

Guidelines for Blog Posts

Cornell CS 322 “Introduction to Scientific Computing” (Spring 2008)
Prof. Doug James

Acknowledgement: Blog guidelines adapted from Cornell INFO204 “Networks” course by Easley & Kleinberg.

A class weblog will be maintained as part of the course. One aspect of the graded coursework for each student will be to write three posts to it during the semester. The intention of this blog is to collectively create a blog that contains information and commentary on topics related to the course. The blog will be hosted by the National Science Digital Library (NSDL), a project co-directed by researchers at Cornell, which seeks to improve the dissemination of scientific information.

The blog will be viewable by anyone on the internet; however only students and instructors associated with the course will be allowed to post to it.

When posting to the blog, please consider format, timing and privacy.

Format

Each post should include:

- A link to an on-line resource relevant to the course (e.g. a news article, an academic paper, a company or organization, or any other type of website with useful/relevant reflection on the course material).
- Some commentary about the resource being linked to
- A discussion of how the resource connects to some topic covered in the course.

Each student is required to write three posts to the blog over the course of the semester, and these will be graded on their relevance to the class, their novelty, and the quality of the insight and writing. You can produce additional posts if you want, and provided that they are of high quality, this can lead to a (modest) improvement in the grade for this part of the course; overall, however, we are not grading based on the volume of text you produce, but rather its relevance and quality. We’ll try to mention some of the more interesting posts in context in the lectures, and we’ll also maintain a parallel digest blog with summaries and comments on a small sampling of posts from the class blog.

You should keep in mind, as you write your posts, that if you refer to a company, organization or research project in the outside world, the people you’re talking about may well end up reading what you write. You may also receive feedback from these organizations.

Finally, adding inappropriate, rude, or disruptive content to the blog will result in a 0 for this part of the course grade, and (depending on the nature of the content) potentially stronger actions. Plagiarism is also not acceptable; see the course home page for a further discussion of this.

Timing

The blog will be most useful if the posts arrive continuously over time; this way, posts can sample material from the different parts of the class as they happen. As a result, it would not work simply to have a single due date for each of the blog posts: this would result in a huge number of posts all arriving in a short amount of time, rather than spread out uniformly.

Given this concern, we have created a schedule that your three posts should follow, and it works as follows. First, find the first letter of your last name in the table below. Using the corresponding row in the table, your first post should be generated between the date in the second column and the date in the third column; your second post should be generated between the date in the third column and the date in the fourth column; your third post should be generated between the date in the fourth column and the date in the fifth column. If you want to create additional posts, these can be done at any time; but at least three of your posts should conform to this schedule.

First letter of last name	Start date for 1st post:	End date for 1st post and start date for 2nd post:	End date for 2nd post and start date for 3rd post:	End date for 3rd post:
A	1-Feb	22-Feb	14-Mar	11-Apr
B	11-Feb	3-Mar	31-Mar	21-Apr
C	13-Feb	5-Mar	2-Apr	23-Apr
D	4-Feb	25-Feb	24-Mar	14-Apr
E	1-Feb	22-Feb	14-Mar	11-Apr
F	28-Jan	18-Feb	10-Mar	7-Apr
G	13-Feb	5-Mar	2-Apr	23-Apr
H	6-Feb	27-Feb	26-Mar	16-Apr
I	1-Feb	22-Feb	14-Mar	11-Apr
J	11-Feb	3-Mar	31-Mar	21-Apr
K	6-Feb	27-Feb	26-Mar	16-Apr
L	28-Jan	18-Feb	10-Mar	7-Apr
M	15-Feb	7-Mar	4-Apr	25-Apr
N	18-Feb	10-Mar	7-Apr	28-Apr
O	6-Feb	27-Feb	26-Mar	16-Apr
P	18-Feb	10-Mar	7-Apr	28-Apr
Q	30-Jan	20-Feb	12-Mar	9-Apr
R	4-Feb	25-Feb	24-Mar	14-Apr
S	8-Feb	29-Feb	28-Mar	18-Apr
T	15-Feb	7-Mar	4-Apr	25-Apr
U	30-Jan	20-Feb	12-Mar	9-Apr
V	1-Feb	22-Feb	14-Mar	11-Apr
W	30-Jan	20-Feb	12-Mar	9-Apr
X	1-Feb	22-Feb	14-Mar	11-Apr
Y	4-Feb	25-Feb	24-Mar	14-Apr
Z	8-Feb	29-Feb	28-Mar	18-Apr

Privacy

In keeping with course privacy guidelines, no student will be required to make their true identity public as part of this activity. The blog is configured in such a way that each student can choose an arbitrary user name that can be unrelated to their real name or Cornell NetID. The course staff will keep a private record of the user names and the corresponding real names for purposes of grading. This will be the only identifier that will appear associated with a given post. (Naturally, nothing prevents students from including their real names in the text of their posts, if they choose to do so.)

Instructions for Registering for the Blog

In order to comment or post to this blog, students must have an NSDL account and register that account with ExpertVoices. You can follow the directions for registration [here](#). Be sure to register with ExpertVoices from this [blog](#). Once an account has been created and registered with ExpertVoices, click on “Request Post Permission” on the top right corner of this blog.

In keeping with course privacy guidelines, no student will be required to make their true identity public as part of this activity. Students are strongly encouraged to use a nickname when posting or commenting. After being granted post permission, click on your name on the top right corner of the main page of this blog (you must be logged in first). This will take you to a page where you can edit your profile; type in a nickname in the appropriate field and click on “Update Profile”. After your profile is updated, you can then select your nickname from the drop down menu labeled: “Display name publicly as:”, and then click on “Update Profile” again.

Please also fill in the fields for your name and email address. While this information will not be publicly displayed, we require this in order to assign grades.

The interface for updating this blog is fairly straightforward. Please refer to this [help page](#) if you are having difficulty. If your problem persists, feel free to email amyfish@cs.cornell.edu.