

An Intro to Blogging with Olivia Murphy

This past June, The Inclusive Hive was proud to have Olivia Murphy, one of its own, host a class on blogging. As she puts it, Olivia is neurodiverse and has Cerebral Palsy. She has a bachelor's in communication with a concentration in public relations, a minor in marketing, and a master's in Journalism. She has been blogging for a little over seven years and is the creator of the advocacy brand "Living My Best Disabled Life."

According to Olivia, "blogging allows people to share their thoughts, ideas, and experiences." She blogs about having a disability, but she points out that just because you have a disability, it doesn't mean you only have to blog about disabilities. You are free to blog about whatever you choose. It allows people to engage with one's community. Another point she makes is that it can enable people with disabilities and other marginalized groups to amplify their voices and increase their presence within their community or the world as a whole. In addition to these excellent skills, blogging can improve your writing and digital literacy skills over time.

Through a series of questions and answers, Olivia highlighted some key general takeaways for starting a blog. Although opinions vary on the exact length of a typical blog, it is recommended that a blog be no shorter than 400 to 500 words. It is also essential when starting a blog to determine a topic or genre for your blog. For example, Olivia's blog and other blogs in the community deal with having a disability in modern life. However, other blogs deal with travel, food, and various other topics. In all honesty, you could start a blog about anything.

Once you have decided upon a topic, dividing that topic into sub-topics will allow you to create endless posts on any topic. A blog is a form of self-expression that can be used for therapy, to review books or products, or it can be used to advocate for change. Regardless of your choice to use your blog, remember that your voice and opinion shape the blog. People may not always agree with your post, but remember that blogs are designed to start conversations.

In closing, you can find Olivia's blog and her podcast here.

<https://livingmybestdisabledlife.wordpress.com/about/>

Podcast Link: <https://podcasts.apple.com/uy/podcast/living-my-best-disabled-life/id1563258801>