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BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE IN FSL

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Blog

camerise

What is a research and/or field-inspired blog?

A blog is a frequently updated website or webpage used to share information or opinions, often featuring an interactive comment section at the end.

A vlog is a blog in the format of a video.

Blogs are a simple way of broadcasting your opinion without the additional features many social media platforms have. In regards to FSL research, they allow researchers and practitioners to share their opinions on current developments in the field and open a discussion through comments. Starting a blog is now easier than ever, whether you want to contribute to an existing blog series or create your own website, this no longer requires strong web development skills.

CREATORS AND CONSUMERS

Who is making blogs in FSL?

- **Researchers** who want to communicate their findings
- **Teachers** who want to communicate or discuss their practice and reflections
- **Academic institutions or schools** wanting to showcase their practitioners

Who is likely to read them?

- **Teachers** who want to their improve language instruction
- **Administrators and researchers** who want to keep a pulse on current issues in education
- **Parents** curious as to what is happening in education or in their childrens' schools

1. CONCEPTUALIZATION

What features are essential to my blog?

- Introduction and conclusion (with actionable advice for practitioners)
- Title and headings
- Hyperlinks throughout to references
- Word limit: the average blog length is 700-1000 words
- Easy to understand language
  - Define technical terms (target audience is non-experts)

What else could I add to my blog?

- Permanent navigation ribbon at top of page (static while scrolling)
  - "Back-to-top" button on ribbon
  - Includes socials icons (e.g. Facebook, X/Twitter, email, etc.)
- Contact form
  - For subscription to email newsletter, contact authors or institutions, etc.
- Images, graphics, videos, and quotes to support your content

What questions might arise while creating or hosting my blog?

- What is the goal of your blog? What is the common theme across posts?
- Is there a call-to-action? What is the bottom line of each blog post?
- Does your blog tell a story?
- Will your blog have an email newsletter? Will it be advertised independently or via an affiliated institution (e.g. university, research institute)?

2

2. CREATION

What technology might I need while developing and hosting my blog?

- What hosting site will be used? Do you want to use a website builder to own your own domain (e.g.: Wordpress - low-code) or use a third-party publishing platform (e.g.: Medium, LinkedIn - no code)?

  - Keep track of how many readers you have using the analytics tools of your hosting site

- Will you be creating your own blog or contributing to an existing blog series?

How might generative AI help give me inspiration for my blog?

Prompts, such as the ones suggested below, are used to instruct Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems (such as Claude, Gemini, or ChatGPT) to generate ideas, content or perform tasks such as simplification.

Disclaimer: Ideas or text generated by an AI language model are intended to serve as a starting point or inspiration. Professional judgement must be exercised before adapting and incorporating this content for any given context.

- **Headers:** "Suggest headers that communicate the relevance of [my academic research] to educators in FSL classrooms."

- **Outline:** "Given [this description of my research] and [this target audience, e.g. FSL teachers], propose an outline for a blog that would cover [e.g. why the research is relevant to them, how they can think about or apply this research in their classroom]..."

3

- **Application of Research:** "Explore ways to convey the real-world applications of [my field of research] through engaging and accessible language."

- **Visuals:** "Generate [suggestions for] images or diagrams that can visually represent [this key concept] in my blog post."

- **Language Refinement:** "Simplify the explanation of [complex technical concept] without losing its accuracy."

3. CONSOLIDATION

What should I consider before publishing?

Which license type should I use to publish my work:	Which media format to use (e.g. HTML, Wordpress):	Is the blog accessible?

- Creative Commons licence (to allow users to download, use or modify)
 	
    ○ CC-BY
    ○ CC-BY-NC-SA
    ○ CC-BY-SA
    ○ CC-BY-NC-ND
    ○ CC-BY-ND
    ○ CC-BY-NC
 	
- OR
 	
- Copyright Licence (to restrict use) : "all rights reserved" + name of author
	- Consider the format that will be most user-friendly based on your licensing intent	- Is there an audio version of the blog? Did you add Alt Text for images?

4

How else might my blog be promoted or disseminated?

- Which social media platform will you be sharing it on (e.g.: Twitter/X, Facebook (Groups), YouTube, LinkedIn, Vimeo)?
- Will it be posted on an educational repository such as Camerise?
  - Go to https://camerisefsl.ca/
  - Click on "Add a new resource" on landing page
  - **Basic information** - Provide your **blog** title, description, resource type (i.e.: blog, video), learning material type, upload file / add link
  - **Categories** - Add publisher information and any details if it is to be used in a classroom setting (i.e.: prep time, teaching duration, educational level, subject)
  - **Accessibility Statement** - Note if it has been assessed for accessibility purposes, has sensitive content or contains content related to equity, diversity, and/or social justice

GO DEEPER

What other sources are saying?

- *How to write a great blog post on your research topic?*
  - *https://www.doi.org/10.34834/2019.0002*
- *Communicating research through blogs - Why do we blog?*
  - *https://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/writing-resources/blogs-for-authors*
- *How to write an academic blog post?*
  - *https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/research-impact/how-to-write-an-academic-blog-post/*
- *How to turn your research paper or article into a blog?*
  - *https://blogs.sussex.ac.uk/policy-engagement/resources-for-researchers/how-to-turn-your-research-paper-or-article-into-a-blog/*
- *Being a Research Blogger: The art of making an impact on the academic audience with your blog*
  - *https://www.enago.com/academy/being-a-research-blogger/*
- *Blogging your research: Tips for getting started*
  - *https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/publish/scholarly-publishing/radical-access/blogging-research*

BE INSPIRED

What are some great examples of blogs in FSL research?

- Blogue de l'ACPLS
    - https://www.caslt.org/fr/blogue/
- Cult of Pedagogy
    - https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/blog/
- Educational Technology
    - https://educationaltechnology.net
- Padlet (as tool to implement in your blog)
    - https://padlet.com/
- Français avec Pierre
    - https://www.francaisavecpierre.com/blog/

What are some great examples of blogs in other fields created by educators and researchers?

- *Writing for Research - Medium.com*
    - *https://medium.com/@write4research*
- *Arctic Research Blogs - Wordpress*
    - *https://arcticresearch.wordpress.com/*
- *From the Lab Bench*
    - *https://www.fromthelabbench.com/*
- *Learning Scientists Blog*
    - *https://www.learningscientists.org/blog/*
- *Get a Life, PhD*
    - *https://getalifephd.blogspot.com/*
- *The Cool Cat Teacher Blog*
    - *https://www.coolcatteacher.com/*
- *Canadian Public Health Association - Students & Early Career Blog*
    - *https://www.cpha.ca/student-blog*
- *Edutopia*
    - *https://www.edutopia.org/*
- *Maple Money*
    - *https://maplemoney.com/*

6

Vlogs examples by Teachers and Researchers

- *Teacher FYI - New teacher tips each week!*
  - *https://www.youtube.com/@TeacherFYI/videos*

- *Dr. Andy Stapleton*
  - *https://www.youtube.com/@DrAndyStapleton/videos*

- *Dr. Amina Yonis*
  - *https://www.youtube.com/@DrAminaYonis/videos*

CREDITS

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