

## Blog Entries and Comments

I have a class Blog site provided by a hosting service called Wordpress.com. This is the first semester I've worked on developing it and with time it will grow and become more useful. Right now, I'm in the process of building a breast cancer page and will then work on a colorectal cancer page. In time I hope to have no need to use a book for class at all as I will host a collection of Wiki's for class content.

As an aside, if you want to use this space for your Wiki, then we can arrange that too. It's publicly available too, but the good part is that you create a digital footprint by having things publicly available.

For at least one day during the semester you will have to post a blog entry on the Biol4634 Biology of Cancer Wordpress site. This entry is part of your grade. You can type text, add images, sound files, recordings, YouTube movies, pretty much anything you like. You will also need to make at least 10 significant comments on other people's blog entries to receive your grade for your blog entry. \*What is significant? A comment that advances the discussion going on, not just 'yeah, I agree' and provides useful information/perspective to other readers.

### Your Blog Entry:

You should minimally summarize the main points from the day. It needs to be as long as it needs to be. A correct summary of the day's main points will earn you about a C. From there, you can do what you like. Some suggestions about how to get from a C to an A might include, but are not limited to:

1. Add your own thoughts about the material (be critical if you like, but be constructive!)
2. Consider how the material relates to other classes you've taken.
3. Add in media that helps communicate some of the points made in class (e.g. YouTube videos, URLs)
4. Connect the class material to your own experiences or discuss how you might.
5. Discuss how the material helps you achieve your future goals.

You can be as creative as you like in your writings, but they must be related directly to class. So you know the kind of thing you are aiming for, I'll do the first one on the first day of class, then I'll nominate the next day's blogger. That blogger nominates the next. If there are more students than days of class, then there will sometimes be two bloggers per day. Your blog entry must be completed by 7pm in the evening so that others can comment in reasonable time.

## Your Comments:

You can add comments to anyone else's blog entry anytime, however, comments all posted at around the same time (e.g. you leave it until the last minute) will not be counted. You must have at least 10 comments by the end of the semester (ideally, three/four a week) to receive your grade for the blog entry you make (so your comments aren't graded, but are required for the blog entry grade).

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### 1. How do I get signed up to blog?

Two ways. First, go to Wordpress.com and sign up for a free account. Send me your username and I'll add you to the blog with the role as Author (this means you can post blogs and upload files). Second, I will send an invitation to your UC-Denver e-mail address at the end of the first day of class inviting you to sign up for an account and then assign you to the blog as an author.

### 2. What if I can't blog on my assigned day by 7pm?

Three solutions. First, when you're nominated immediately indicate you cannot blog that day so a second can be nominated. You can only do this twice. Second, If you don't opt-out at the time of nomination, you can contact me and I will substitute for you and you receive a 0 for this part of your grade. If you've got too much on your plate, you definitely shouldn't be taking a maymester class! Third, you can trade your day with a classmate (I don't care who does it as long as there's a blog entry each day as it serves as summary of the days work).

### 3. How do I see the website?

Go to [biol4634.wordpress.com](http://biol4634.wordpress.com)

### 4. How do I logon to do my blog?

Go to Wordpress.com and sign-in (sometimes your own computers ISP will be recognized and log you in automatically if you select this to happen)

### 5. How do I logon to comment?

You don't need to. Just go to [biol4634.wordpress.com](http://biol4634.wordpress.com) and see what's going on, add comments in the comments box.

### 6. Is this a public blog?

Currently, yes. But if we have problems, I can lock it down to class only.

### 7. What do I do if my computer/internet crashes in the middle of my blog entry?

Start over. Just kidding, Wordpress saves automatically so you should be OK. You might lose some stuff, but not a whole bunch.