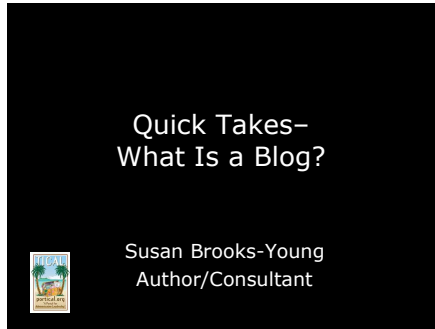
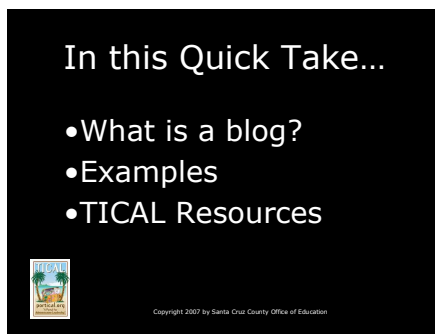


Slide 1



Hello! My name is Susan Brooks-Young. I spent 23 years working as a teacher and administrator in public and private education. Now I work with educators across the country on various aspects of technology use in schools, including ways that emerging technologies can be used by teachers and administrators. This is one of a series of Quick Take presentations that provide brief overviews of emerging technologies along with examples of ways educators are using each tool and resources for additional information that are available in the TICAL Resources Database.

Slide 2



A hallmark of the new Web 2.0 tools is interactivity. This Quick Take focuses on one of the earliest of these tools, blogs. We will answer the question, "What is a blog," view examples, and see a listing of blog-related resources included in the TICAL Resource Database.

Slide 3



Let's get started. The term blog is short for Weblog. This is a site that consists of brief, frequently updated content. Personal blogs are written by an individual author and are often used as online journals or diaries.

Slide 4



New information is added to a blog in the form of a posting. A typical post includes the date, a title and topic, the message text, and a link for readers to add comments to the original post. Posts appear in reverse chronological order (most recent first). Most blog tools also allow authors to add photos, video, audio, and links to other sites. It is also possible to customize the look and feel of the blog.

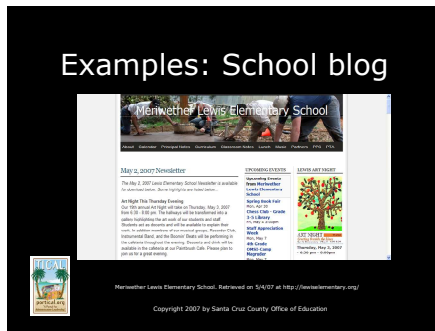
Slide 5

Pros	Cons
Easy to update	May have quality control issues
Manageable	Someone must monitor
Expanded audience	Safety concerns

What are the pros and cons of using a blog? Blogs make it extremely easy for educators and students to have a current online presence. They're easy to update, requiring no programming skills at all. Blog owners can set varying administrative levels to determine who may act as an author, or when comments will be permitted and by whom. The main benefit is that it's possible to reach a wide audience including other students, parents, community members, and fellow educators. There are drawbacks, however. If multiple authors are permitted, you

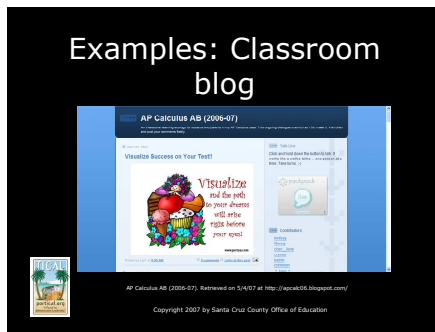
may have quality control issues related to spelling, grammar, and posting content. This means that someone needs to monitor postings and take appropriate action when needed. Also, some parents and educators have concerns about students revealing information that might become a safety concern.

Slide 6



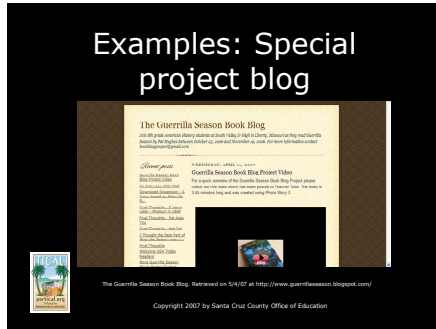
Educators are finding a number of ways to use blogs that go far beyond the idea of being a personal journal. For example, ease of use and short updating time makes a blog the perfect vehicle for designing and maintaining an up-to-date school Website, like Meriwether Lewis Elementary School's site created by principal Tim Lauer.

Slide 7



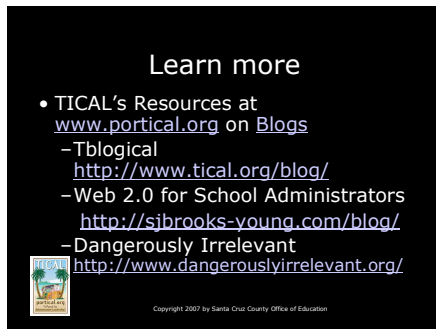
Canadian high school teacher Darren Kuropatwa creates a blog for each of his classes every school year. He and his students use the blog for a variety of purposes including class news, activities, and for home/school communication.

Slide 8



Middle school teacher Eric Langhorst created this special purpose blog for his 8th grade students to use while reading the book *The Guerrilla Season*.

Slide 9



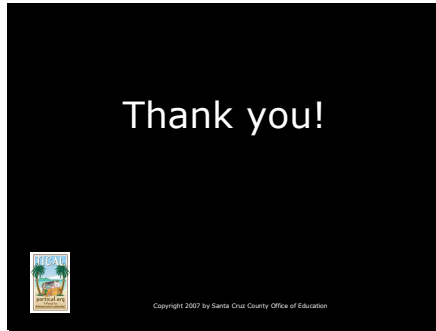
This slide and the next show items found in the TICAL Resources Database that will give you more information about blogs. Here are links to three blogs written for school administrators.

Slide 10



This slide provides links to an article and video clip about blogging.

Slide 11



Blogs offer exciting opportunities for educators and students to communicate with one another. I hope this Quick Take inspires you to learn more about Web 2.0 tools.