

Blogger Instruction: (The process for setting up a blog should be easy enough for a college student to complete within 20 minutes. The following instruction is just what I summarized after I set up the Plus3China2011 blog like any newbie to this website. You don't have to follow it exactly, but in case you get lost, I hope it helps.)

1. Go to website: <http://www.wordpress.com>
2. Click on "Sign Up Now". When creating your blog, be sure to use your last name and "Plus3China2012" in the blog address. For example, if your name is Joe Smith, your blog address should be smithplus3china2012.wordpress.com. Please note that after you type in your blog address, the website will give you an option to have your own domain name (e.g. smithplus3china2012.com) by paying some fee, you should choose "No, thanks. I will use the free wordpress.com address."
3. Select your own user name (which by default is the blog address you just typed), and your password. Provide your email address (you may leave the option of "Subscribe to our blog to learn about new themes, features, and other news" blank, so that you won't receive emails from this website). Click on "Sign Up".
4. You will receive an email sent to the address you just provided when you signed up. Activate your blog by clicking on the link in your email.
5. Once you log in, you will see your "Dashboard" panel on the left of the screen, followed by "Store", "Post", "Media", and "Links". You can always come back to this page (where you may edit your blog) by going to the "My Blog" (on the up-left corner of the screen) and then "Dashboard".
6. Click on "Appearance" on the left of the screen and then "Themes" under it. You can pick the themes you like here. Some premier themes need to be purchased, but others are free. You don't need to purchase a theme unless you like to.
7. On your left panel, go to "Links" — there is an arrow (facing down) on the right when your mouse goes over it — by clicking the arrow. You should see "Links", "Add New", and "Link Categories".
8. Click "Link Categories", and you should see a window open on the right for adding new link categories. Use "Plus 3 China" as the name, you can leave the description blank, and then click "Add New Link Category" button.
9. Click "Add New" under "Links" on the left panel. You should see a window open on the right for adding new links. Use "Plus 3 China Blog Homepage" as the Name, <http://plus3china2012.wordpress.com/> as the Web Address, leave description blank, choose "Plus 3 China" as the Category, choose "_blank" under the Target, and then click "Add Link" button (blue color) on the most right of the screen. (If this is too complicated, you can watch this video for help <http://wordpress.tv/2009/01/05/adding-a-new-link-to-your-sidebar/>)
10. Repeat step 8. But add a new link with the name "Plus 3 China Program Website", and the web address of <http://www.chinaplus3.pitt.edu>.

11. Next is to display your links on your blog. Go to your left panel again, and look for “Appearance”. Click on “Appearance” and then “Widgets” underneath it. You should see a window open on the right for you to drag the widgets into the “Sidebar” on the most right of your screen. Drag “Links” from the “Available Widgets” to the “Sidebar” and leave it underneath “Search”. Select “Plus 3 China” in the menu of “Links”. You may also consider cleaning up the sidebar of your blog by removing the unnecessary items. (To display your link on your blog, you can also check this video for help:
<http://wordpress.tv/2009/01/05/displaying-a-list-of-links-in-your-sidebar/>)
12. You are done at this point, unless you want to customize your own blog. You can post your journals anytime by clicking on “Posts” on the left panel, where you may attach photos, audios, videos, etc.