. Comments may be allowed, screened, blocked, or deleted by the.......poster-er.......post-host.......um.......the creator of the post.

48 Responses

1. *hannah wilson* Says:
   August 14th, 2007 at 10:21 am
   to prepare ourselves for a storm like this, my family usually gets flashlights, batteries, candles, lanterns, and we take out our gas stove. we also go shopping for canned food, like soup. we also pack warm blankets, food, and warm clothes, in case we have to evacuate. i think thats it. oh, we also make sure theres lots of gas in the car so we can leave quickly and not have to stop.

2. *moani terukina* Says:
   August 14th, 2007 at 4:17 pm
   in order to be prepared for a hurricane my family and i bought a whole bunch of canned food, we got all of our candles, flashlights, batteries and matches all in one area. my family and i brought backpacks and stuffed them with our necessary items (e.g. clothes and blankets, etc.). my mom also forbaid my dad from driving our other car so that we have gas in something just for evacuation. i hope it doesn't come this way...

3. *jase santana.* Says:
   August 14th, 2007 at 4:18 pm
   for the dorms i guess i'm prepared for this storm. but at my house on the big island i'm not sure if they're ready for it. they should be though. to get ready for this storm i would pack a bag with a flash light, blanket, perhaps a pillow, clothes, water, food, stuff like that.

4. *noe itson* Says:
   August 14th, 2007 at 5:12 pm
   My family prepard for this storm just recently by my father buying a whole bunch of water and toilet paper. My mother froze a couple of the water bottles and brang out our cooler for storage, also she filled one of our cars with a full tank of gas and just got a bunch of other supplies like batteries and food.

5. *Isaiah* Says:
   August 14th, 2007 at 5:54 pm
   no. We get prepared by getting flashlights and buying water from costco. Get can food for eating. we put gas.

A "discussion" is a series of comments to a particular post.

A "category" allows you to sort or view posts by....um....categories. This is especially useful when working with different classes or teams. You may give a post more than one category. A better term for this feature would be a "tag."

A "blogroll" is another word for "links."

An "archive" is simply a "category" for a particular month.
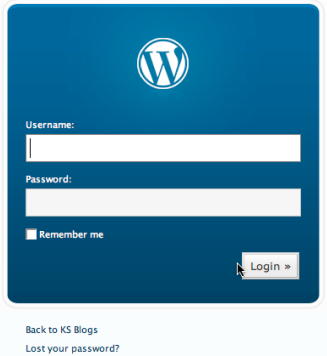
Recommendation:

Develop your KS Blog in Firefox and NOT in Safari (at least for this particular theme.) When composing or editing a post, Firefox will display it in either "design" or "code" view. Safari displays the construction of your post in "code" view only.

It's a good idea to have two browsers on your computer. Some sites work better in Firefox and some work better in Safari.
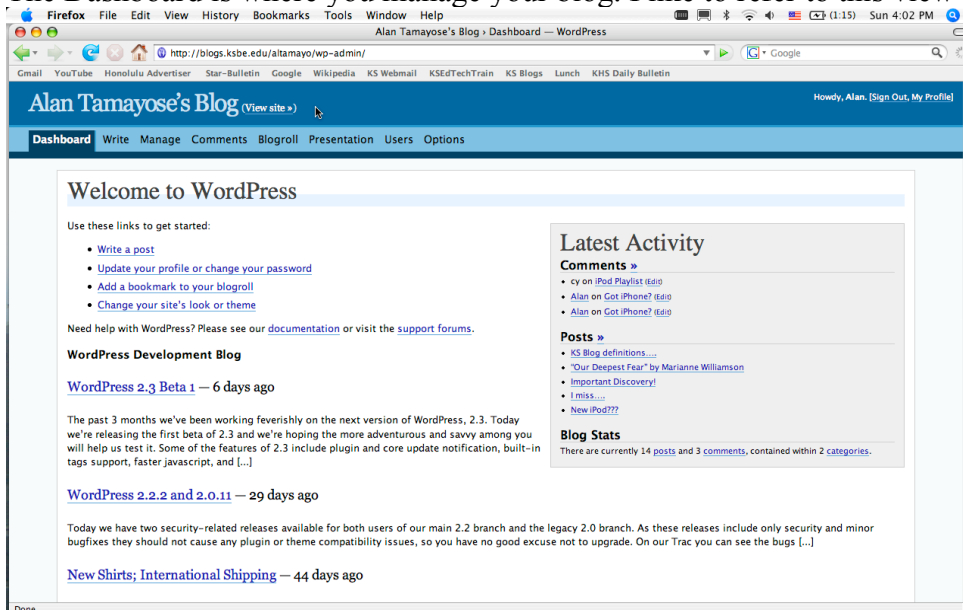
Login:

