

**Blogging and Podcasting in the Foreign Language Classroom**  
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**Project 1: Reading Blogs**

- **French NS Blogs we used:**
  1. N'importe quoi sur n'importe quoi <http://www.zerotom.net/>
  2. Pierre Carion <http://www.pierrecarion.com> (**site no longer in service**)
  3. 404 brain not found <http://www.404brain.net/>
- **Decide on a topic your students might be interested in.**
- **Visit blogs listed on a directory associated with that topic.**
  - <http://dir.blogflux.com/lang/french.html>
  - <http://www.lemonde.fr/web/blogs/0,39-0,48-0,0.html>
- **Choose 2-3 blogs that seem most appropriate.**
- **Follow the blogs for 2-3 weeks to get a feel for the content and reliability of the blogger.**
- **Possible class project**
  - Choose one blog to read and follow for semester
  - Complete regular worksheets to guide reading (new vocabulary, topics, themes)
  - Put together oral and written project at end of semester describing blogger and one predominant theme

**Project 2: Writing Blogs**

- **Getting started:**
  1. Find a blog server with the features you want (ease of sign-up, ease of use, social networking features, privacy, cost)  
Blog hosts
    - <http://www.blogger.com>
    - <http://www.wordpress.com>
    - <http://www.blogigo.com>
    - <http://edublogs.org/> (for educators)
    - <http://www.u-blog.net/> (French blog hosting site)
  2. Sign-up – as easy as signing up for a Google, Yahoo, or Hotmail account
  3. Write first post – as easy as sending an email
  4. Comment (create new or edit post)
- **Tutorials**
  1. Setting up a blog with blogger.com - [http://www.homestead.com/prosites-vstevens/files/efi/blogger\\_tutorial.htm](http://www.homestead.com/prosites-vstevens/files/efi/blogger_tutorial.htm)
  2. Setting up a blog at wordpress.com  
[http://www.archive.org/download/WP\\_1.1\\_intro/wpintro1.1.swf](http://www.archive.org/download/WP_1.1_intro/wpintro1.1.swf)
  3. Blogger's quick tour - [http://www2.blogger.com/tour\\_start.g](http://www2.blogger.com/tour_start.g)
- **Set guidelines for students and decide on purposes**
  - Purposes:
    - preparing for discussion
    - pre or post reading, but before class discussion)

- extending discussion
- post reading, after class discussion
- Excellent blog postings will combine:
  - critical reflection
  - depth of thought
  - supporting examples
  - personal experience
  - related newslink/website (either target or NL)
  - discourse strategies
- **Blog Writing Project (spring 2005)**  
Example: <http://cequejepense.over-blog.com>

### **Project 3: Blogs and Podcasting**

- **Recording Audio**
  - a. Necessary Equipment: access to Internet, microphone/headset
  - b. Go to <http://www.odeo.com>
  - c. Create username
  - d. Go to <http://studio.odeo.com/create> and click on “Record New Audio”.
  - e. Save recording
  - f. Copy embed code at bottom of Odeo page, log in to blog, and paste into compose box in blog.
- **Possible projects**  
Context – study abroad
  1. Blog - Introduce self
    - Required image: picture of yourself
    - Podcast (1 minute) – intercultural story/misunderstanding
  2. Interview (4 minutes) – Interview someone who has studied abroad.
    - Required image: picture of person you interviewed (could also be a picture of interviewee taken while studying abroad)
  3. Podcast (3-4 minutes) – Create an advertisement (what to see, do, eat, sleep, university, classes, etc.) for a city where you might like to study abroad.
    - Required image: 3-4 pictures of the town
- **Blog/Podcast Project (Fall 2006)**
  - <http://fllc.cas.sc.edu/FR209A/wordpress/>
  - <http://fllc.cas.sc.edu/FR209B/wordpress/>
- **Other podcast directories**
  - iPodder.org – <http://www.ipodder.org>
  - Podcast.net – <http://www.podcast.net>
  - Yahoo podcasts – <http://podcasts.yahoo.com>
  - Podcast Directory – <http://www.podcastdirectory.com>
  - Podcast Alley – <http://www.podcastalley.com>
  - Podcast Central - <http://www.podcastcentral.com/>
  - Podcast Bunker - <http://www.podcastbunker.com/>
  - Podcast.com - <http://podcast.com/home.php>
  - The Education podcast network – <http://epnweb.org>
- **Subscribing and listening to podcasts**
  - iPodder (for Windows 2000/XP) FREE - <http://www.ipodder.org/>
  - iTunes (PC or Mac) for FREE - <http://www.apple.com/itunes/>
  - iPodderX (Mac or PC) (fee) - <http://ipodderx.com/>

