

Learning Futures Programme – Manchester Residential, 3-4 Dec 2010

# EnquiryBlogger: A Learning Futures Tool

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# Blogging for learning research

(from the project proposal)

- Blogs offer learners opportunities to **incorporate many perspectives, develop carefully crafted contributions, reflect and make considered responses** to others (Ferguson et al., 2007). This medium provides an environment in which people can **observe, articulate and refine practices** (Efimova et al., 2004).
- At the same time, by making use of the comment facility, bloggers are able to **share thoughts, ideas and opinions** (Du and Wagner, 2005). In order for students to engage effectively with this emerging genre, they need to be able to **experiment and take ownership of their writing**, learning to develop a blog as a **space for personal learning, reflection and interaction** (Bryman and Burgess, 1994).

**The concept:  
tune a world class  
blogging platform to serve  
as a learning journal for  
enquiry-based learning**

**...encapsulate principles emerging from the  
Learning Futures research, as a set of  
optional plug-ins...**

# www.wordpress.org

WordPress is web software you can use to create a beautiful website or blog. We like to say that WordPress is both free and priceless at the same time.

The core software is built by hundreds of community volunteers, and when you're ready for more there are thousands of [plugins](#) and [themes](#) available to transform your site into almost [anything you can imagine](#). Over 25 million people have chosen WordPress to power the place on the web they call "home" — we'd love you to join the family.

Ready to get started?

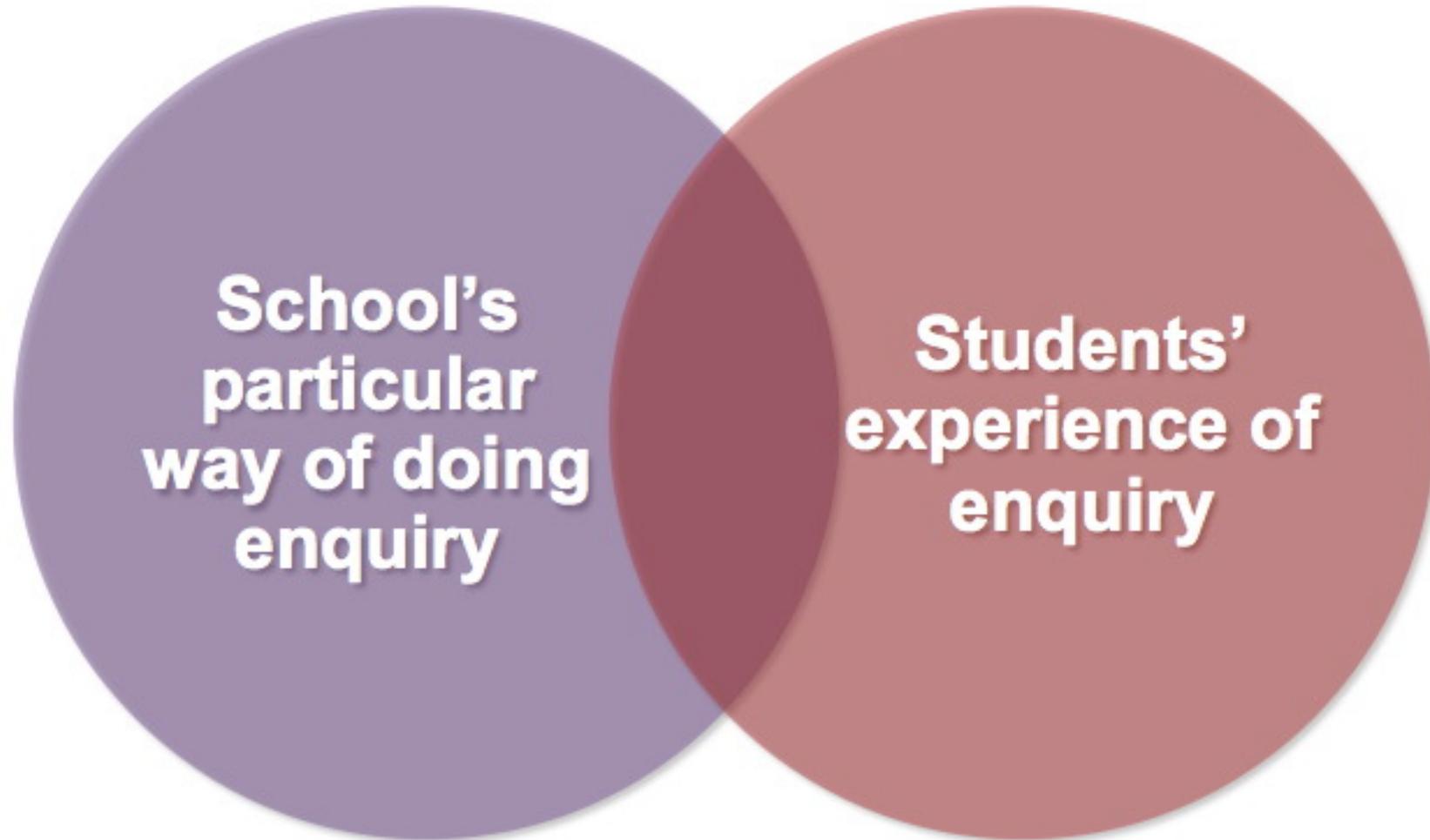
[Download WordPress 3.0.2](#)



