Talk and Tech – Discussion, Sept 13-14th, 2012

	Conversation	Dialogue / Debate	Discourse	Lecture
Blog	Blogs allow one person to post a longer "article" and for others to respond, but it does not lend itself naturally to conversation since the original poster has so much space and control.	Although the comments sections of blogs can get busy, the blog's primary purpose is to allow one person to give an extended posting.	**Recommended! Because blogs allow one person to write for an extended space, they are ideal for letting students engage in and practice public discourse.**	Instructors can deliver content via a blog, but students would also be able to create a blog, perhaps making the blog's use in the course confusing.
Discussion Board / Forum	**Recommended! Genial conversation and sharing of information was one of the first uses for forums.**	**Recommended! With a question to debate to start them off, discussion boards can take on great vibrancy.**	Extended postings are often difficult to read and follow on a discussion board.	Substantial content delivery can become unwieldy on a discussion board. Students might also struggle to find instructor lecture material among the discussion.
Journals	**Recommended! Journals can be a private place for students to spin out ideas and get feedback from the instructor.**	Bb Journals default to a private setting that only the instructor and individual student can see. It is intended as a private space.	Journals allow one student to write an extended analysis of an idea, but since it is usually a private document, discourse is not a natural fit.	Journals can handle lots of content, but Bb will automatically create a journal for each student which could be confusing if students think the journal is for lecture.
Wiki	**Recommended! Wikis are intended as collaborative online documents that anyone can edit.**	Anyone can post, edit or delete something someone else said. Comments or ideas can be erased	Since wikis are editable by anyone, one student's extended discourse is likely to be deleted by other students.	**Recommended! Bb's Wiki tool can be used <u>with editing disabled</u> for lecture content delivery. Students can leave comments and ask questions but cannot change the lecture content or add pages.**

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Blackboard Interactive Tools

Blog – A blog, short for *weblog*, is a space for individuals to write a substantial amount. In Bb, blogs are always public (available for all course users to read). They can be either INDIVIDUAL blogs (each individual has his or her own blog space) or COURSE blogs (all course users can make individual posts but they are all part of the same blog). All course users can also leave comments.

Discussion Board – also called *Forums*. Discussion boards were one of the internet's first interactive tools, allowing developers to exchange ideas. In Bb, discussion "threads" keep all posts within a conversation together. Any course user can start a new thread.

Journals – Like blogs, journals offer a space for individuals to write a substantial amount. Bb journals always default to being private (only the instructor and the student who writes the journal can see it), but instructors have the option of making journals public (all course users can see it). Journals allow anyone with access to the journal to leave a comment.

Wiki – Wikis were created as online spaces where individuals could collaborate to produce documents. The idea of the wiki was revolutionary because it allowed anyone to edit or delete content posted by another individual. In Bb, the Wiki allows all course users to edit any page or to add more pages. At the same time, instructors can close a page to editing and use it to deliver content exclusively. Wiki pages also allow for comments.

Types of Discussion

Conversation – Generally conceived as a genial exchange of thoughts and feelings, it "seeks equilibrium" (Lipman, 1991); conversation also has connotations of lightness (Bridges 1988), aimless and carefree effortlessness (Dillion, 1994), and informality (Rorty, 1979).

Dialogue / Debate – An exchange of ideas that aims at disequilibrium in which each argument evokes a counterargument that pushes the ideas forward; participants are collaborators intent on resolving a problem or issue (Lipman, 1991; Rorty ,1979).

Discourse – An extended explanation or analysis of a particular topic. In terms of discussion, discourse happens when one person talks too much (Brookfield and Preskill, 1999).