Login with your KS id (and not your full email address.)
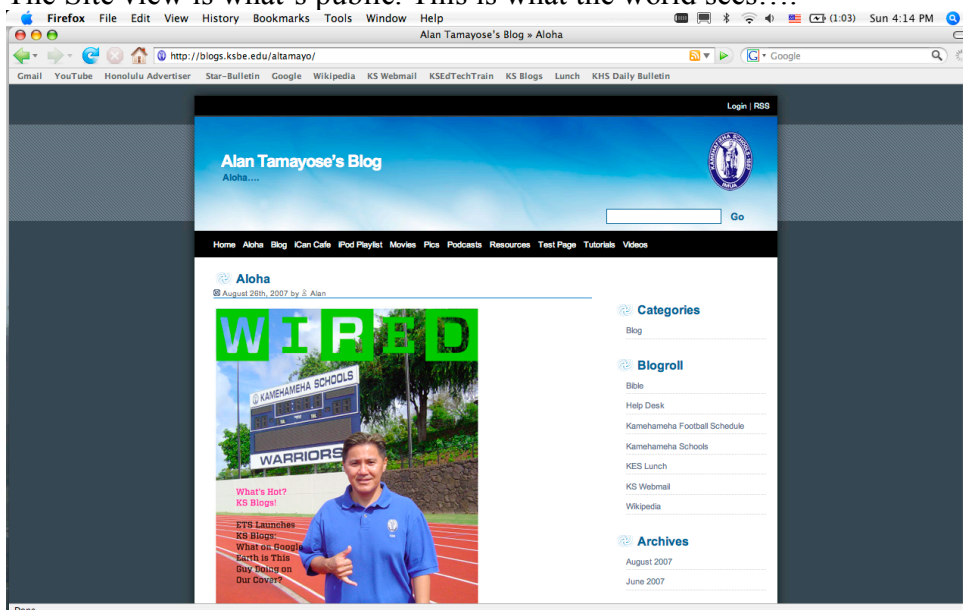
Navigating around:

The Dashboard is where you manage your blog. I like to refer to this view as "backstage."
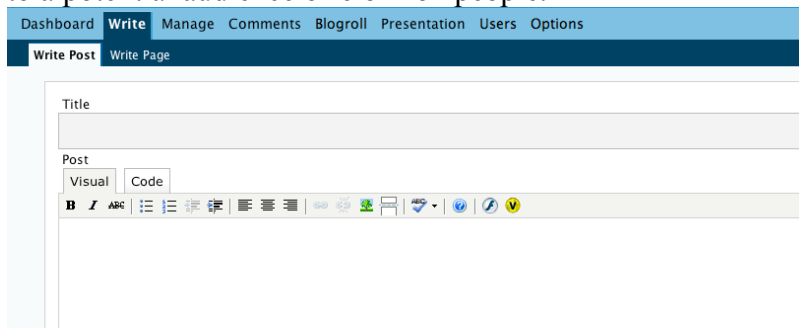
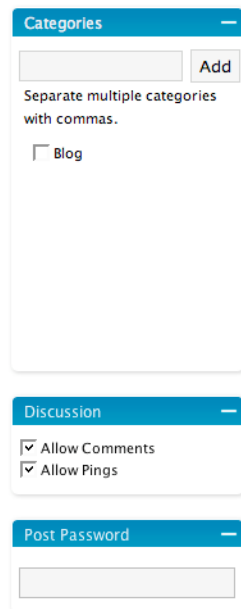The Site view is what's public. This is what the world sees....

