

Topic	Blog	Wiki	Discussion Board
Origin	From Web Log	From Hawai'ian wiki wiki which means quick	From purpose + bulletin board
Focus	Author centered	Document centered	Topic centered
Control	Administrator (or small group)	All (thought this can be modified)	Administrator + Group
Comments	Encouraged but not focus	No real comments (all editable)	Comment driven
Purpose	Share a log of events and personal insights	Creation of documents, projects, resources	Provide support, discuss topics
Organization	Content displayed with most recent posting first	As participants decide, can have multiple pages or one	Threads
Voice	Conversational	Passive and Active	Conversational or more formal
Design	Themes, Personal, primarily text though some are images or audio only	Participant decided, continuously changing, primarily text	Generally static, text-based
Content permanence	Static – once posted, considered old and rarely revisited	Continuous change (though all is archived)	As long as administrator/ software/ school allows
Ownership	Posting owned by poster	Topics considered public space and owned by all	Threads and posts owned by group with equal responsibilities
Features	Customizable, password protection, guest logs, archiving, private messages, listserv, gadgets, media-rich, links, tags for easy searching, portable, comments (able to be turned-off), subscription available, more direct contact to other blogs	“Emergent voice,” more like a traditional website (with pages), archives, ease of use, top of page remains the same, meant for a specific purpose so less overwhelming	Collaborative, limited media in some boards, ease of following threads

Challenges	Difficult to sustain, one person (or group) centered, Top of page changes, content becomes old	Limitations for conversation, Best with a fairly limited number of people, Content not permanent, fewer features, not as portable (still true?), lack of control, external websites do not usually link-to, not always democratic	Lack of customizability, not as much media capability, potential lack of control, some discussion boards do not have search features
Possible uses	For individual or small group, getting a specific message out, editorial, personal voice, initiate discussions, reflection, writing with or for an audience, personal expression, moblog, photos, podcasts	Internal communication, community communication, constructive criticism, website option, projects or programs, informational, address book, documentation, specific purpose	Socratic method, opinions, response-driven, familiar, topic-driven
Privacy/ Security	Choice, but not guaranteed private or secure	Choice, but not guaranteed private or secure	Private to class/instructor
Scenarios/ Reasons to use for teaching and learning	Chronological; comments (from peers on each others' or students to instructor post); student blogs (as class, groups, or individual); faculty blogs (as assignment/content source or as discussion leader); security/privacy issues (on web); can embed in Blackboard	Student(s), instructor, groups, or whole class; good for building from scratch; Group work plus repository of resources; specific projects; can embed in Blackboard	Topic-based discussions; since "locked-in" Blackboard, more secure (but more steps to get there)

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