

## Setting up a Class Website with WordPress.com

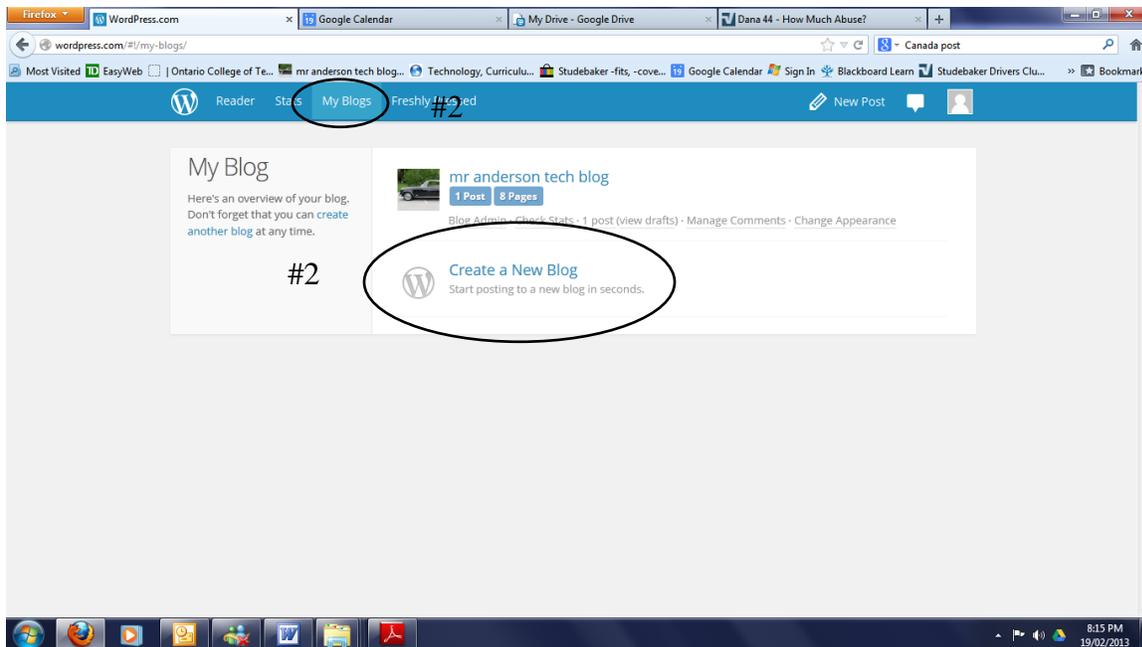
### Some Basic Information:

[www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com) is a program that allows you to host *multiple* blogs. This means that you can sign up with one email address yet have more than 1 blog (which you can set up per class, for instance). Blogs can be deleted, the account that created them cannot (but it remains inactive if you don't use it, and doesn't pester you with notifications).

If you want your own domain name (without the 'wordpress.com') and the ability to use plugins and further customize your blog into a more cohesive website, then you can use [www.wordpress.org](http://www.wordpress.org). This requires you to purchase and pay annual fees from independent web hosting services (like Bluehost, DreamHost, etc.).

### Setting Up Your Class Blog!

1. Head over to [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com) and create an account using the email of your choice.
2. Once you activate your account, go to 'My Blogs' and click on 'Create a New Blog.'



3. Input your unique blog address and click 'create blog.' Then you will see a prompt to click on 'Dashboard' to edit your blog. **Dashboard** is where you edit everything on your blog, so head there!

4. Go to **Appearance**, then **Themes**, and choose a theme to personalize your new blog!

5. Go to **Posts**, then click on **Categories** and create your categories (when you write **Posts** you will put them in categories).

6. Go to **Appearance**, then **Menu**, and input Categories or **Pages** (these are stand alone pages that don't link to multiple posts like Categories do – they are mostly used for the 'about' or 'contributors' section).

