

# Blog Commentator Etiquette

## 1. The Basics

Although blogs are often less formal than other forms of writing, commenting should still follow proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation rules. Improper grammar, spelling, and punctuation make reading difficult and also gives the impression of inaccurate content. Writing in all caps considered as rude shouting and all lower case letters should be left for informal text messaging.

## 2. Read Before

Carefully read the blog posting and any comments to that post, before submitting your own comment. It is considered lazy to restate someone else's same comment. Feel free to agree with someone else's opinion, after giving them credit, as long as you add more supporting resources or expound on it in more detail.

## 3. Brevity

Blog comments tend to be short, one or two sentences, with links to supporting resources when they are part of the comment. Every blog comment is not going to be of interest to other readers and they will appreciate short comments that are not a waste of their time. Never forget that you are the commentator, not the blogger.

## 4. Respectfully Disagree

Bloggers encourage their readers to disagree or provide different solutions to a problem. This provides for a lively community discussion which all readers benefit from. Make sure you are always discussing ideas of others and not making your comments a personal attack on those you disagree with.

## 5. Stay on Topic

Each blog posting has a specific topic. Don't change the subject to something different you are interested in discussing. If you find yourself often wanting to express a related opinion, but you know it is slightly off topic, then you probably need to start your own blog.

## 6. Your Reputation

Even though the blogger is the main voice in a blog, if you are a consistent commentator, be aware that loyal readers will be forming an opinion about you based on your comments. If you don't follow proper commenting etiquette, your comments will be ignored by the other blog readers.

