

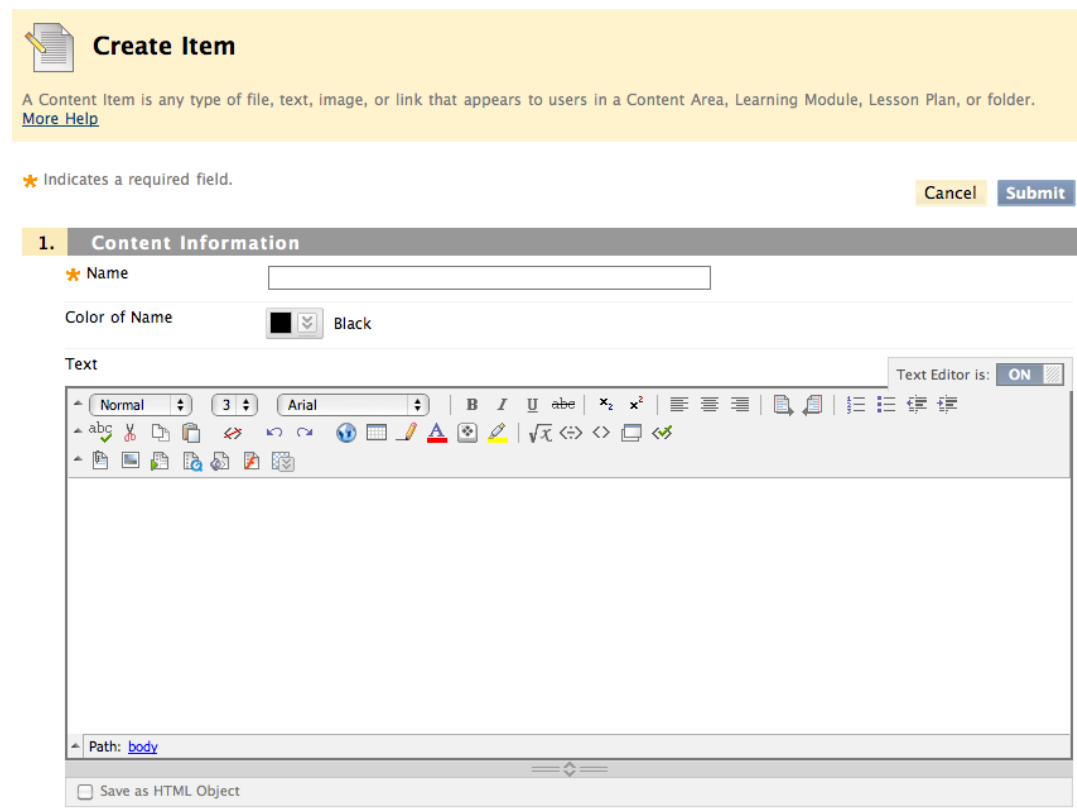
## Blackboard 9: Incorporating Interactivity and Multimedia

### Adding Multimedia Files

As with previous versions of Blackboard, Blackboard 9 allows for pictures, audio and video content to be added to courses. The benefit of multimedia content is that it engages learners in different ways and may improve learning. Users may add multimedia files using either the **'Build Content'** feature of Blackboard or when authoring content in the **Text Editor**.

### Adding Multimedia With The Text Editor

The **text editor** makes it easy to add various kinds of multimedia content to your course. Placing your mouse over any of the **icons** in the toolbar will bring up a **'tooltip'** that lets you know what each icon allows you to do.



The screenshot shows the 'Create Item' form in Blackboard 9. At the top, there is a yellow banner with a document icon and the text 'Create Item'. Below this, a note states: 'A Content Item is any type of file, text, image, or link that appears to users in a Content Area, Learning Module, Lesson Plan, or folder.' with a link to 'More Help'. A legend indicates that an asterisk (\*) denotes a required field. The form has 'Cancel' and 'Submit' buttons. The '1. Content Information' section includes a required 'Name' field and a 'Color of Name' dropdown menu set to 'Black'. Below this is the 'Text Editor' interface, which has a toolbar with various icons for text formatting (bold, italic, underline, strikethrough, subscript, superscript, text color, background color), alignment, indentation, bulleted and numbered lists, link insertion, unlink, and undo/redo. The text editor area is currently empty. At the bottom of the editor, it shows 'Path: body' and a checkbox for 'Save as HTML Object'.