- **Recording Podcasts**

- Audacity – <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>
- Odeo – <http://odeo.com>
- Evoca – <http://evoca.com>
- Skype – <http://www.skype.com>
- Skype recording add-on PowerGramo: <http://www.powergramo.com>
- Skype (long-distance interviews) - <http://www.skype.com/helloagain.html>
- Gizmo (long-distance interviews) - <http://www.gizmoproject.com/>

#### **Project 4: Listening to Podcats**

- **Listening to podcasts**

- a. Allow your students to (or as a class) visit a blog directory and find a podcast on a topic in which they are interested.
  1. Podcast directory: <http://www.podcast.net/>
  2. French directory: <http://www.podcastfr.info/>
- b. Have students or class subscribe to the podcast through iTunes
- c. Download iTunes if necessary <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>
- d. Open iTunes
- e. Go to the “Advanced” menu
- f. Select “Subscribe to podcast” and paste in the appropriate URL
- g. Once students are subscribed, new podcasts will automatically download to their computer.
- h. Require students to listen weekly, bi weekly, monthly, etc. to the podcast and report on the topics

**Example: Français Facile**

**<http://www.rfi.fr/communfr/dynamiques/podcasting.aspx?rubrique=lffr>**

## Blog Grading Rubric

Your Blog

Points

5 points – content

- 4-5 pts – topic fully discussed with several examples from your experiences and research
- 2-3 pts – topic only cursorily discussed with only one example provided
- 1 pt – topic barely discussed with no examples provided

\_\_\_\_\_

5 points – coherency and organization

- 4-5 points – coherent and well-organized
- 2-3 points – somewhat difficult to follow
- 1 point – not organized

\_\_\_\_\_

5 points – accuracy

- 4-5 points – few errors in spelling and grammar
- 2-3 points – many spelling or grammar errors, but still comprehensible
- 1 point – meaning unclear due to spelling or grammar errors

\_\_\_\_\_

5 points – creativity

- 4-5 points – creative presentation of topic including pictures or links to other websites
- 2-3 points – semi-creative presentation without pictures or links
- 1 – completely uncreative presentation

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Points

\_\_\_\_\_/20

Comments (2) to : \_\_\_\_\_

5 points – content

- 4-5 points - demonstrated that you read their posting by reacting to or asking about what your classmate wrote
- 2-3 points – questionable whether you read or understood classmate’s posting
- 1 point – no demonstration of having read classmate’s posting

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Points

\_\_\_\_\_/5

## Podcasting Grading Rubric

### Your Podcast

	Points
5 points – content	_____
4-5 pts – topic fully discussed with several examples from your experiences and research	
2-3 pts – topic only cursorily discussed with only one example provided	
1 pt – topic barely discussed with no examples provided	
5 points –coherency and organization	_____
4-5 points – coherent and well-organized	
2-3 points – somewhat difficult to follow	
1 point – not organized	
5 points –pronunciation and fluency	_____
4-5 points – few errors in pronunciation; conversation flows well	
2-3 points – a fair amount of pronunciation errors, but still comprehensible; many starts and stops in conversation	
1 point – meaning unclear due to pronunciation errors	
5 points – creativity	_____
4-5 points – creative presentation of topic including music, background, special effects, and/or energetic presentation	
2-3 points – semi-creative presentation without additional effects	
1 – completely uncreative presentation	
Total Points	_____/20

**Comments (2) to :** \_\_\_\_\_

5 points – content	_____
4-5 points - demonstrated that you read their posting by reacting to or asking about what your classmate wrote	
2-3 points – questionable whether you read or understood classmate’s posting	
1 point – no demonstration of having read classmate’s posting	

Total Points \_\_\_\_\_/5

## Podcast Project for Spring 2007 – Listening to Podcasts

Listen to one podcast a week (10 weeks total)

<http://www.rfi.fr/communfr/dynamiques/podcasting.aspx?rubrique=lffr>

- Date of podcast:
- Length of podcast:
- In your podcast journal, take notes as you listen:
- What did you learn about French culture by listening to the podcast this week?
- Summarize the podcast below, including major news items.
- Discuss one story in detail below.
- Find and include a related link to the story you commented on in detail above
- Write down something new you learned from listening.
- List 5 vocabulary words that are new to you this week. Be sure to identify if the words are nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. Include the sentence or phrase in which they are used.
- Write down 2-3 questions you have from listening to the podcast.
- Based on your podcast listening exercises, you will make 2 Announcements in class about something you learned during the semester. Please indicate below if you would like to make an announcement this week.  
\_\_\_ Yes I would (Topic: \_\_\_\_\_)  
\_\_\_ Not this week