

Blogs, Wikis, Docs: Which One Do I Use?

A Comparison Table

	Blogs	Wikis	Docs
Nature	A blog is a web log, a frequently updated website. More - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blog	A wiki is a web page that visitors can quickly edit. More - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki	Google Docs provides an online office suite that allows you to access your documents from any computer via a web browser. More - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Google_Docs
Authors	Usually only one person or a team of people can post. Each post is one author's voice. Others can only leave comments.	Most wikis allow either anonymous editing or editing by an unlimited number of approved users.	An owner who can invite collaborators or viewers creates all documents.
Collaborators	Usually visitors can only leave comments.	All visitors can be collaborators - You can limit this to a group of approved users.	Docs can be shared with a team of collaborators at one time (synchronously). A larger number of users can collaborate asynchronously. Up to 50 collaborators.
Organization of Site	Reverse chronological order. The newest post appears at the top of the page and older posts move down until archived (usually by month).	A wiki site is a hyperlinked collection of individual pages.	Each document is separate. Users can view all docs that they create or collaborate on in their Google Docs Home page, A published document can be viewed as an individual website.
Adding Content	Frequency of updates varies, but blogs tend to be updated more often and more consistent than wikis and docs. RSS users can also subscribe to a feed so that new posts come to them automatically.	Wikis are updated as needed, usually when new information about the topic becomes available, information changes, or a mistake is found. Users can subscribe to a page or entire wiki so that they are notified of changes automatically.	Docs are usually created and edited for a specific purpose, but they can be saved indefinitely for reuse at a later time.
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Blogs are easily created and easily updated. -If you can email, you can blog! And adding images and files is as easy as adding attachments. -Some blog systems allow authors to embed media. -Most blogs allow teams of authors with various permissions. -Some blogging systems allow users to download a backup of their blog. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wikis keeps a history of revisions to each page, including who made what changes. -Most wikis also provide a discussion forum. for each page, -Most wikis allow different permissions for different users. -If you can word process, you can use a wiki! Adding images and files is as easy as adding attachments to an email. -Most wikis allow users to download an html backup. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Google Docs are the best choice for synchronous collaboration on a single document - with some delay, users can see others changes as they occur! The system handles conflicting changes well. -A history of revisions is kept for all documents along with who made them and what changed they made. -Each spreadsheet has a built in chat room for collaborators. -Each presentation has a built in chat room

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			for viewers. -Upload and export PDF and PPT along with most word processing and spreadsheet file types.
Drawbacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -No multiple authors on a single post (usually). -No history of revisions on a single post (usually). -Though archives are searchable and can be organized by category, it can be difficult to find old content. -Some systems do not allow users to download a backup of their blog. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Users can overwrite others' changes if they are editing the same page at the same time. -Wikis are best for asynchronous collaboration, not synchronous collaboration. -Though a history of revisions is available, archives of old content are not easily accessible by category or searching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Old data may be difficult to find because it is not easily accessible by category or searching. -Only a small number of users can collaborate synchronously. (About 10 in docs and presentations, Google says 50 can join a spreadsheet at one time.) -Docs only allow two levels of permissions: viewers & collaborators (plus owners).
Examples	<p>Examples: Journal/Log Example Teacher web sites Example Class web sites Example Authors/Book Clubs Example Prof. Development Example Reflective Practice Example</p> <p>Get Started: http://www.blogger.com http://www.edublogs.org</p> <p>Subject Specific Examples: Art Example English Example Music Example Physical Ed. Example Science Example Social Studies Example</p>	<p>Examples: http://nmusd.wikispaces.com My wiki for presentations The Wikipedia Dave Conlay's Aristotle Experiment Houghton-Mifflin Tech Resources Wiki Dan McDowell's Wiki Resources A wiki about wikis in education Educational Wikis</p> <p>Get Started: http://www.wikispaces.com/site/for/teachers/</p> <p>More On Educational Wikis: Why Wiki? The Infinite Wiki Machine ("when is a wiki better than a blog?") Wikis in Plain English (Short Video)</p>	<p>Examples: Demo Form The results (a published spreadsheet)</p> <p>Getting Started: http://docs.google.com</p> <p>Resources: Google Docs for Educators Google Docs (Session from the Google Teacher Academy) Google Docs in The Classroom (PDF from the Google Teacher Academy) Google Docs in plain English</p>