Common multimedia files you can add using the Text Editor:

- Image
- MPEG or AVI
- Quicktime
- Audio
- Flash or Shockwave

To add content using the Text Editor:

- Click the appropriate icon for the content you want to add (in this case 'Insert Image')
- Users can upload files from their computer, course or website URL
- Give the linked file a name
- **Alt Text** is typed text that will be used to display if the image does not load. Alternative text is also important for accessibility.
- Use '**Image Target URL**' to create a link to a file outside of the local system.
- Set '**Width** and **Height**'
- Choose whether or not to display the image in a new window
- Choose a **border** thickness for the image.
- Click '**Submit**'



## Insert Image

Cancel Submit

### 1. Select Image

Attach File

Browse My Computer


Browse Course

Source URL

Attached files

File Name

Image Options

 solar\_system.jpg

Name of Link to File	<input type="text" value="solar_system.jpg"/>
Alt Text	<input type="text"/>
<small>Alt text defines what this image is for a visually impaired or blind user using assistive technology such as screen readers. All image and multimedia files should have alt text associated with them.</small>	
Image Target URL	<input type="text"/>
Launch in new window	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Set Width	<input type="text"/>
Set Height	<input type="text"/>
Border	<input type="text" value="None"/>

[Do not attach](#)

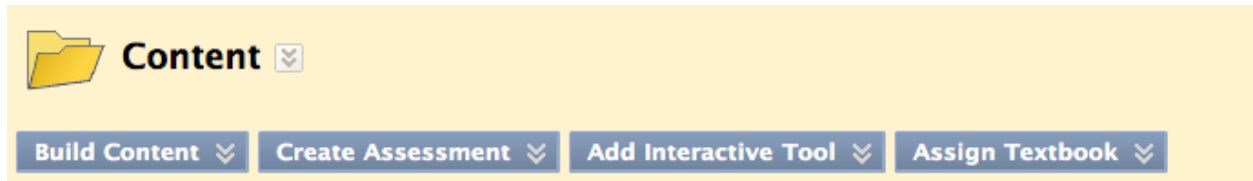
### 2. Submit

Cancel Submit

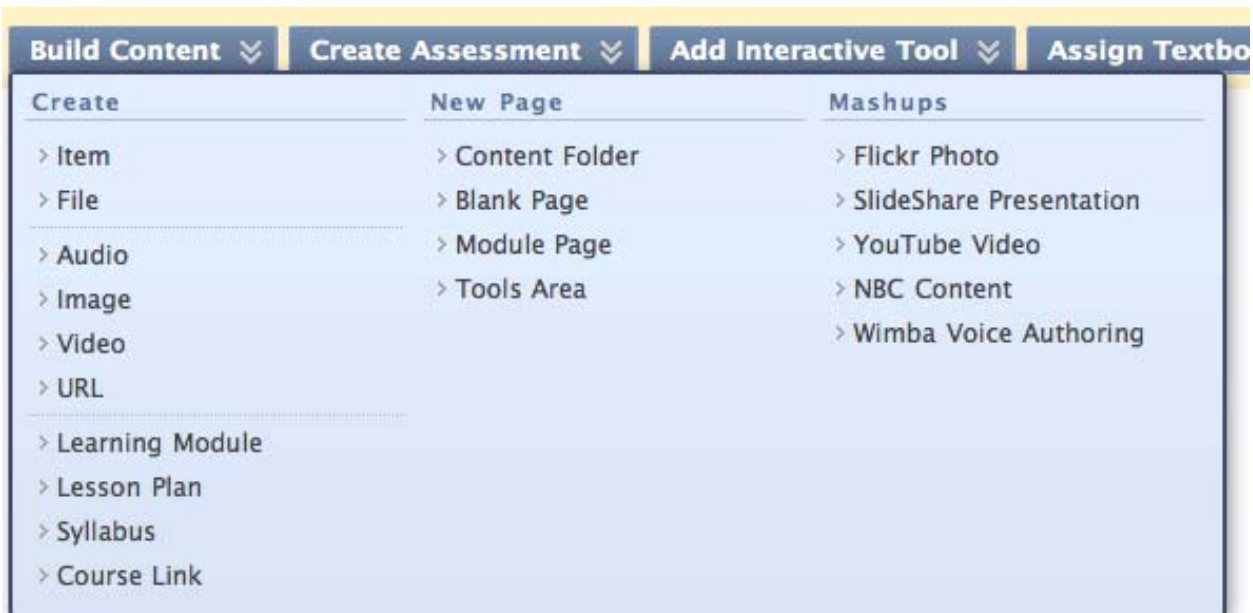
## Using Build Content

To use the **Build Content** feature of Blackboard:

- Click on '**Content**' in the left menu bar of your course. You will see the '**Build Content**' button.



- Click '**Build Content**' to reveal the different types of content that you can add.



