

# Moodle: Student Journals

Last Modified on 08/26/2022 5:54 pm EDT

Although Moodle does not have a purpose-built journal activity, you can use the "individual blogs" option in the **OU Blog Activity** in Moodle to create individual journals that your students can post to over time.

**Before You Start**, you may need access to the following:

- an **Instructor of record** or **Other editing teacher** role in a Moodle course to create a journal activity
- any Teacher role (e.g., **Instructor of record**, **Other editing teacher**, **Non-editing teacher**) to view and grade student work

## Create a Journal Activity

1. Click **Turn editing on** (if it isn't already).
2. Click **+Add activity or resource** in the section where you want to place the activity.
3. Click the **Activity** tab and choose **OU Blog**.
4. Type a name for the entire activity in the **Blog name** box (e.g., **Student Journals**).
5. Choose the appropriate **Allow comments (if chosen for post)** setting:
  - **Yes, from logged in users** -- anyone in the course **who can see the post** can comment
  - **Comments not allowed** -- note that teachers will not be able to use comments to give feedback on entries if selected.
6. From the Individual blogs drop-down menu, choose:
  - **Separate individual blogs** -- students **can't** see each other's journals
  - **Visible individual blogs** -- students **can** see each other's journals
7. (Optional) Expand **Advanced options** to customize the participate interface:
  - Check **Show blog usage extra statistics** to add date of last post to views.
  - Type **journal** in the **Alternate activity name** box to replace "blog" with "journal"
8. (Optional) Set start and end dates for the journal as a whole under **Contribution time period**.
9. If you want to grade journals, expand **Grade**, choose **Teacher grades students**, then choose a **Scale** or set a **Point value**.
10. Click **Save and return to course**.

**Note:** There is no way to **Grade** individual posts/entries, but there are two possible workarounds:

1. Include grade in a **comment** on the post (if journals are not visible to other students!)
2. Enable **Ratings**, rate each post and have Moodle auto-calculate grade based on all ratings

# View and Grade Student Work

Once students began to post to their journals/blogs, the entries will show up a use opens the journal activity. If you set the activity up as **Separate individual blogs** only teachers will see entries in all journals as shown below; students will see only their own entries.

The screenshot shows the 'Student journals' interface. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Dashboard / My courses / [course name] / Sections / Topic 3 / Student journals'. Below this, there are two buttons: 'Separate individuals' and 'View all users', both highlighted with a red box. To the right, there is a 'Related links' section with an 'Add link' button. Below the buttons, there are two journal entries. The first entry is titled 'TGIF Test' and was posted on Friday, August 26, 2022, at 4:00 PM by 'Christina Boyland'. The second entry is titled 'Test post!' and was posted on Friday, August 26, 2022, at 3:54 PM by 'Sean Keenan'. To the right of the main content, there is a 'Journal usage' section with a 'Participation' sub-section. This section lists 'Recent posts' and 'Recent comments'. At the bottom of this section, there is a button labeled 'View all participation', which is also highlighted with a red box.

- Choose a name from the **Separate individuals** filter to view only their entries.
- Click the **Participation by user** button to see numbers of posts and give students grades for the activity.
- Click **View all participation** in the bottom right for an alternative way to read journal entries, which also lets you filter by date and type of entry (post or comment).

The screenshot shows the 'View all participation' page. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Dashboard / My courses / [course name] / Sections / Topic 3 / Student journals / View all participation'. Below this, there are two buttons: 'Separate individuals' and 'View all users'. The main section is titled 'Participation - All time'. Below this title, there is a filter section with 'From' and 'To' date pickers, both set to '26 August 2022'. There are also 'Enable' checkboxes for each date picker. Below the date pickers, there is an 'Update' button. Below the filter section, there are two buttons: '2 Posts' and '2 Comments', both highlighted with a red box. Below these buttons, there is a table with the following data:

User	Title	Date	Journal
Christina Boyland	TGIF Test	Friday, August 26, 2022, 4:00 PM	Christina Boyland
Sean Keenan	Test post!	Friday, August 26, 2022, 3:54 PM	Sean Keenan

At the bottom of the page, there is a 'Student journals' link, a 'Plazza' link, a 'Jump to...' dropdown menu, and a 'Perusal' link.

## Questions?

If you have any additional questions or problems, don't hesitate to reach out to the **Help Desk!**

**Phone:** 610-526-7440 | [Library and Help Desk hours](#) □

**Email:** [help@brynmawr.edu](mailto:help@brynmawr.edu) | [Service catalog](#) □

**Location:** Canaday Library 1st floor

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