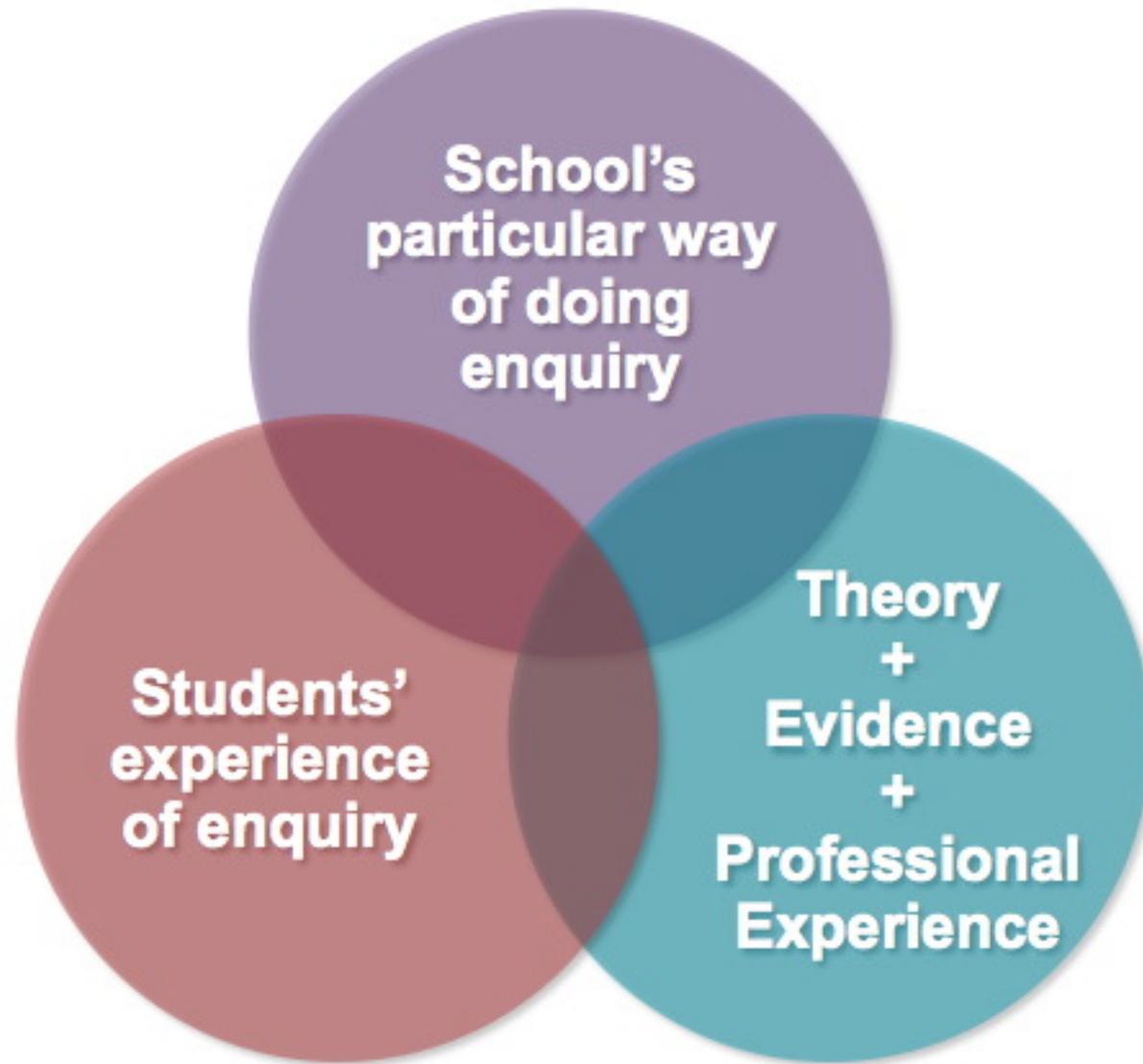
## **3 intersecting stories**

**School's  
particular  
way of doing  
enquiry**

## **3 intersecting stories**

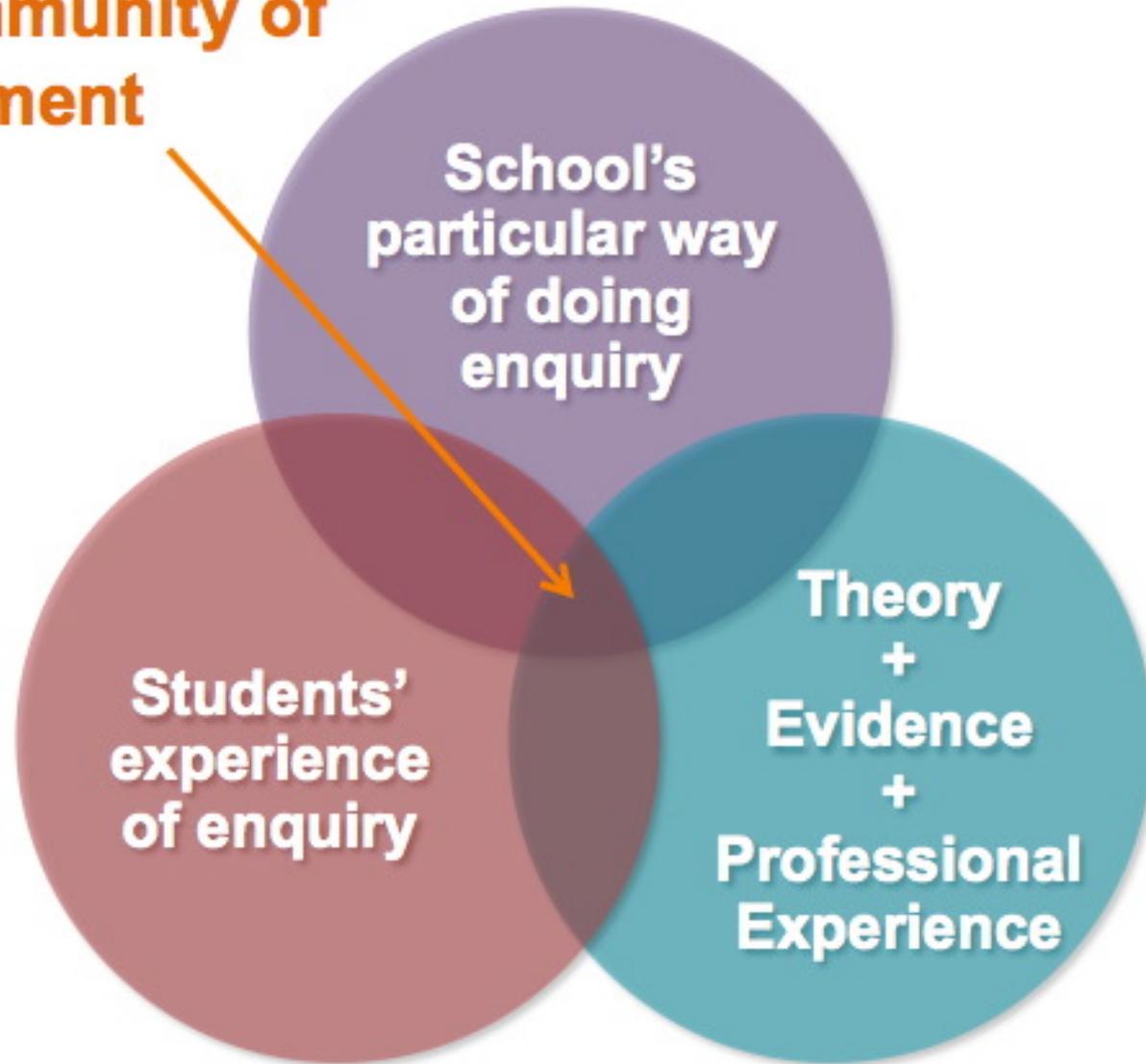


## 3 intersecting stories



### **3 intersecting stories**

## **Professional learning in our community of engagement**



Community, place, embodied experience, story, identity



Procedural steps in an enquiry project – framing the journey

Start/plan/  
choose

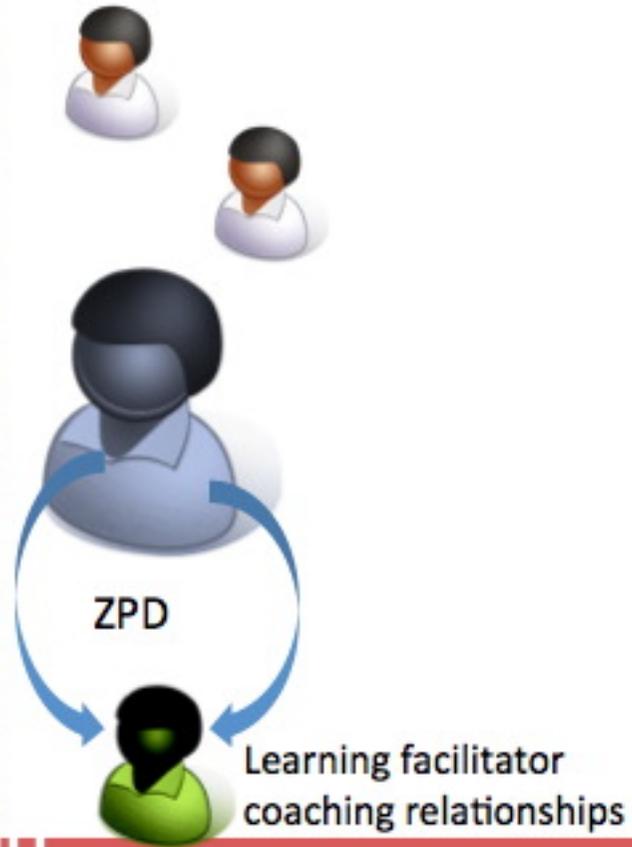
Sense  
making

Focus and  
develop

Present  
and  
evaluate

New knowledge, applied concepts, authentic solutions

Community, place, embodied experience, story, identity



Procedural steps in an enquiry project – framing the journey

Start/plan/  
choose

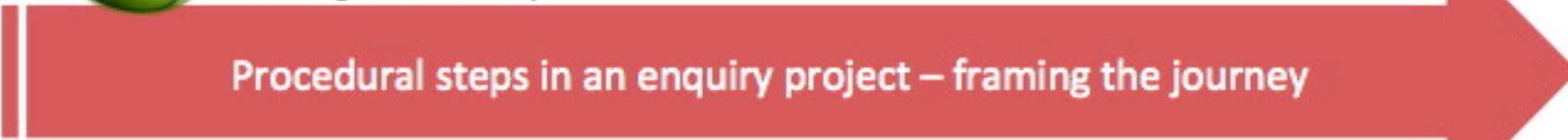
Sense  
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New knowledge, applied concepts, authentic solutions