Write a post:
Simply give your post a title, then type in the larger post box. If you are composing a lengthy post, save and continue. When done, click on "publish." That's it. You are now communicating to a potential audience of 6 billion people.
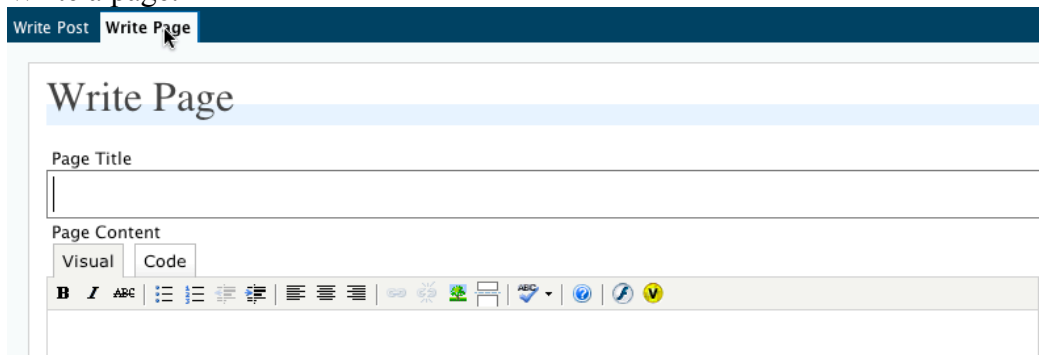

You can give your post a category (this is useful when working with multiple classes.) You may also allow or disallow commenting, and password-protect this particular post.

Write a page:

You do this in the exact same way as writing a post. Creating pages will give your KS Blog the appearance and functionality of a full-fledged website. This is extremely powerful!

Important point:
Only one page can be designated as your blog page. The default is your home page. This is where all of your posts go. Your other pages stand alone as single postings. You may, however, update your page and add a lot of content to this single posting through the "editing" feature.

Uploading content:
This is how to add a picture or clip art to your post. **Explanation:** because blogs are web applications, any photo (or audio, movie, or pdf file) must first be "hosted" on the web by posting it to a server. For example, Flickr and Google Images are popular photo hosting sites. YouTube is a video hosting site. Every image has an "image location" or a URL. To have these elements appear on your blog, you must "access" them with an html code. Confused? Don't worry. KS Blogs allows us to upload content and also provides a "code generator" for ease of use.

Let's upload a picture. (It's best to have the file on your desktop. Drag it out of iPhoto.)

Click on "browse." Locate the file on your desktop and click on "open." Click on "upload." That's it.
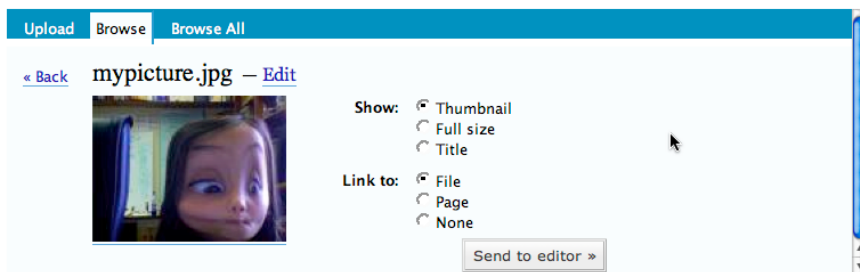

Select "thumbnail" or "full size." Don't go over 600 pixels. Your post's window might "explode." To resize your photo, use Photoshop Elements.

Click on "send to editor" to generate the code (appear in the window.) You're ready to publish.
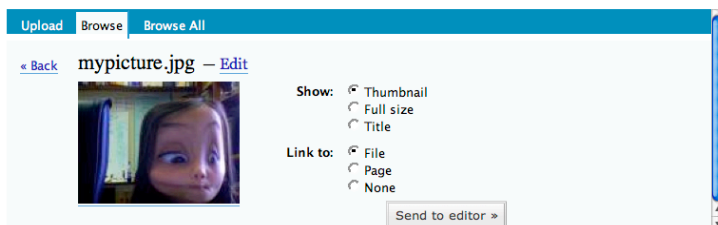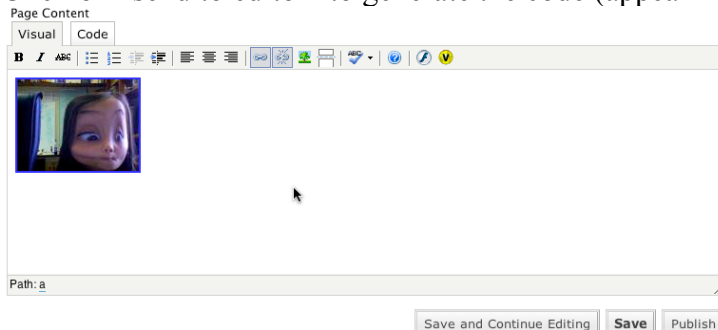
Create a link:

