J. Sherwood-Hill
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Developing Blogging Skills
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NETS Standard 2: Design and Develop Digital-Age Learning Experiences and Assessments: Teachers design, develop, and evaluate authentic learning experiences and assessments incorporating contemporary tools and resources to maximize content learning in context and to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes identified in the NETS•S. Teachers: D. Provide students with multiple and varied formative and summative assessments aligned with content and technology standards and use resulting data to inform learning and teaching.

NETS Standard 4: Promote and Model Digital Citizenship and Responsibility:
Teachers understand local and global societal issues and responsibilities in an evolving digital culture and exhibit legal and ethical behavior in their professional practices. Teachers: C: Promote and model digital etiquette and responsible social interactions related to the use of technology and information.

NETS Standard 5: Engage in Professional Growth and Leadership
Teachers continuously improve their professional practice, model lifelong learning, and exhibit leadership in their school and professional community by promoting and demonstrating the effective use of digital tools and resources. Teachers:
A: Participate in local and global learning communities to explore creative applications of technology to improve student learning.

        The use of blogs in a classroom can be very dynamic because it brings a whole new meaning to learning. It is a way for teachers to tie directly into NETS standard 2D – by providing students with a varied format for assessment aligned with content and technology standards. Teachers can post sections of a lesson on a blog and have students complete according to each section. It also allows students to collaborate to share ideas about assignments. As a result, students learn from each other, are assessed based on their work and are motivated to learn using a varied format
        When teachers utilize blogging for class assignments, they are modeling digital etiquette and responsible social interactions – NETS standard 4C.   Students need to have a model because many tend to not understand the meaning of etiquette online or in the classroom and blogging for learning will increase responsible social actions. Additionally, teachers have the opportunity to participate in global learning to explore other creative applications by building professional learning communities where colleagues and other educators participate to discuss new technology available that can promote student learning. I would like to use blogging in my literacy classes to conduct online literature circles. This would serve as a way to extend student thoughts about readings as well as motivate those students who do not like to read. Unfortunately, my school district blocks all social networking websites at this time.