Academic Blogging Style Guidelines

For some of us, contributing to discussions on the Wisdom Research Network will constitute our first foray into the blogosphere. This document was written to help newcomers navigate the academic standards, expectations, and possibilities of academic blogging.

If you have any questions, please contact the Wisdom Research Network’s Director of Communications, Joy Wattawa (wattawaj@uchicago.edu), to discuss any ideas you have for your entry, and we will be happy to assist you in accomplishing your goals.

Format
Blogs should be about 2-5 paragraphs in length, but they can be longer or shorter if necessary to convey your idea. They should include a suggested title and any citations necessary to support your claims, in the format of your choosing (parenthetical or footnoting). You may embed within the text links to other websites, links to pdf papers, videos, poll questions, etc.

Style
Most often blogs are written in a more conversational style than traditional academic papers, but they should nonetheless aim to convey scholarly ideas pertaining to wisdom. You may express informed opinions, or merely share your data or ask for thoughts on your research. Because blogs tend to take less time than formal papers, this tool allows you to share your ideas in a more timely fashion than might otherwise be possible.

Process
When you have a blog entry ready, you should send it to Joy Wattawa (wattawaj@uchicago.edu), who will verify that your entry follows the guidelines we have outlined for our academic blog and who will help you post your entry on the site.

Possibilities
The possibilities for your posting are nearly endless, but here we suggest a few. You can discuss your current research, a paper you’ve recently read, review some interesting literature, talk about how wisdom research pertains to current events, write about an idea you have and ask for feedback, or talk about the state of the field. The only topical requirement is that it pertain to defining the benefits and nature of wisdom.

Examples
Many people find it helpful to look at examples before they begin to write their own blog. Here we list a few academic blogs of note:

http://neurodudes.com/
http://experimentalphilosophy.typepad.com/
http://edge.org/
http://researchblogging.org/

For a fairly comprehensive list, see http://www.academicblogs.org