The Blackboard upgrade now offers you new options for using social communication via blogs, journals, and wikis. Our objectives during this training session are:

- Identify similarities and differences between blogs, wikis and journals
- Identify potential uses of blogs, wikis and journals
- Practice creating, participating in and grading blogs, wikis and journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wiki</th>
<th>Blog</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Discussion Board</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Common Uses:</strong></td>
<td>A collaborative space where all students can view, contribute and edit content.</td>
<td>A shared online diary for use in class.</td>
<td>Personal writing space for self-reflection and private communication with the instructor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potential Uses</strong></td>
<td>Grant writing, creative writing, group research projects, student-filled study guide for test (Instructor provides the outline and students collaboratively fill it in)</td>
<td>“What we did / will do in class” saves instructor having to answer individual inquiries, online discussions about related topics, a place to hand in evidence of class participation, “Muddiest Points” of what was covered in class.</td>
<td>Reflect on personal growth throughout semester, record things learned on field trip, express oneself, document clinical experiences, and “Muddiest Points” that are private.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

- When a student is updating a wiki page, the rest of the students are locked out of it until it is released. **This is the only tool that allows multiple students to collaborate within the same text entry area.** The other two tools store student entries separately under the students’ names, but the wiki can be organized by research topic, work group, etc.

- **Important Setting:**
  - Individual to all students = Entries and grades are separate to each student. To view entry, you click on the student’s name.
  - Course = All student entries are listed together and all students get that same grade.
  - Entries can be saved as drafts and posted later.
  - Blogs are less structured than the Discussion Board, and they’re chronological. The format is more open and conversational in style.

- If you set **Permit course users to view journal**, the journal will not be private, making it more like a blog with commenting turned off. **Cool idea from UND:** With “permit course users” turned off, ask students to post individual, original responses on a topic. Then make them public for review by everyone, preventing students from repeating remarks in early entries! (New discussion board has same functionality now.)

**Muddiest / Clearest Point:**
- Use last 5 minutes of class for summarizing and reflecting in the blog about the day’s content.

- Discussion boards are easily collapsed, expanded and searched. **Users can Subscribe** to a forum or thread and receive an email update every time someone adds to it. **Printing** is easy. **Students can rate posts.** Can require student to participate first **before** seeing other student entries. **May be the best of both worlds** now that the discussion boards are less sterile looking but have all this functionality.
To create, go to the course area where you want to add the tool. Then use **Add Interactive Tool** dropdown to choose the preferred tool. See notes above for help in understanding the setting options.

- You can use the grading option on all four tools, which will automatically create a column in the grade center.
- All three tools can be accessed in three places: via the “Tools” course link, the Control Panel > Course Tools link, and with the **Add Interactive Tool** choice when creating course materials.
- When grading, only the entries created by the student displays, not the comments.

For more detailed information, visit the ITS Blackboard page at [www.ndsu.edu/its/blackboard/](http://www.ndsu.edu/its/blackboard/) and use the links under the **Student Engagement** choices in the menu on the right.

**Voice Tools** offers an additional option for engaging students. **Voice Board** is similar to the Discussion Board, but allows both voice recording and text entry instead of just text. To learn more about Voice Board contact Tammy Cummings (tammy.cummings@ndsu.edu).