Community, place, embodied experience, story, identity



Start/plan/  
choose

Sense  
making

Focus and  
develop

Present  
and  
evaluate

New knowledge, applied concepts, authentic solutions

Community, place, embodied experience, story, identity



Constructing new conceptual knowledge from experience – choosing, describing, questioning, storying, mapping, connecting, reconciling, validating

Using my learning power to navigate the journey from experience to new conceptual knowledge – changing and learning, meaning making, creativity, critical curiosity, strategic awareness, learning relationships, resilience

Procedural steps in an enquiry project – framing the journey

Start/plan/choose

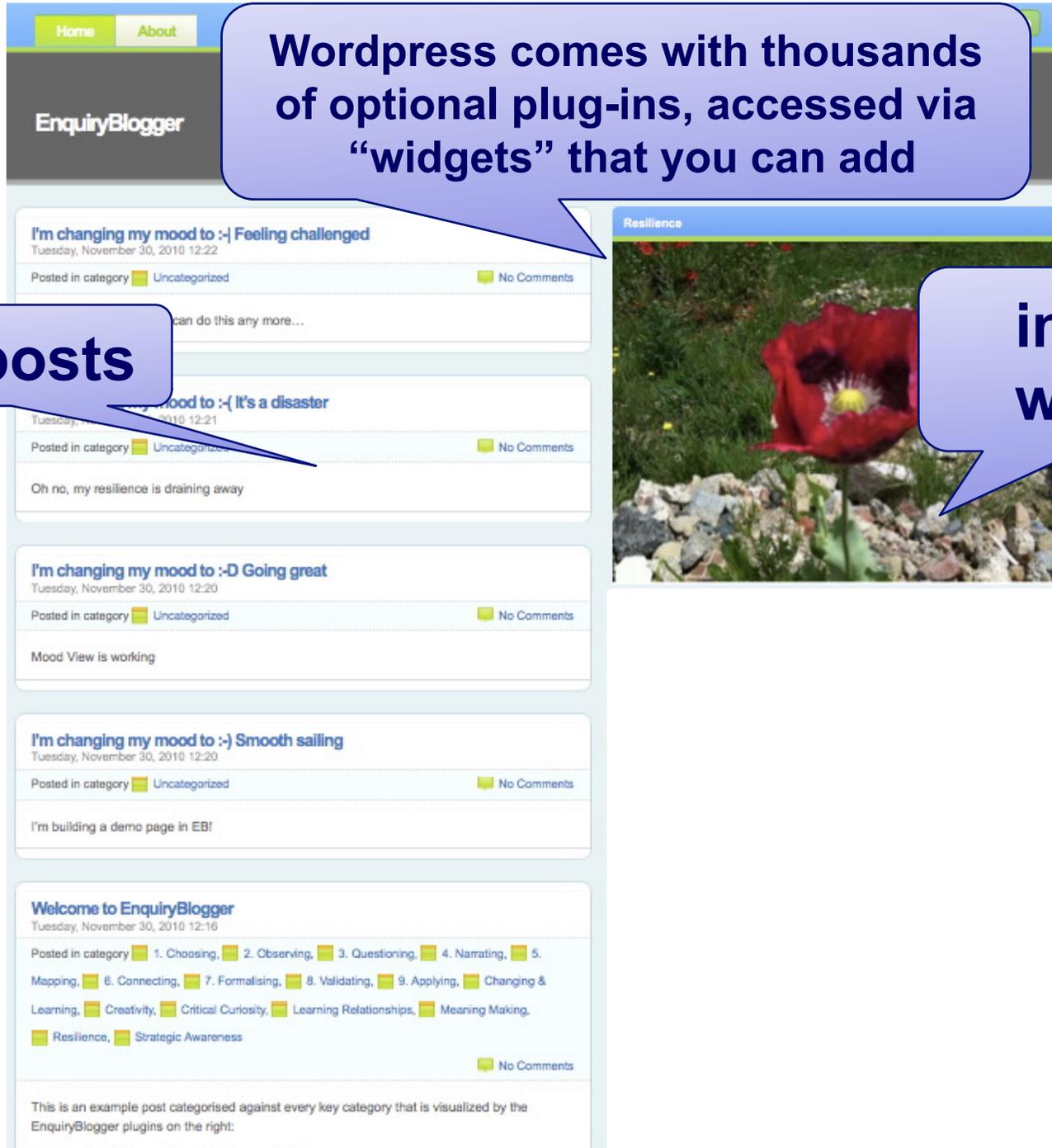
Sense making

Focus and develop

Present and evaluate

New knowledge, applied concepts, authentic solutions

**...after 20 days  
intensive design + coding...**



Wordpress comes with thousands of optional plug-ins, accessed via "widgets" that you can add