First, copy the URL of the site that you want to link to. Type your text & highlight. Click on the chain icon in the toolbar (insert a link tool.) Re-paste the link in the dialog box. Select "open link in a new window." Click on "insert." You are ready to publish.
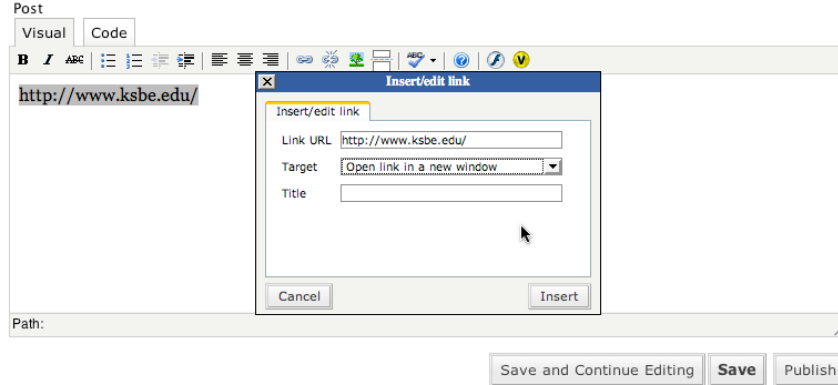
Embed a file:

To embed a YouTube video, first copy the URL location. Select the "V" icon tool and paste the URL. Click on "publish" for the video to appear in your post.

Tabs:

Use the" Manage" tab to manage your posts, pages, and uploads in one convenient location.

You can do the same with the "Comments" tab.

Blogroll tab:
Manage your links here. To add a link into your blogroll, first copy the site's URL. Then click on "add links." Paste the link in the address window. Select "_blank" in the target section. (This will open the link in a new window.) Your blogroll appears on every page.

The "Presentation" tab allows you to select the theme or look of your blog.

The "Users" tab allows you to select another "administrator" for your blog. This comes in handy when you have multiple contributors to a single site. For example, the principal, VP, and curriculum coordinator could all post to an office blog.

The "Options" tab is extremely important. This is where you configure most of your settings. For example, in the "Options – Reading" tab, you can select your "home page" and determine how many postings can be displayed on your blog page.

Editing your posts:

You may also edit your posts from the public view, when logged in. Click on the "edit" link. This will take you "backstage" into the edit mode.

RSS feeds:

RSS stands for Really Simple Syndication. This allows you to subscribe to a blog or a podcast and have updates retrieved automatically. You can place this feed into your bookmarks bar in a web browser.
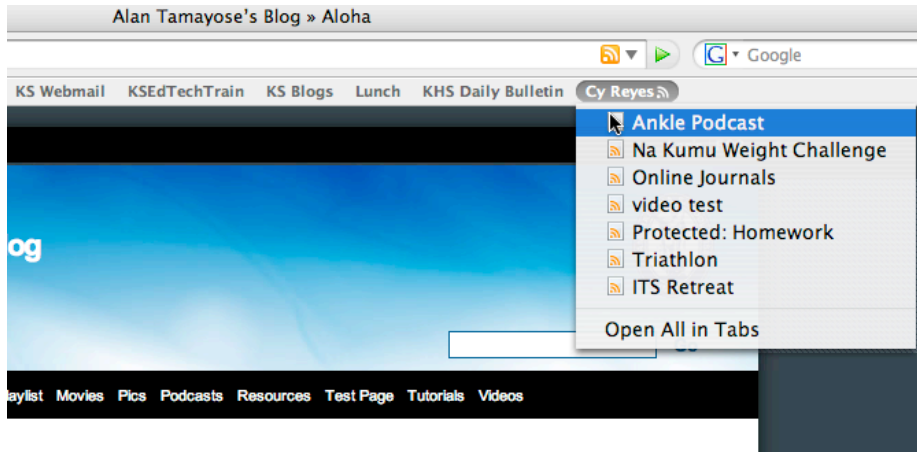
Pau:

KS Blogs is a wonderful Web 2.0 tool. Imua.