STEPS FOR CREATING YOUR OWN BLOG FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

&

HOW TO WRITE YOUR FIRST BLOG POST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE:

STUDENT BLOG POST EXAMPLE: Respect for ‘Others’—Beyond Gender Binary
http://cerealwithwine.wordpress.com/2013/02/25/respect-for-others/

DIY STEPS: BLOG SETUP

1. Create your Own Free Blog OR Use an Existing Student or Individual Blog
   (How to Setup a Free Individual Student Blog or Student Organization Blog):
   
   • Using Wordpress: http://wordpress.com/
   • Using Blogger:
   • Then create a “Blog Domain Name & Title” for your blog that references the overall topic you will be focusing on in your blog (Examples: “Global Citizen Group: WV College,” “Human Rights Student Organization: Frankfurt College,” “Students for Social Change, CSM”).
   • Depending on your blog theme (theme is the design you chose), you may be able to have a descriptive tagline in addition to the Title of your blog. If so, add a descriptive tagline (Example: “CSM Students striving for social change on a Global Level.” - if your site has a tagline and you have not filled it in, it may say, “This is a Wordpress Blog” or something similar when you view your blog.)
   • Write an Introduction or About Page for the Blog. This introduction will be an overview of your blog-site for viewers who visit your blog.
   • Add a custom Photo-Header (that fits with your theme by loading one of your own photographs), Color scheme, Categories, Pages (all free blog themes are different and will give different options. Watch above tutorials for how to do this for your blog.)

WRITING YOUR FIRST POST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE:

   Find a social or political cause, service, a product, piece of technology, a violation of the Declaration Human Rights, or Non-Profit Organization that you believe assists in causing positive social change (See Example Post: http://cerealwithwine.wordpress.com/2013/02/25/respect-for-others/).
   o Heavily research this topic, cause, violation or product and its current cause, effect, and results.
   o Gather a variety of facts and information (facts, statistics, studies etc…) about the topic in general through detailed research as well as examples to support your blog post.
2. Write an introduction to blog post in your own personal voice, with a personal story or “hook” to pull in the audience (this should be paragraph one of your blog post). This should tell us about the personal interest of one of your group members or the overall interest in this social change topic.

3. Use bullet point section with concise information relevant to the post (for quick scan reading by viewer – may include main points).

4. Create a List: Such as a Top 5/Top 10 List, Best of List, List of Best Sources, 5 Things you should know about Topic, etc… (Approachable ways we can make change)

5. Include links to other related sources for viewers to read more about topic.

6. Show photographic images (created by you, student group member, or linked to other sources) that effectively visually support your topic.

7. Use an infographic such as a visual graph, diagram, map, timeline, or chart to support your idea (can be hand drawn then photographed or scanned or created on the computer – you can even have a friend create this portion for you). How can you visually represent some of the materials in the post? See National Geographic and Info. Graphics blogs for interesting and innovative ways to do this.

8. Have a ‘Works Cited’ section that cites the sources you used for stating facts or words of others in your research on this topic, on bottom of your post. See this non-profit website for an example of how to create a ‘Works Cited’ for your post. Including a ‘Works Cited’ is very important to gaining credibility for your post. http://www.africanlibraryproject.org/our-african-libraries/africa-facts

9. Use of proper spelling and grammar in your post. Your blog post must be polished in a professional manner. Read your post over and over again! Have a group member, friend, or classmate act as the editor and have them read the post for you in order to check for grammatical errors and spelling errors.

OTHER STUDENT BLOG POST EXAMPLES:

- Learning about Learning & Special Education: http://knysahsocialphotography.com/2013/01/10/learning-about-learning-and-special-education/
- Eat Like a Guinea Pig http://newmediasocialchange.wordpress.com/2012/02/27/eat-like-a-guinea-pig/
- Sailing back to Shore: Why we should stop pirating on the Digital Seas http://henryx50.wordpress.com/2012/07/03/sailing-back-to-shore/
- More Nuclear Power Plants to be built when so many are in need of repair http://voiceofrob.wordpress.com/2012/02/26/should-the-u-s-build-more-nuclear-power-plants-when-so-many-are-in-disrepair/