blog posts

image widget

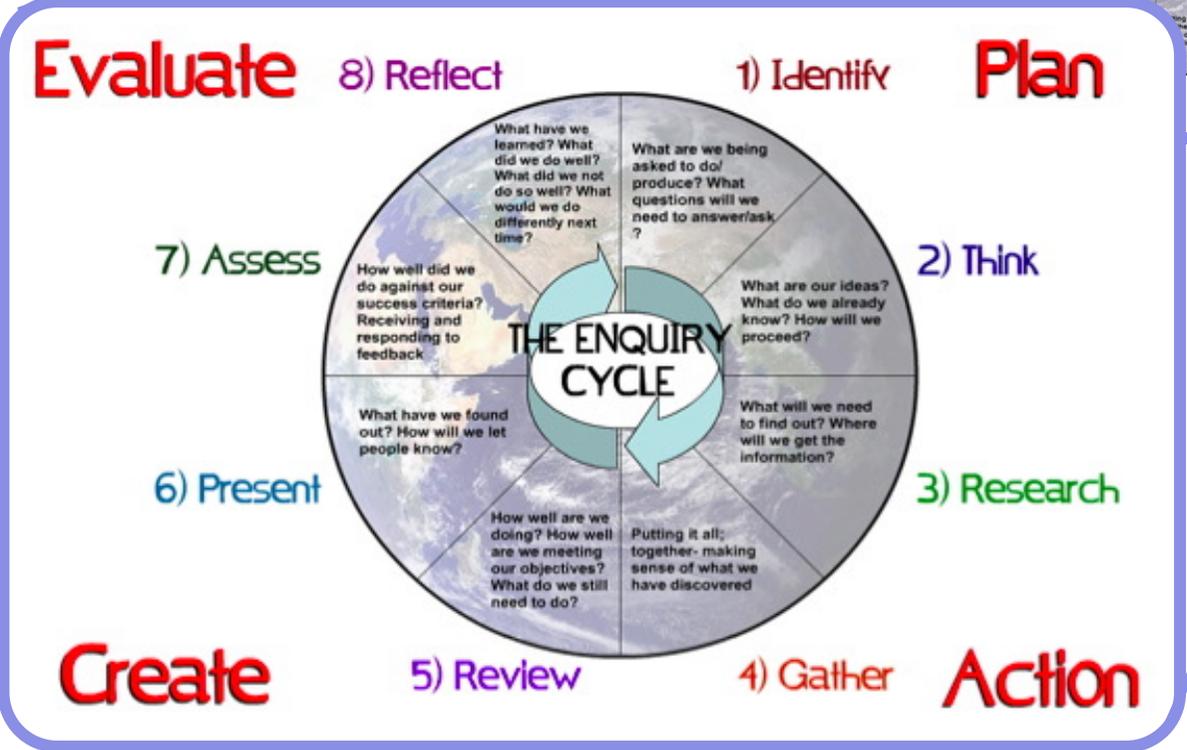
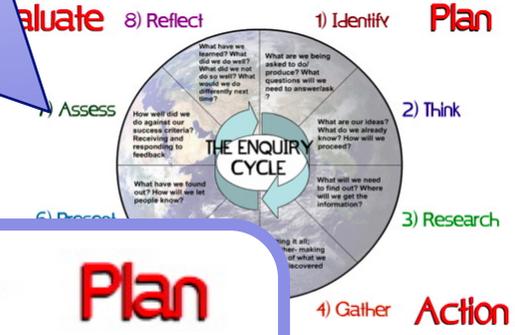
# Using the image widget to present a school-specific enquiry scaffold (Cramlington)

I'm changing my mood to :-{ It's a disaster  
 Tuesday, November 30, 2010 12:21

Now I'm really not sure I can do this any more...

I'm changing my mood to :-{ It's a disaster  
 Tuesday, November 30, 2010 12:22

Posted in category Uncategorized



No Comments

This is an example post categorised against every key category that is visualized by the EnquiryBlogger plugins on the right:

Home About Blog Search GO

# EnquiryBlogger

**I'm changing my mood to :-| Feeling challenged**  
 Tuesday, November 30, 2010 12:22  
 Posted in category Uncategorized No Comments

Now I'm really not sure I can do this any more...

**I'm changing my mood to :-| It's a disaster**  
 Tuesday, November 30, 2010 12:21  
 Posted in category Uncategorized No Comments

Oh no, my resilience is draining away

**I'm changing my mood to :-D Going great**  
 Tuesday, November 30, 2010 12:20  
 Posted in category Uncategorized No Comments

Me

**I'm changing my mood to :-| Feeling challenged**  
 Tuesday, November 30, 2010 12:16  
 Posted in category Uncategorized No Comments

I'm building a demo page in EB!

**Welcome to EnquiryBlogger**  
 Tuesday, November 30, 2010 12:16  
 Posted in category 1. Choosing, 2. Observing, 3. Questioning, 4. Narrating, 5. Mapping, 6. Connecting, 7. Formalising, 8. Validating, 9. Applying, Changing & Learning, Creativity, Critical Curiosity, Learning Relationships, Meaning Making, Resilience, Strategic Awareness No Comments

This is an example post categorised against every key category that is visualized by the EnquiryBlogger plugins on the right:

**Resilience**

**Enquiry Spiral**

**ELLI Spider**

**Mood View**

12:20:30 12:21:00 12:21:30 12:22:00  
 My mood is :-| Feeling challenged

**Demo ELLI Profile**

Admin...

**Learning Futures plugins**

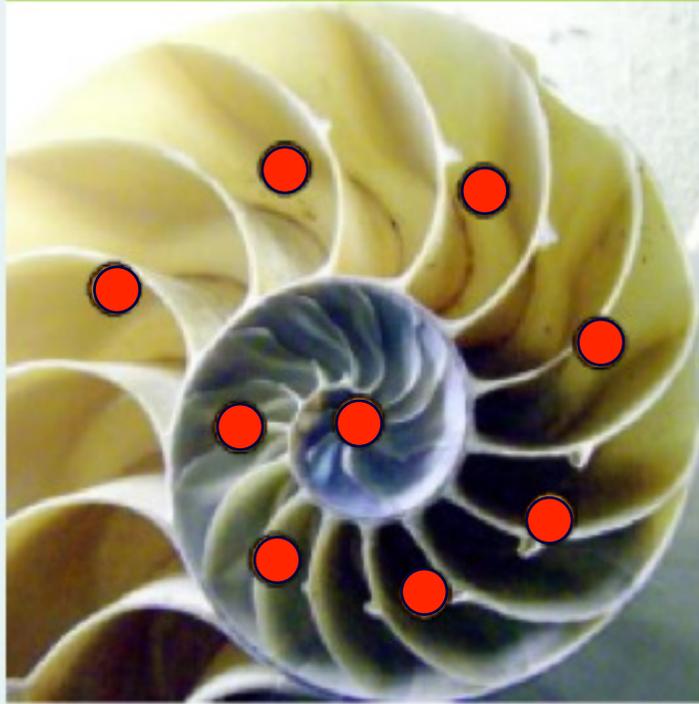
# Composing and categorising a blog post

The screenshot shows the 'Edit Post' interface in a standard blog editor. The title is 'My first reflections...'. The permalink is 'http://projects.kmi.open.ac.uk/enquiryblogger/blogs/lfteamsbuckinghamshum/archives/1'. The rich text editor contains the text: 'My initial thoughts on how to choose the focus of my project, and already I find that I can't do this without asking a whole bunch of questions, e.g.'. The categories sidebar on the right shows a list of categories: 'Uncategorized', '1. Choosing', '2. Observing', '3. Questioning', and '4. Narrating'. The '1. Choosing' and '3. Questioning' categories are selected with checkboxes. A blue callout bubble points to the '3. Questioning' category.

