

Moodle: Student Journals

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

Before You Start, you will 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. Toggle the "Edit Mode" switch on (if it isn't already).
2. Click **+Add activity or resource** in the section where you want to place the activity.
3. In the **Activity** menu, choose **OU Blog**.
4. Give the activity an appropriate name 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:** users who are part of the class or group can comment
 - **Yes, from everybody (even if not logged in):** anyone who can see the post (class users or guests) can comment. Guest comments need to be approved by instructors before they are visible to all.
 - **Comments not allowed:** No one, including instructors, can comments. Teachers will not be able to give feedback on entries if selected.
6. From the Individual blogs drop-down menu, choose:
 - **No (blog together or in group):** No individual student will have a blog, but they can contribute to a group or class blog.
 - **Separate individual blogs:** each student will get their own blog. However, they will **not** be able to see any other student's journal
 - **Visible individual blogs:** each student will get their own blog and be able to their classmates' journals.
7. (Optional) Expand **Advanced options** to customize the participate interface:
 - Check **Show blog usage extra statistics** to add the date of the last post to views.
 - **Alternate activity name** will determine what word or phrase comes after what you wrote in the **Blog Name** field. For instance, an activity whose **Blog Name** is "Student Reflections" and **Alternate activity name** is "Journal" would display to students as "Student Reflections Journal" on the course page. If this field is left blank, the default ("blog") will be used.
 - **Enable post import:** Check this if you want students to be able to import posts from other blogs they have access to.
8. (Optional) Expand **Contribution time period** if you want to set limits on when students can post on their own blog and (if allowed) post comments on classmates' blogs.
9. If you want to grade journals, expand **Grade**. Choose **Teacher grades students**, then choose whether you want to use a **Scale** or set a **Point value**. Otherwise, leave the default, **No Grade**, in

place.

10. Leave all other settings as their defaults.
11. Click **Save and return to course**.

View and grade student work

Once students began to post to their journals/blogs, the entries will show up when a user opens the journal activity. If you set the activity up as **Separate individual blogs** only teachers will see entries from all students. Students will see only their own entries when they access the activity

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

Student journals

Dashboard / My courses / [Bryn Mawr College](#) / Sections / Topic 3 / Student journals / View all participation

Separate individuals

Participation - All time

From Enable

To Enable

2 Posts

User	Title	Date	Journal
Christine Buzard	TGIF Test	Friday, August 26, 2022, 4:00 PM	Christine Buzard
Ryan Thomas	Test post!	Friday, August 26, 2022, 3:54 PM	Ryan Thomas

← Student journals

← Plaza

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

- Include grade in a **comment** on the post. Then enter that grade manually in your gradebook. Only do this if students' journals are not visible to each other.
- Enable **Ratings** and rate each post. Moodle will use these ratings to auto-calculate a grade for the overall activity.

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 | [Service catalog](#)

Location: Canaday Library 1st floor