

Hicks (2009) - The Digital Writing Workshop
 Heinemann, Portsmouth NH

FIGURE 3.1

Comparison of blogs, wikis, and collaborative word processors

	Features for Individual Writers	Features for Collaborative Writers	Features for Responders
Blogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually singly authored, although can be a part of a social network • Easily tagged and categorized by topic • Archived automatically, but revisions are not evident • Multimedia can be embedded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The technical functions of blogs favor singly authored posts, although it is possible to save drafts of posts that multiple authors work on together • However, no easy tracking of revisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment feature is built in directly for each blog post • By using a tool such as coComment (www.cocomment.com/), responders can keep track of their comments on other blogs
Wikis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to create one's own wiki or a page within a class wiki • Page history is archived automatically, and reverting to an earlier version is easy • Multimedia can be embedded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual writers can work on a page, one at a time • Revision history shows who wrote and revised the text • While writer can insert commentary in the text, it must be a different font or color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiki pages have a mirror discussion page where comments can be added • Responders can view the history of a page and comment on the revisions
Collaborative Word Processors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Files can be created in the online word processor or uploaded from computer • Basic functions of word processor evident in web browser, with output in .doc, .rtf, or other format 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access for multiple writers, often available synchronously • Revision history is tracked by user • Multiple versions of document do not need to be emailed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full access to document for inserting comments, highlighting text, making strikeouts, and suggesting revisions, all of which can be easily changed back or deleted