## Content Availability

When a content item is added to a Course, it is not automatically available. An availability option on the Add and Edit pages allows the user to set the content to available or unavailable. This allows the Instructor to create content and save it in a draft format before it is made available within a Course. This availability setting is separate from Adaptive Release. If an item is not available, users cannot access it regardless of the Adaptive Release rules.



## Mashups

Mashups allow instructors to add content to a course that is from an external Web site. The content displayed in the course will still reside on the external Web site. This content is used in a variety of ways within a course:

- a standalone piece of Course Content
- part of a test question
- a topic on a Discussion Board
- part of an assignment.

**NOTE:** Mashups are added as a **Content Item** in a folder or added through the **Text Editor**. Adding a mashup as a Content Item makes it a part of the information that you present to users for them to view. Adding a mashup using the Text Editor means that you can put mashups in places where users can interact with the content, such as in test questions, discussion boards, and blogs.

Mashups are displayed in the following ways:

- **Embed:** the mashup displays directly on the page when a student opens the item.
- **Thumbnail View with Player:** a small picture of the mashup displays on the page with controls to launch it.
- **Text Link with Player:** a link to the mashup is displayed on the page. Students click the link to launch the mashup.

## Default Mashup Types

These are the default mashups that are included with Blackboard Learn:

- **Flickr:** a site for viewing and sharing photographic images.
- **Slideshare:** a site for viewing and sharing PowerPoint presentations, Word documents, or Adobe PDF Portfolios.
- **YouTube:** a site for viewing and sharing online videos (see example below).

**Search Results** Powered by YouTube

Enter search information below. Click Go to view the results. The order of search results is determined by YouTube.

Search  All of the words

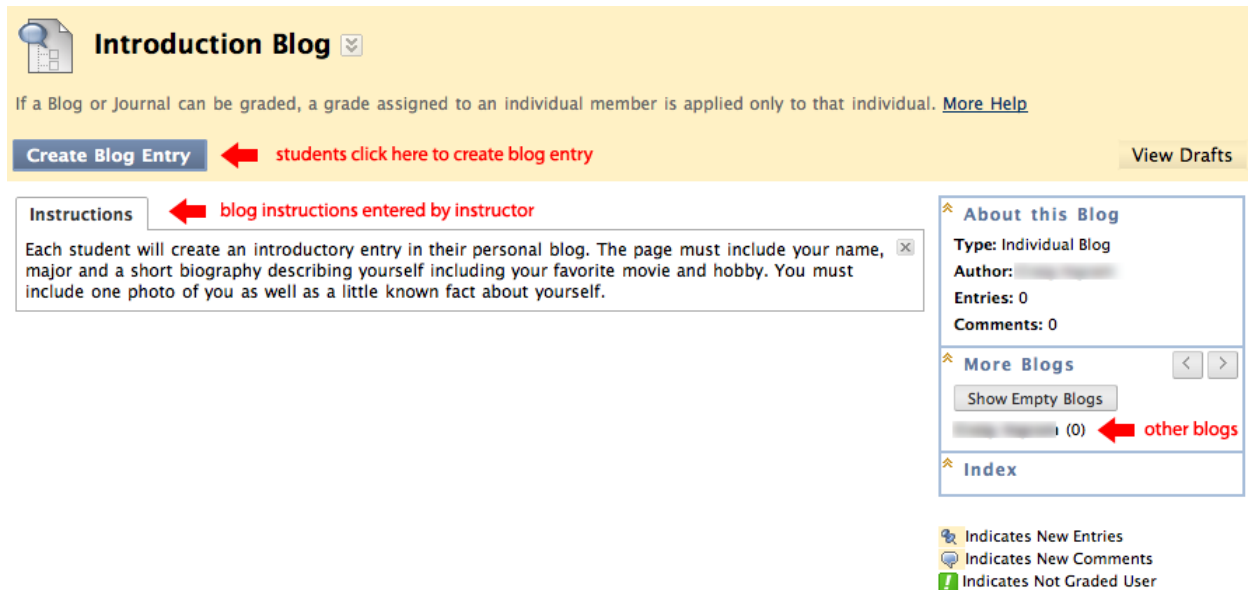
Language  Go

Page 1 of 36984

Displaying 1 to 10 of 369836 items Sort by  Uploaded  Go

## Blogs

Blog is a shorthand term that means Web log (a personal online journal that is frequently updated and intended for public consumption). In Blackboard, only enrolled users can view and author blogs.



The screenshot shows a Blackboard blog page titled "Introduction Blog". At the top, there is a yellow banner with a document icon and the text "Introduction Blog" with a dropdown arrow. Below this, a message states: "If a Blog or Journal can be graded, a grade assigned to an individual member is applied only to that individual. [More Help](#)".

