

Blogging

Objectives

There are several things we're trying to accomplish using this assignment:

1. Give you some practice with a relatively easy way to participate in digital culture.
2. Provide a mechanism by which each of us individually, and the class more collaboratively, can practice "interpreting and confessing" in public, digitally mediated spaces.
3. Provide a mechanism for "thinking out loud" about course questions and themes, in a way that provides space for individual reflection, and collaborative engagement.

Procedures

1. Find the blogging space on the course ning site by clicking on "blogs" in the upper navigation bar. Note the small "+ add blog post" near the upper right-hand corner. (Alternatively you can access this button via your own page on the site, at the bottom of the "my blog" box.)
2. Click on "+ blog post" and start writing. Make sure you choose a title for your post that is clear and short. Keep your post short – no more than 250 words, 50 would be fine if they're to the point!
3. Preview your post by clicking on the preview button to make sure it works the way you want it to (the links are working, the formatting is how you want it to be, etc.) and then click on the publish button.
4. Write a minimum of two posts a week. One should engage at least one of the lectionary texts in the midst of our "three triangles," and the other should directly engage the materials that the small group who is "setting the table" for the week, put in front of us. Each week we'll put "questions to ponder" on the weekly notes. These are good questions to blog about if nothing else occurs to you.
5. Comment at least once on ALL of the posts written by your small group members, and then comment on other posts as much or as little as you like. These comments should be short, to the point, and more than simply a "verbal bouquet." (In other words, don't simply say "yes, I agree" or "good point!" – say that, but then explain why.) Keep your comments under 50 words, 10 would be fine if they're well chosen.
6. Things to keep in mind:
 - blog posts typically have at least one embedded link – perhaps the text you're thinking about, a resource you've found, someone else's blog post, etc.
 - remember that blogs posts are "of the moment" and more informal than essays – give yourself permission to think out loud, and grant your colleagues grace for their experimental thinking

- at the same time, remember that blog posts are public -- be accountable, don't write anything you wouldn't want someone -- your family, people in your church, a person with whom you disagree strongly -- to read
- we're using blogging as the primary space for conversation in the class, so it's better to write short posts and comment on lots of other posts, than it is to write long posts and comment only rarely
- we'll be especially pleased if you link to a resource or blog post outside of our course