

# Unit 1.9: Blogs

## Worksheet

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### Assessing the quality of blogs

Blogging, it can be argued, makes it possible for almost anyone in possession of the necessary technology to write a blog. This makes writing remarkably democratic. There is no gatekeeper to prevent anyone getting online and expressing their views. In many ways, this is a good thing.

However, it can also have a negative side in that people may express views that are intentionally hurtful or harmful to others. So while blogging allows the free expression of ideas, this does not mean that it is right to express whatever you like about whomever you like.

In other words, although we often champion and celebrate the notion of 'free speech', it does not and, most argue, *should* not allow people to express exactly what they want to.

While this is easy to say in principle, it is much harder in practice to know where exactly the limits of free speech are or should be.

- As a class, create a blog.
- Each member of the class should write 500 words, addressing the question: 'What are the limits of free speech?'
- Each student should comment on the work of at least two other students.
- Express your views honestly, but in a way that is measured and respects the integrity of other people.