**Categories from the U. Bristol enquiry-based thinking/learning capabilities, which are visualized by the plugins**

**Standard blog editor, inc. option to embed multimedia**

## Enquiry Spiral

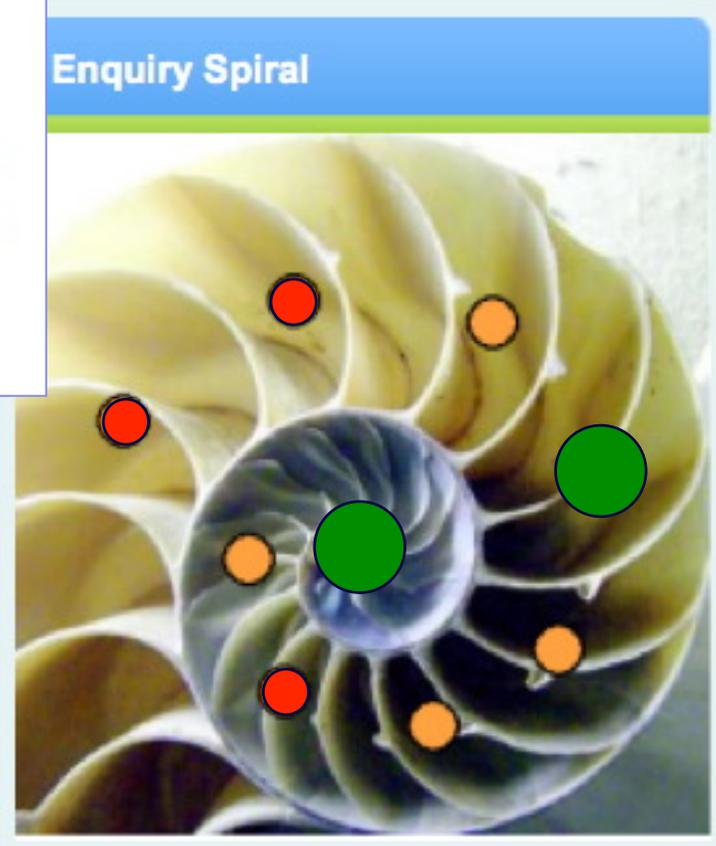
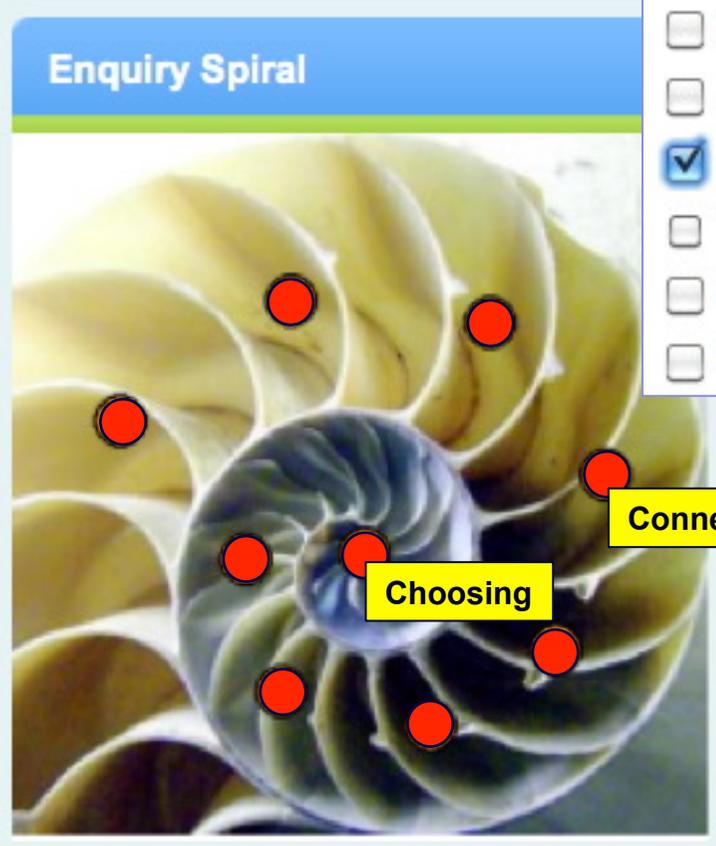


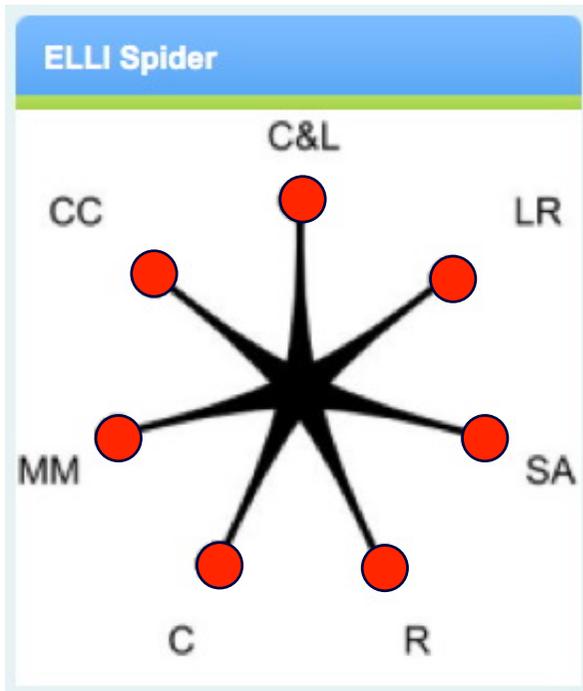
## Categories

All Categories Most Used

- 1. Choosing
- 2. Observing
- 3. Questioning
- 4. Narrating
- 5. Mapping
- 6. Connecting
- 7. Formalising
- 8. Validating
- 9. Applying

- 1. Choosing
- 2. Observing
- 3. Questioning
- 4. Narrating
- 5. Mapping
- 6. Connecting
- 7. Formalising
- 8. Validating
- 9. Applying

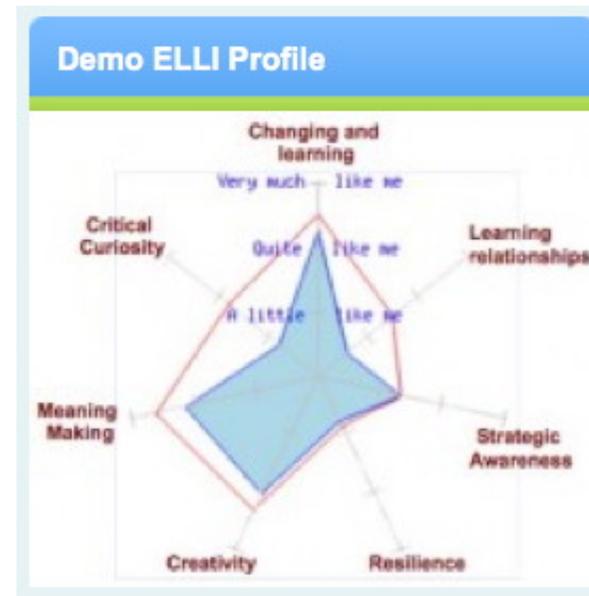
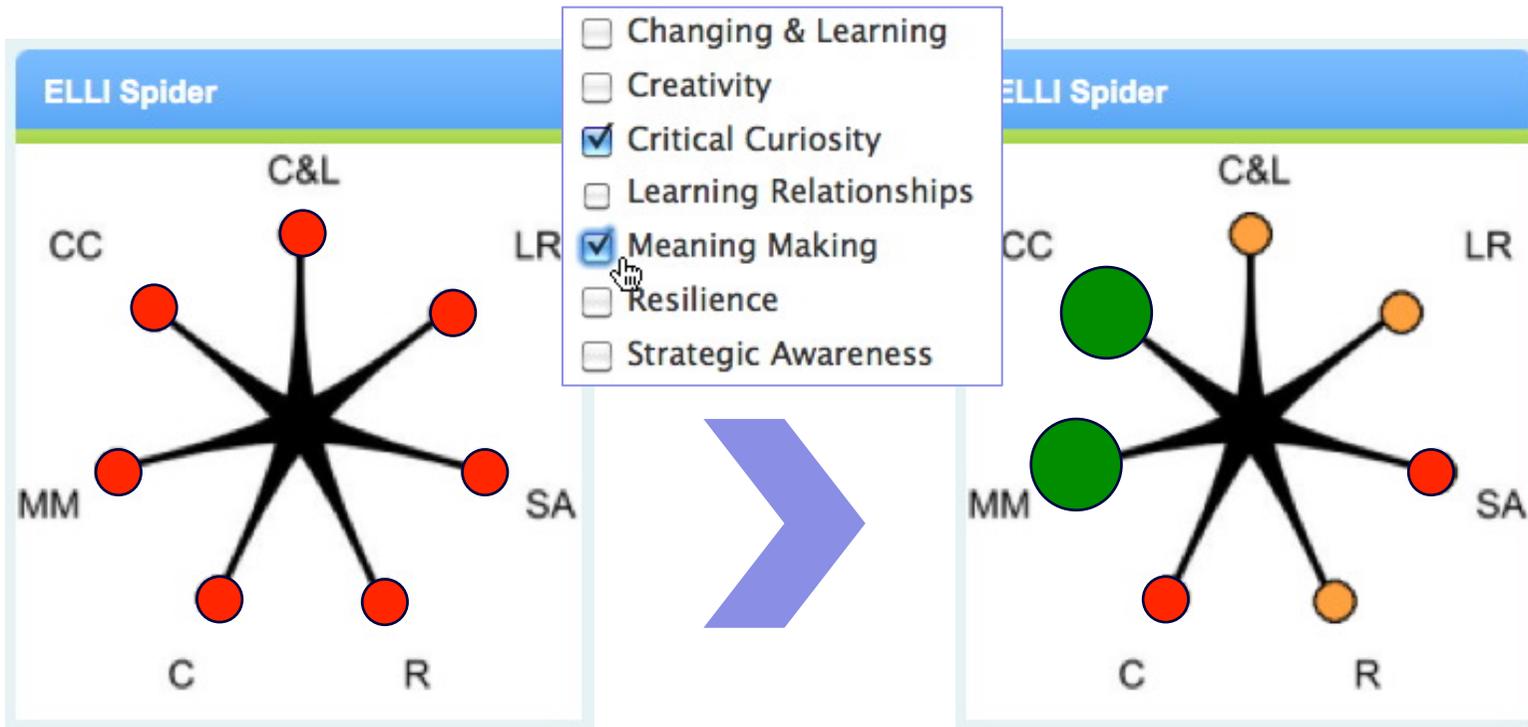