There are two main buttons: "Create Blog Entry" (with a red arrow pointing to it and the text "students click here to create blog entry") and "View Drafts".

Below the buttons, there is an "Instructions" section with a red arrow pointing to it and the text "blog instructions entered by instructor". The instructions read: "Each student will create an introductory entry in their personal blog. The page must include your name, major and a short biography describing yourself including your favorite movie and hobby. You must include one photo of you as well as a little known fact about yourself."

On the right side, there is a sidebar with sections: "About this Blog" (Type: Individual Blog, Author: [redacted], Entries: 0, Comments: 0), "More Blogs" (with a "Show Empty Blogs" button and "(0)" entries, with a red arrow pointing to it and the text "other blogs"), and "Index".

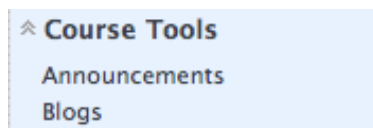
At the bottom right, there is a legend: a blue icon for "Indicates New Entries", a speech bubble icon for "Indicates New Comments", and a green icon for "Indicates Not Graded User".

Blogs in Blackboard consist of two elements:

- **Blog entries:** text, images, multimedia, mashups, etc.
- **Comments:** remarks or responses to blog entries made by other course members.

To create a blog:

- click on 'Blogs' listed under 'Course Tools' on the left side menu of your module.



- Give your blog a name and set the availability (same as other content in Bb)
- Selecting a blog type:
  - Course Blogs:** Only the Instructor can create a Course Blog and determines the topic to be addressed. All Course members can add Blog entries and add comments to Blog entries.
  - Individual Blogs:** Only the Instructor can create a Blog for individual Course members to use.



Only the owner of the Blog is able to add Blog entries. All other Course members can view and add comments.

**Group Blogs:** If the Instructor enables the Blogs tool for the Group, all Group members can add Blog entries and make comments on Blog entries, building upon one another. Any Course member can view Group Blogs, but can only add comments. A Group Blog is different from a threaded discussion as each entry does not need to continue the discussion of the previous entry, but can be a complete thought on its own.

- Grade Blog:

Select '**no grading**' or the '**grade**' option and type the number of **points possible**. **Points possible** will apply to one or more entries made by the user to the blog topic. **NOTE:** once a blog is set to be graded, a column is created for it in the Grade Center. **It is permanently gradable and cannot be set to no grading.**

## Wikis

Wikis is a collaborative tool that allows students to contribute and modify one or more pages of course related materials, providing a means of sharing and collaboration. Pages can be created and edited quickly, while tracking changes and additions, allowing for effective collaboration between multiple writers.

**Course Wikis:** are created by the instructor and any course member (student) can add pages, unless the instructor intends to be the sole author and use the wiki as course content.

**Group Wikis:** are enabled by the instructor and can be read by all course members (students), but a user must be a member of the Group to edit a page or make a comment on a Group Wiki page. The instructor can change the default setting to allow only group members to view a Group Wiki.

### The Solar System

Create Wiki Page

My Contribution

#### Instructions

Feel free to collaborate with each other regarding this topic.

#### Earth

Edit Wiki Content

Created By stu6 stu6 on Monday, January 10, 2011 4:01:42 PM CST

Earth (or the Earth) is the third planet from the Sun and the densest and fifth-largest of the eight planets in the Solar System. It is also the largest of the Solar System's four terrestrial planets. It is sometimes referred to as the World, the Blue Planet, or by its Latin name, Terra.



Comments: 0

Comment

#### About This Wiki

Number of Wiki Pages: 1  
Number of Comments: 0  
Creation Date: 1/10/11 11:45 AM

#### The Solar System

Earth



To create a wiki:

- click on 'Wikis' listed under 'Course Tools' on the left side menu of your module.
- set your preferred date and time restrictions
- set your wiki participation (student access)

**Closed to Editing:** Select this option when the Instructor will be the only one contributing pages or to disallow further page editing by users, such as when the Wiki pages are set to be graded. Wikis can still be viewed when Closed to Editing is selected.

**Open to Editing:** allows users to modify any wiki page. In a group wiki, a user must be a member of the group to edit a wiki page.

- Grade Wiki:

Select '**no grading**' or the '**grade**' option and type the number of **points possible**. **Points possible** will apply to one or more pages added and all edits by the user.

**NOTE:** Once a wiki is set to be graded, a column is created for it in the Grade Center. **It is permanently gradable and cannot be set to no grading.**

## Journals

**Journals** offer students the opportunity to reflect on course content and communicate privately with the Instructor. Instructors can use the tool to gauge understanding and guide students in their knowledge acquisition. Instructor comments can help students refine their writing and ideas.