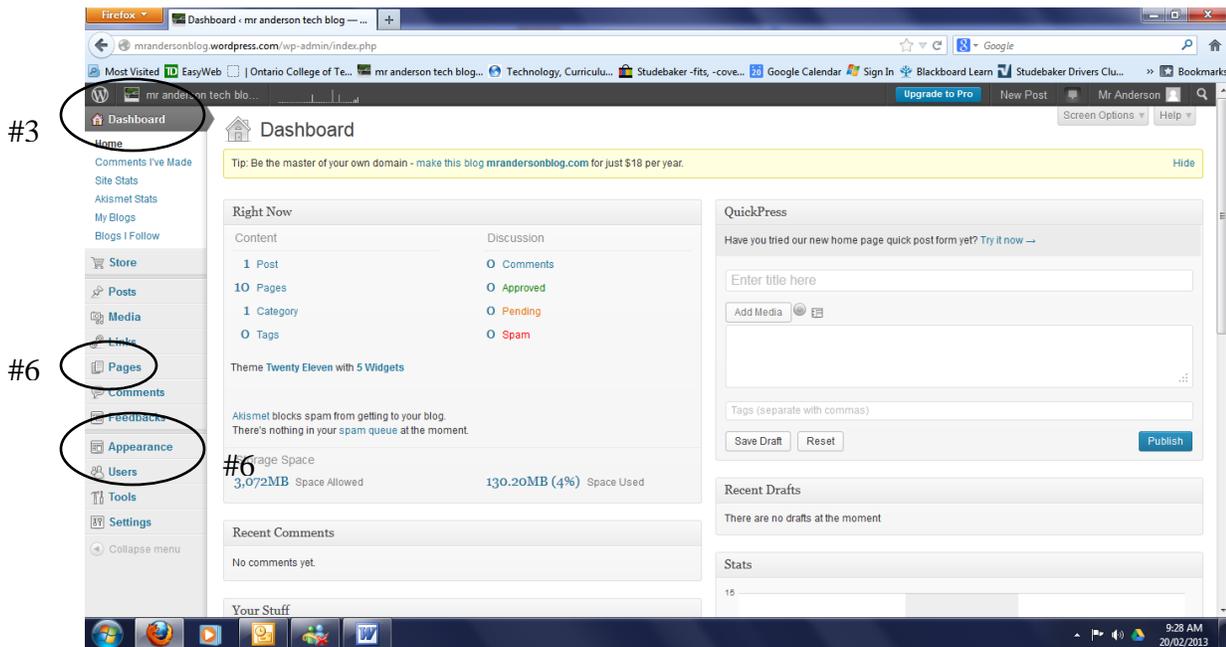
7. Organize your menu (determine what you want first, if you want **drop down subheadings** just move the category further to the right than the one above it). Make sure you **title** your menu, and save it in the box on the left titled **Theme Locations** (your theme must be selected). Click on **save menu** on the far right, and take a look by clicking on your blog title at the very top on the far left (it's in dark grey).

8. To customize your blog title and tagline, as well as your theme colors and features, just go back to **Appearance**, then **Themes** then click on **Customize Theme**.

9. **Posts** are what your blog is made of – they're the actual content, and be categorized however you like.

**TIP:** It's useful to have **2 tabs** open, one that shows your actual blog, and one that shows your dashboard. This way you can edit your blog, then whenever you change something, you can go to the tab your blog is on, refresh it, and see the change without going out of dashboard.

**To embed youtube videos:** copy the video address, and type [**youtube=** ] and paste the address after the “=” . For instance, if my link is <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YG8pdR6VAXw>., in my actual post/page I will type [**youtube=http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= YG8pdR6VAXw**]. On the actual post, the video will be embedded.



## **Some Teacher-Specific Plugins for Wordpress.org**

(to find more, search the plugin directory on [wordpress.org](http://wordpress.org))

### **WP Teacher**

A plugin that allows teachers to integrate course content into their personal website to enhance student learning. It includes special widgets that display assignment information.  
<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-teacher/>

### **Class Blogs**

A plugin that is supposed to simplify running a classroom blog by making it easier for the teacher to administrate the work done by students.  
<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/class-blogs/>

### **SlickQuiz**

Allows teachers to create and manage quizzes and results  
<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/slickquiz/>

### **This Day In History**

Plugin that displays different historical events on a blog.  
<http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/this-day-in-history/>

### **For More Information Check Out:**

#### **Learn WordPress**

<http://learn.wordpress.com/>

### **Education Continues Outside the Classroom On WordPress.com**

<http://en.blog.wordpress.com/2013/01/31/educators-on-wordpress/>