### Categories

All Categories | Most Used

- 7. Formalising
- 8. Validating
- 9. Applying
- Changing & Learning
- Creativity
- Critical Curiosity
- Learning Relationships
- Meaning Making
- Resilience
- Strategic Awareness



### Mood View

Time	Mood
12:20:30	:-
12:21:00	:-D
12:21:30	:-(
12:22:00	:-

I feel my enquiry is...

- :-| Feeling challenged
- :-D Going great
- :-) Smooth sailing
- :-| Feeling challenged**
- :-/ I'm stuck
- :-( It's a disaster



### Mood View

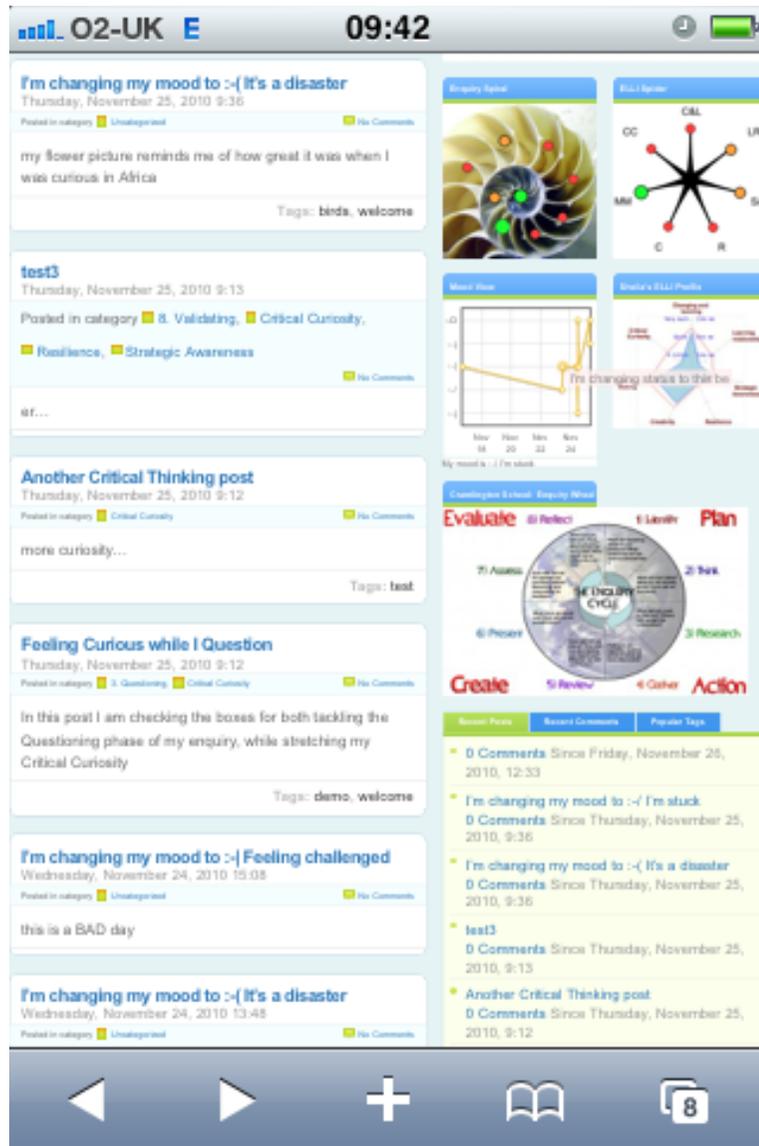
Time	Mood
12:20:30	:-
12:21:00	:-D
12:21:30	:-(
12:22:00	:-

I feel my enquiry is...

- :-| Feeling challenged
- I'm changing status because...
- this is not something we've revised for!**

Set new mood »

# Viewable on mobile devices





**What's  
coming  
next?...**

# Learning Analytics:

Teacher's dashboard for overview + quick navigation to key points in learners' blog

The dashboard is organized into three rows, each representing a different learner. Each row contains four elements:

- Profile Icon:** A stylized 3D headshot of the learner.
- Enquiry Spiral:** A square visualization showing a golden spiral with several colored dots (red, orange, green) placed at various points along it.
- ELLI Spider:** A square spider diagram with a central black dot and eight lines radiating outwards to colored dots. The dots are labeled: C&L (top), LR (top-right), SA (right), R (bottom-right), C (bottom), MM (bottom-left), CC (left), and LR (top-left).
- Mood View:** A square line graph with a yellow line and circular markers. The y-axis is labeled from -1 to 0. The line starts at approximately -0.5, rises to 0, falls to -1, and then rises back to -0.5.

