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# HAITI

## SECONDARY LEVEL

### Blogs Activity

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- **Purpose:** the purpose of this activity is for students to learn about the Haiti earthquake in real time, learning how to reflect on the issues that occurred.
- **Instructional method(s):** group discussion, video demonstration, independent work
- **Differentiated Instruction:**
  - Class is divided into groups and each group is assigned one blog entry to analyze and respond to.
  - Students watch Craig's video entries (see additional resources) and respond to the issues.
- **Estimated time:** continuous, independent project covering two one hour periods.
- **Steps:**
  1. Explain to students that after the earthquake struck Haiti, Free The Children had a team in country to provide immediate help while assessing the damages to determine how they could assist in the short-term and long-term. Craig Kielburger was one member of this team. Over the course of his stay in Haiti, he kept a written blog, describing his findings and telling the stories of the people he met.
  2. Before going into Craig's experience on the ground after the earthquake, begin by showing students an interview with Craig on Canada AM prior to his journey to Haiti –Craig Kielburger on Canada AM - <http://watch.ctv.ca/news/clip255333#clip255333>
  3. Explain to the class that they will be creating an on-line class blog about Haiti. Students must begin by reading through the series of blogs written by Craig during the course of his time in Haiti after the earthquake. As they are reading, they must choose three issues addressed in the series and discuss them in blog format, posting their entries on the on-line class blog once they are complete.
  4. Begin by holding a discussion around blogs using the following suggested questions:
    - What is a blog?
    - Why do people write blogs?
    - Why do people read blogs?
    - What makes a good blog?
    - What steps are needed to create a blog?
    - What topics could you write about in your own personal blog?
  5. Provide students with the following links to Craig Kielburger's Haiti Blog:
    - [Crisis in Haiti](http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/crisis.php) written January 17, 2010 - <http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/crisis.php>
    - [Haitians are True Heroes](http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/hereo.php) written January 18, 2010 - <http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/hereo.php>
    - [The Voice of Haiti](http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/voice.php) written January 19, 2010 - <http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/voice.php>
    - [A Network of Hope](http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/hope.php) written January 19, 2010 - <http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/hope.php>

- [The Road to Help](http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/road.php) written January 20, 2010 - <http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/road.php>
  - [Aftershock Causes More Uncertainty](http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/cause.php) written January 20, 2010 - <http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/cause.php>
  - [No End in Sight](http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/end.php) written January 21, 2010 - <http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/end.php>
  - [We Are All Haitian](http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/index.php) written January 22, 2010 - <http://www.freethechildren.com/donate/haiti-earthquake-relief-fund/blog/index.php>
6. Once the blog has been created (see directions below), brainstorm ideas of how to get members of the school community to view the blog. This can be an opportunity for the class to advertise their fundraising initiatives.

*Teacher Note: steps to creating a class blog:*

- Create a class email account (e.g. [HaitiwithMrsSmith@gmail.com](mailto:HaitiwithMrsSmith@gmail.com))
- Visit a blog creation website such as [www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com) or [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com)
- Click on "Create a Blog" or "Sign Up".
- Using the class email account, fill in all the appropriate information on the sign up page.
- Create a simple password the entire class will know and use (e.g. *iloveschool*).
- Click next and create the blog title and URL. If possible make these similar.
- Click next and proceed to choose the blog template.
- Congratulations, you have created you class blog! Now you can encourage the students to post their work independently.