

# Blogging 101: Important Information for Student Members

**As a school employee, you must exercise extreme caution when you engage in blogging or other forms of internet communication. Keep in mind that your First Amendment rights can be limited by virtue of your position as a school employee.**

If you blog or maintain a web page, you should adhere to the following tips:

1. Minimize the risk associated with internet communication by limiting access to your blog or web page using a “friends only” or similar restrictive setting.
2. If visitors can post to your blog or web page, monitor postings constantly and remove any that are inappropriate.
3. Do not blog or post about your job duties, colleagues, supervisors or students. This will reduce the danger that you might disclose confidential information, share information about a private workplace complaint, or otherwise carelessly or unintentionally engage in speech which could affect your future employment.
4. If you choose to blog or post as a citizen about a non-job related matter of public concern (i.e., the elections, terrorism or environmental issues) take care that what you say will not impede your employer’s effectiveness or efficiency or otherwise disrupt the workplace.
5. If you are blogging or posting about innocuous information (i.e., your favorite football team or family genealogy), you still must be careful not to engage in comments that could adversely affect your employer (i.e., damage the employer’s reputation) or interfere with your ability to carry out your job duties.
6. Do not blog or post about personal subjects (i.e., dating, romance, or drug or alcohol use). Your blog or web page should not contain any references to sexual subjects, or contain vulgar or profane language or graphics. If your blog or web page was a movie, it should be rated “G.”
7. Blogging and posting anonymously does not protect you. Names of bloggers, web page authors and other internet users can be discovered through litigation.
8. Check to see if your employer has any policies regarding blogging or web pages. If so, you should review the policy with your PSEA Uniserv. (*Local Uniserv*)

**In conclusion, you should be aware that if you blog or maintain a web page, you must use prudence and be extremely careful in your comments. You must give the necessary time and attention to the content of your blog or web page to make sure that it satisfies the general principles above.**

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## NEA Student Leader Promotes Literacy by Donating Books to Hometown Students

WASHINGTON—Anthony Daniels, the chairperson of NEA’s Student Program, donated books to the entire third grade at Merritt Elementary School in Midway, Ala. In a community where many children don’t get to own their first book until they graduate from high school, Daniels, a former student at Merritt, believes this will highlight the importance of reading and doing well in school.

*“Students that read more, tend to do better in school and in life”*

*-Anthony Daniels Jr.*

“I am from this community, and I didn’t get to own my first book until I attended Alabama A&M University,” said Daniels. “My mission is to make sure no other child has to wait that long and to let the children in this community know literacy is the key to success and improving their life.”

The “book giveaway” was just one part of Daniels’ plan to promote literacy in low-income neighborhoods and schools throughout Alabama, his home state. Another aspect included establishing a scholarship foundation to help financially disadvantaged high school students attend a college. Daniels, who is on leave from the master’s degree program in special education at Alabama A&M, plans to release more information about the foundation at a later date.