# Learning Analytics:

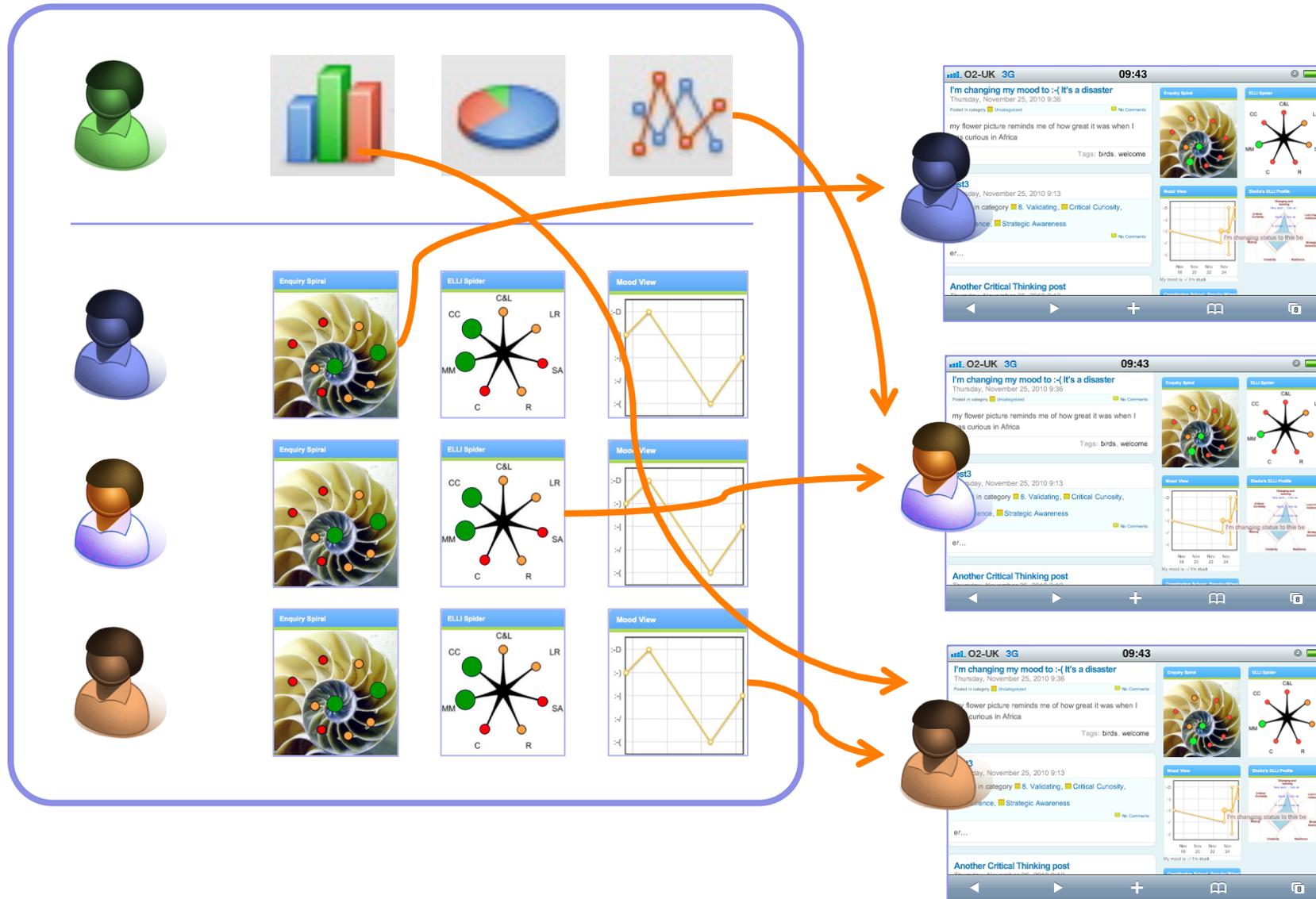
Teacher's dashboard for overview + quick navigation to key points in learners' blog

The dashboard interface is contained within a rounded blue border. At the top, there are four navigation icons: a green person icon, a 3D bar chart, a 3D pie chart, and a network graph. Below these is a horizontal line. The main area displays four learner profiles, each with a 3D person icon and three data visualization panels:

- Enquiry Spiral:** A 3D spiral shell with colored dots (red, green, orange) on its surface.
- ELLI Spider:** A spider diagram with a central black node and eight peripheral nodes labeled C&L, LR, SA, R, C, MM, and CC.
- Mood View:** A line graph with a yellow line and white markers on a grid. The y-axis ranges from -4 to 0.

# Learning Analytics:

Teacher's dashboard for overview + quick navigation to key points in learners' blog



# Mapping & Connecting (with OU's *Compendium*)

Drag + Drop text, images or links direct from the blog into the map

**EnquiryBlogger**



Home About Pilot 1 About EnquiryBlogger

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Categories and tags

Brandon Hill lamp-posts: observat

## Brandon Hill lamp-posts: Choosing

Posted on July 20, 2010 by Simon



I chose the lamp-posts on Brandon Hill because they immediately remind me of the lamp-post in C.S. Lewis famous novels about Narnia. The [lamp-post](#) was planted at the foundation of Narnia:



[Map]: EB prototype map

Hint: drag and drop key text or links from your blog into this map

Review your blog so far... What are the Big Ideas?

A summary thought... It's all about Creation Myths

Hint: if you had to summarise it in 30 secs, what would you say?

"Resilience"

Review your Spiral, Spider & MoodView. What are they telling you?

S BuckinghamShum's Enquiry Spiral S BuckinghamShum's ELLI Spider S BuckinghamShum's MoodView

A thought... I can actually get excited about something in school A thought...

This is when I got excited! -- wonky lamp-posts

Hint: On your blog, you may like to click on the blobs to revisit key moments.

# Mapping & Connecting (with OU's *Compendium*)

Example of a template to scaffold reflection and connection making

The screenshot shows a Compendium map titled "[Map]: EB prototype map" with two main panels. The left panel has a light purple background and the right panel has a light green background. Both panels feature a central question mark icon and a "Review your..." prompt. The left panel's prompt is "Review your blog so far... What are the Big Ideas?" and the right panel's is "Review your Spiral, Spider & MoodView. What are they telling you?".

**Left Panel (Purple):**

- Central prompt: "Review your blog so far... What are the Big Ideas?"
- Two arrows point from a central question mark icon to two text boxes: "A summary thought..." (with a lightbulb icon) and "It's all about Creation Myths" (with a globe icon).
- Hint at top left: "Hint: drag and drop key text or links from your blog into this map"
- Hint at bottom: "Hint: if you had to summarise it in 30 secs, what would you say?"

**Right Panel (Green):**

- Central prompt: "Review your Spiral, Spider & MoodView. What are they telling you?"
- Three arrows point from a central question mark icon to three text boxes: "A thought..." (with a lightbulb icon), "I can actually get excited about something in school" (with a lightbulb icon), and "A thought..." (with a lightbulb icon).
- Below these are three icons: "S BuckinghamShum's Enquiry Spiral" (with a spiral image), "S BuckinghamShum's ELLI Spider" (with a spider diagram), and "S BuckinghamShum's MoodView" (with a line graph).
- Below the "I can actually get excited..." box is a globe icon and a text box: "This is when I got excited! -- wonky lamp-posts" (with a hand cursor icon).
- Hint at top right: "Hint: On your blog, you may like to click on the blobs to revisit key moments."

**Shared Elements:**

- Top center: A small image of a red flower with the text "Resilience" below it.
- Window title: "[Map]: EB prototype map"
- Window controls: Standard OS window buttons (red, yellow, green) and a scrollbar on the right.

