

## Do it Yourself Blogs:

### Free Blog Services:



Pay:



Hosting:



### Education News Feeds:

Blog Feed from Ed Weekly - feeds list to choose from:

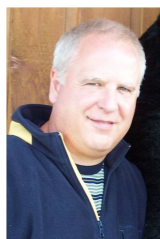
<http://www.edweek.org/ew/section/feeds/index.html>

NCLB Feed from U.S. news World Report

[http://www.usnews.com/Topics/tag/Subject/n/no\\_child\\_left\\_behind/rss](http://www.usnews.com/Topics/tag/Subject/n/no_child_left_behind/rss)

US Dept of Ed RSS Feed

<http://www.ed.gov/rss/edgov.xml>



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Lon currently serves Eastern Oregon as the coordinator of assistive technology services for the Umatilla Morrow ESD in 12 districts within 7 counties. Lon is a member of the Oregon Traumatic Brain Injury Team and serves on the advisory team for the Oregon Technology Access Program. Lon maintains the No Limits to Learning Blog and The No Limits 2 Learning Live Talk show on Blog Talk Radio. He edits a monthly blogger forum on assistive technology and is a guest writer on several national news feeds and blogs for special education.



<http://nolimitstolearning.blogspot.com>



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## Offer More with Your AT Services Using Free Online Blog Tools

by Lon Thornburg



*Tap into great web tools for your staff, student's, community and yourself!*

**Online at:**

<http://nolimitstolearning.blogspot.com>

[www.nolimits2learning.com](http://www.nolimits2learning.com)

[www.blogtalkradio.com/nolimits2learninglive](http://www.blogtalkradio.com/nolimits2learninglive)



## Design a blog to fit your purpose...

Blogs have become a standard tool for marketing and business. Because blogs have the ability to be a dynamic and fluid medium with daily posts, comments and widgets that allow interaction, the consumer has a sense of being heard and the business world gets to collect immediate feedback as well.

In education, blogs are being used to accomplish the same goals. They are also being used in the classroom by teachers and students as a communication tool and a study tool. Schools are adding them to websites for school to home community relations.

### Purpose = content + tools

Here are some ideas to think about when considering a blog. Match your content and tools to the purpose of your blog:

- **Community Relations** - post highlights on projects, focus on a staff member, new methodology, best practice, requests for volunteers, issues surrounding special education, etc. Incorporate video, slide shows, a recorded interview in a podcast, a member chat room for a school or department forum. Give the community and "inside view".
- **Professional Development** - Use a blog to post a meeting agenda with multi media links to topics for the meeting. Post a PowerPoint, a video tutorial, link to handouts and resources that are hosted on the district website.
- **Professional Networking** - use blog posts to connect to other states and countries. Expand your knowledge base,

- (continued) - contacts, with companies, parents/parent groups, therapists and specialists, other blogs and sites, news feeds, virtual meeting rooms, professional networking sites and wikis.
- **Modified and Accessible Curriculum for Students** - use a blog to post e text and use text to speech tools, mp3 conversion downloads, videos, podcasts and links to enhance content.

## BLOG TERMS:

**Blog:** A web-log where folks write and publish online. The blog can be open or closed. Comments can be made.

**Blogroll:** List of links to other bloggers and sites you like and recommend.

**Post:** a published article on your blog.

**Permalink:** The unique address for each post in your blog that readers can link to.

**Sidebar:** The side column that contains your links, information, etc.

**Widget:** A tool that adds functionality to your blog, i.e. a translator, news feed, podcast player, quote of the day, counter, etc.

**RSS:** Really Simple Subscription. Puts news in your blog, updated daily.

**Wiki** - a web-based collection of information that is open to edit and addition by the members.

## A List of Free Tools and Widgets:



voice your content

**Odiogo.com**- text to speech for your blog, also downloads text as an Mp3 file.



**Blogtalkradio.com** - start a talk topic and allow callers to call in.

Do live stream shows and use a player on blog.



**Gcast.com** - record your own podcasts and share with player. Also Syncs to the ipod/iTunes.



Locate all site visitors... Fast!

**Clustrmaps.com** Shows visitor's locations world-wide.



FOR BLOGGERS & WEBMASTERS

**Feedjit.com** - shows visitor, location and pages viewed.



**translate.google.com** - converts your blog from menu of languages.



**Photobucket.com** - share images.



OPEN SOURCE

**Camstudio.org** - create your own tutorial on-screen videos



**Meebo.com** - offer open or private chat room on or off your blog.



**Voicethread.com**— share videos and allow others to record voice commentary.



**Slideshare.com** - create slideshows and post.



**Snap.com** - see a pop-up of the link you rollover.



**Vodpod.com** - collect online videos on your sidebar.