- The instructor creates the **journal topics** for individual students to use.
- Then, students submit **journal entries** in response to the topic and the **instructor can comment** on the individual entries.
- As the journal topic is created, the instructor determines if the journal entries will be graded.



- Students are allowed to create multiple entries for an individual journal topic, whether it is graded or not.

**NOTE:** The instructor can choose to make journal entries public, allowing all course members to view all entries.

### Group Journal

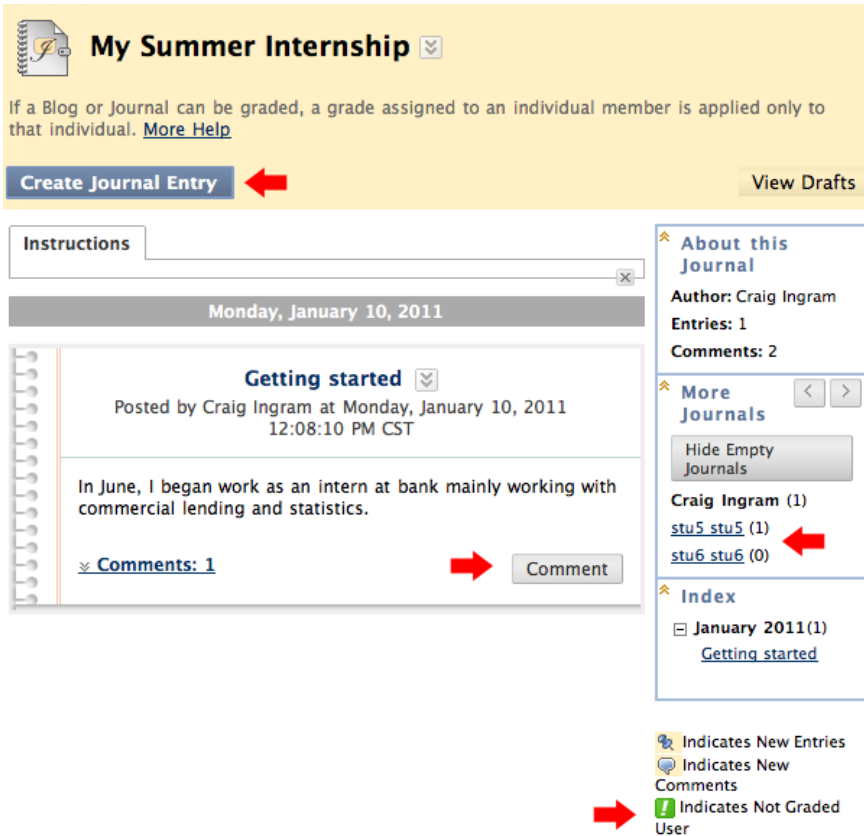
The Group Journal allows all members of a group to view all group journal entries.

- A group journal contains no journal topics. It is created by the journal entries submitted by group members.
- A group journal can be edited to add instructions for the members
- Group members and the instructor can add comments

To create a journal:

- **NOTE:** Journals are created exactly like Wikis (see Wiki instructions)
- Grade Journal:

Select '**no grading**' or the **grade** option and type the number of **points possible**. Points possible will apply to one or more entries made by the user to the journal topic. **NOTE:** Once a journal is set to be graded, a column is created for it in the Grade Center. **It is permanently gradable and cannot be set to no grading.**



**My Summer Internship** ▾

If a Blog or Journal can be graded, a grade assigned to an individual member is applied only to that individual. [More Help](#)

**Create Journal Entry** ←      View Drafts

Instructions

Monday, January 10, 2011

**Getting started** ▾

Posted by Craig Ingram at Monday, January 10, 2011 12:08:10 PM CST

In June, I began work as an intern at bank mainly working with commercial lending and statistics.

≡ [Comments: 1](#)      → **Comment**

**About this Journal**

Author: Craig Ingram  
Entries: 1  
Comments: 2

**More Journals** < >

Hide Empty Journals

Craig Ingram (1)  
[stu5 stu5](#) (1) ←  
[stu6 stu6](#) (0) ←

**Index**

☐ January 2011 (1)  
[Getting started](#)

🔔 Indicates New Entries  
💬 Indicates New Comments  
🟢 Indicates Not Graded User →

The screenshot above shows a created journal with an entry posted. Notice the arrows on this screen that point out the **'Create Journal'** button, **'Comment'** button, **links** to other student journals, and the **grading option**.