# Wordpress standard features which add value during an enquiry

- “Press This” bookmarklet: a button which you add to your browser toolbar enabling you post a blog on any extract you find on the web

 *Tools* Help ▾

## Press This

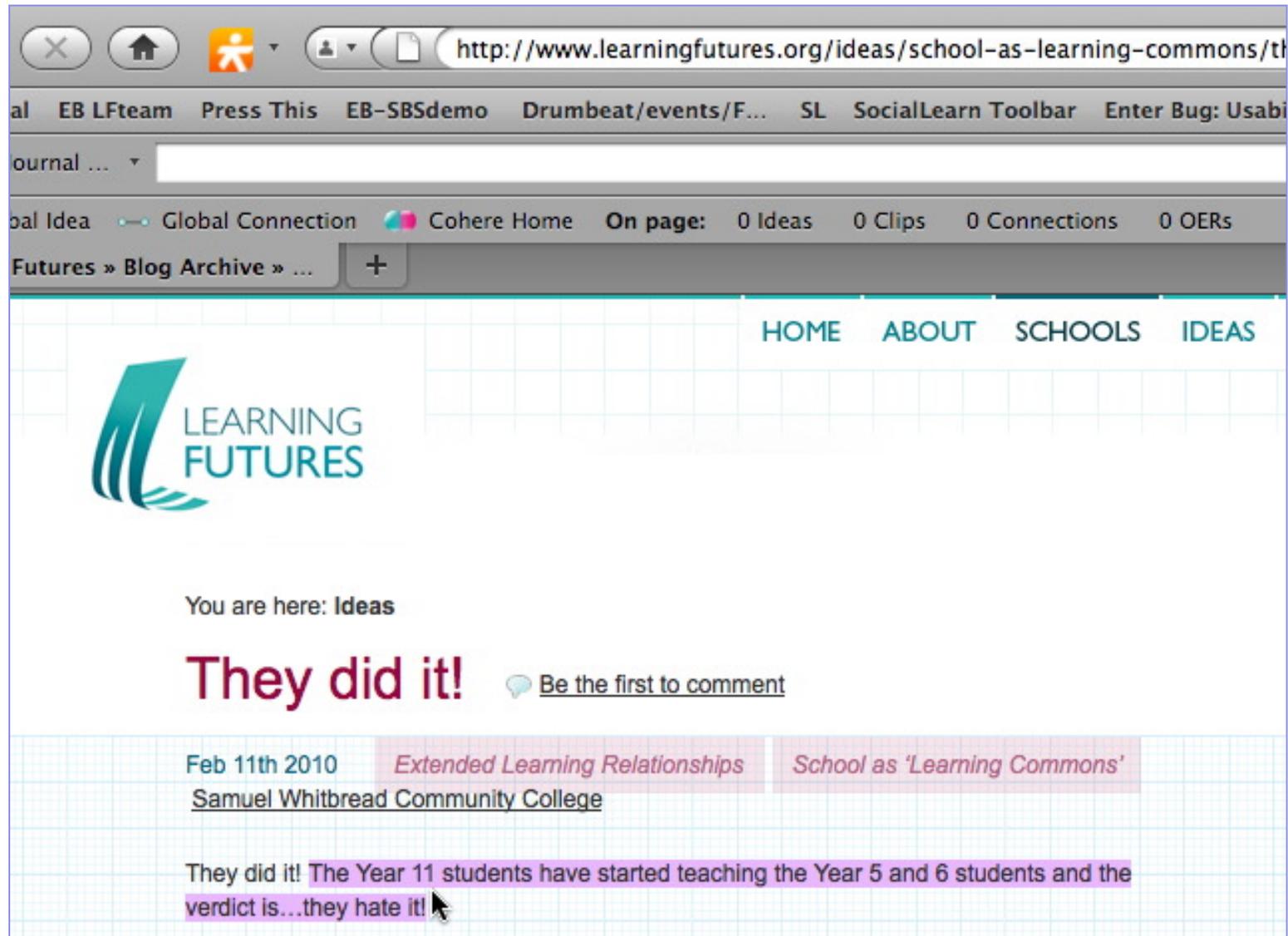
Press This is a bookmarklet: a little app that runs in your browser and lets you grab bits of the web.

Use Press This to clip text, images and videos from any web page. Then edit and add more straight from Press This before you save or publish it in a post on your site.

Drag-and-drop the following link to your bookmarks bar or right click it and add it to your favorites for a posting shortcut.

[Press This](#) 

# Wordpress standard features which add value during an enquiry



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a WordPress blog post. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.learningfutures.org/ideas/school-as-learning-commons/t>. The browser's toolbar includes various icons and a search bar. The page header features a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT, SCHOOLS, and IDEAS. The Learning Futures logo is prominently displayed on the left side of the page. Below the logo, the breadcrumb trail reads "You are here: Ideas". The main content area features a large red heading "They did it!" followed by a comment prompt "Be the first to comment". The post is dated "Feb 11th 2010" and is categorized under "Extended Learning Relationships" and "School as 'Learning Commons'". The author is identified as "Samuel Whitbread Community College". The post text begins with "They did it! The Year 11 students have started teaching the Year 5 and 6 students and the verdict is...they hate it!".

al EB LFteam Press This EB-SBSdemo Drumbeat/events/F... SL SocialLearn Toolbar Enter Bug: Usabi

ournal ...

bal Idea Global Connection Cohere Home On page: 0 Ideas 0 Clips 0 Connections 0 OERs

Futures » Blog Archive » ...

HOME ABOUT SCHOOLS IDEAS

 LEARNING FUTURES

You are here: Ideas

**They did it!** [Be the first to comment](#)

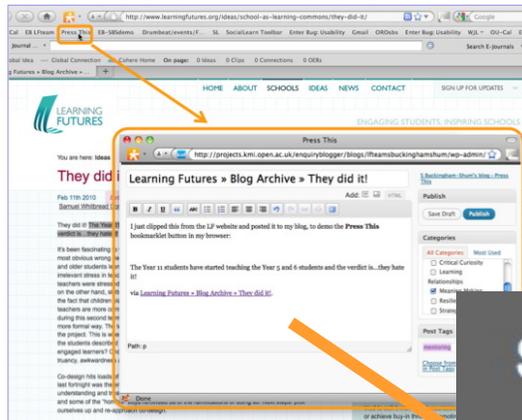
Feb 11th 2010 *Extended Learning Relationships* *School as 'Learning Commons'*  
Samuel Whitbread Community College

They did it! The Year 11 students have started teaching the Year 5 and 6 students and the verdict is...they hate it!

# Wordpress standard features which add value during an enquiry

The image shows a browser window with the URL <http://www.learningfutures.org/ideas/school-as-learning-commons/they-did-it/>. A bookmarklet labeled "Press This" is highlighted with an orange box. An orange arrow points from this bookmarklet to a second browser window titled "Press This" with the URL <http://projects.kmi.open.ac.uk/enquiryblogger/blogs/lfteamsbuckinghamshum/wp-admin/>. This second window shows the WordPress admin interface for a blog post titled "Learning Futures » Blog Archive » They did it!". The post content includes the text: "I just clipped this from the LF website and posted it to my blog, to demo the **Press This** bookmarklet button in my browser:" followed by a link to the original article: "The Year 11 students have started teaching the Year 5 and 6 students and the verdict is...they hate it!" via [Learning Futures » Blog Archive » They did it!](#). The WordPress interface also shows a "Publish" button, a "Categories" list with "Meaning Making" selected, and a "Post Tags" field containing "mentoring".

# Wordpress standard features which add value during an enquiry



**S Buckingham-Shum's blog** | This is my enquiry project

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**Learning Futures » Blog Archive » They did it!**  
Friday, December 3, 2010 8:26

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Posted in category  **Meaning Making**  **No Comments**

---

I just clipped this from the LF website and posted it to my blog, to demo the **Press This** bookmarklet button in my browser:

The Year 11 students have started teaching the Year 5 and 6 students and the verdict is...they hate it!

via [Learning Futures » Blog Archive » They did it!](#).

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[edit](#) |

# References

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- DU, H. S. & WAGNER, C. (2005) Learning with weblogs: an empirical investigation. *38th international conference on system sciences*. Hawaii.
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- FERGUSON, R., CLOUGH, G. & HOSEIN, A. (2007) Postgraduate blogs: beyond the ordinary research journal. IN WHEELER, S. & WHITTON, N. (Eds.) *Proceedings of the 14th Association for Learning Technology Conference (ALT-C 2007) Beyond Control: Learning Technology for the Social Network Generation*.