Technical Blogging Tips

Our URL: http://www.mexico.gatech.edu/blog/

How to Login

1. Open blog page and click "Write post" link in second column under META

2. Login using:

> **User name:** use your username from the list below
> **Password:**

How to change your password

After you log in, you are able to change your password by clicking the link in the upper right hand corner "My Profile". There is also a link in your profile on the main blog page in the META section. On this page, you can update your password by entering in your new password twice.

How to Write a Post

Once logged in, you are the "write post" page. Add a title and write the body of your post. You can also add pictures (see below).

You should tag the post with one of the categories, and tag it with your group number if it is a group post.

Once you hit "publish", your post will be published. Should you need to go back and edit the post, you can do so through the "Manage" tab, then choose "Posts."

Instead of publishing your post right away, you may choose to save a draft of the post for later. You are also able to save a draft while you are working on a post so that you don't lose your work, and you can get a preview of what the post is looking like.

You can later access these drafts on the "write" page; they will appear in a bar labeled "Your Drafts".

Some tips for formatting your blog posts

Always include a **title** for your post! Always remember to include the correct **group number** and **category** for your group posts!

If you want to insert a **link to another web page**, you (1) type the text that you want to be the link; (2) highlight the text; (3) click the link button in the post window, and (4) past or type the html in the link box.

If you want to include a "quote" form another webpage, you should include the following tag before the beginning of the quote:**<blockquote>**. At the end of the quote, include the tag: **</blockquote>.**

If you want to italicize/bold or include other formatting, use the buttons in the write post window. Remember that italics are used for emphasis and bold is seldom used except for creating subheadings/subsections.

Normally, you should not embed images in a blog post unless you own the images. The exceptions are when the image is in public domain, are being used for satirical purposes, or are included in a poorer quality than the original (e.g. much smaller size). In all cases, the post should include a link to the original source of the image.

How to add photos to our blog's Photo page

Our photos are here: http://www.mexico.gatech.edu/blog/photos

Send a single photo to our Photo page by e-mailing it as an attachment to: @photos.flickr.com

Use the subject line of the e-mail to give the photo a *Title*, and use the body of the e-mail to *add your name, or a caption or description.*

How to add photos in a post from our Photos page

Once a photo appears on the blog's Photos page (http://www.mexico.gatech.edu/blog/photos), you can include the photo in your post.

In **FIREFOX**: First, open the blog's Photo page. Then, "right click" on the photo you want to include in your post, and choose "Copy image location."

Begin writing your post on the blog (see above). When you want to insert your image, click the icon that looks like a picture of a small tree, and in the box for Image URL: "right click" and choose Paste.

In **IE**: Open the blog's Photo page. Then " right click" on the photo you want to include in your post, and choose "Properties." Highlight the "address/URL" and "right click" and choose Copy. Begin writing your post on the blog (see above). When you want to insert your image, click the icon that looks like a picture of a small tree, and in the box for Image URL: "right click" and choose Paste.

A very important point about adding photos to your post

You should *never* add a photo to your blogpost that you did not take yourself.

Finding content to include in blog posts

Most bloggers find content for their blogs by daily reading of online news sources and other blogs and by being keen observers of the world around them. You'll need to stay on the look out for interesting ideas to blog. Get in the habit of reading at least 2 news sources online a day and bookmark the stories that you think might be interesting to write about.

If you find a story online (or even offline) that you think you'd like to write about, use google to look up background from the story to include in your blog post. For instance, if the news article is about the new government program, see if you can find the government's web page for the program or see if you can find the President's press release announcing the program. If the news article includes event or name you are not familiar with, do a news search for them on the Mexican newspaper's website to see if you can find earlier stories. If a politician is mentioned, see if you can link to their webpage in the Senate or Chamber of Deputies. For important places or historical figures, you can include links to Wikipedia. (No more that one link per post can be from Wikipedia.)

Remember: Our class blog is hosted on Georgia Tech servers. I will not censor your posts, but you should make sure that your posts do no violate (or show students violating) the standards of student conduct of either Monterrey Tec or Georgia Tech.

A list of resources (including good sample posts) are listed on the page labeled "Blogging resources" in the bottom right corner, META section blog.