

Survey

The most rewarding thing about blogging is...

The question was: What is the most rewarding thing about blogging for you?
The 100+ answers can loosely be grouped into the following themes:

- Community, friendships and connection with others
- Joy in writing
- Expressing my creativity
- Doing what I love, am passionate about
- Helping and inspiring others
- Feedback and talking with like-minded people
- Recognition and sense of accomplishment
- Being part of something separate from my real-life identity
- Making people laugh
- Documenting memories

Since many comments reflected more than one theme, I didn't try to classify each one. Instead, I'll let the bloggers speak for themselves. In no particular order, the verbatim comments.

The most rewarding thing about blogging is...

Pursuing my passions, connection with likeminded people, turning a passion into a career.

The personal connections I've made.

The relationships I have developed with other bloggers.

Community, especially the special needs community. Also self-expression.

Connecting with people and getting good comments or helpful feedback; writing a post I think is genuinely helpful or insightful (especially when validated by readers); sharing knowledge, insights & helping to spark new ideas or "a-ha" moments for people and foster creativity & innovation, new collaborations & ways of thinking, communicating & taking action.

Making strong lasting friendships with other bloggers and readers.

Information sharing; helping others know what they need to know.

Being able to help other parents who have a child diagnosed with my daughter's illness. It's made me feel really good that people are learning more about it and gaining some comfort from it.

Writing out what I am thinking and getting feedback. Making connections with other people.

Improving my writing ability (to the extent I have), clarifying my perspectives, thoughts, beliefs, etc. Reaching out to others (I tend to be private and have just recently informed family members of my blog).

Being able to share photos & funny stories, knowing that it's a little more private than Facebook or Twitter. People have to actually go to my blog rather than just reading my update along with a billion others), and PRAISING GOD!

Interaction with others.

Blogging has kept me sane - a hobby that became rewarding.

It allows me to mentor others while pursuing my personal growth as an artist/photographer.

Forces me to focus my ideas and thoughts.

The community and networking opportunities.

It has allowed me to write/find "my voice." It led me to create a nonprofit. I finally feel like I'm doing some work worth doing.

The fact that it's my own. I'm married with a family, so nothing else is "my own" it's "Ours," and the community I have found.

The communities I have become a part of.

Far and away, it's the blogging community. My readers and the other bloggers I meet enrich my life in more ways than I can enumerate.

First blog was to vent & feel better, catch up with friends. THIS blog, has helped me be able to provide new & innovative items for my baby girl!! and to link up with other bloggers doing the same!

Providing content for others, DIY.

Finding my tribe and doing something I enjoy.

My name in 'print.'

I love writing about and sharing interesting tidbits that people may not know about...it's also fun to write freely, in my own voice and style!

Knowing that I have practical, easy to implement ideas that will help elderly people. I am also very honest about my own emotions and feelings so I hope others will see that it's okay to admit to frustration, fear, loss-of-control - all the things that go with supporting aging parents.

When a reader takes the time to write and tell me how I saved her family so much money.

#1 - Making friends. #2 - Positive comments about my writing/posts.

I am able to give other moms and dads work from home opportunities.

Keeping track of data since I can use it in professional pursuits; and when people comment on my stuff.

Local community engagement.

Students at other schools contacting me to ask for help.

The feedback when I touch someone with my writing.

The community I've found, both personally and professionally.

The idea that something I write about may help someone - and I will never know it.

It has helped me to hone my skills as a writer and a photographer.

Sense of accomplishment, connecting with others, expressing my creativity.

Being a teacher. I love helping people capture their stories and enjoy the creative process.

Toss-up between the friends I've made and having a literary record of my life.

Expressing myself and connecting with others.

The sense of community. There are times where I'll feel especially weird or lonely or out of sorts. I'll blog and - oh, look! - I'm not the only one who has had those feelings or has made that mistake or has considered that change.

Honing my skill and becoming part of an online writing community that has become so much like a family to me.

Finding like-minded people out there with a similar sense of humor and "intelligence."

I get to write.

When someone replies that my words have helped or entertained them in some way.

Connecting with people I would never have met.

Meeting so really special women and getting to celebrate their special occasions (from afar).

The opportunity to do work I love on my own schedule. This is really my dream job.

Making connections with other bloggers, other parents, other people from my area.

Personal relationships with other bloggers.

Friends and a feeling of accomplishment - the possibilities.

Connecting with "strangers" who identify with a post.

I'm no longer taking the chance that I'll forget what is happening with my children as they grow.

I have a creative outlet and it's free.

By sharing my struggles with postpartum depression, I have helped some of my readers feel less alone in their own struggles with PPD. Some readers have told me that they were only able to go to the doctor or talk with their partner about their feelings because they found courage via my blog.

Getting emails from women thanking me for "saving their lives"

Knowing I have touched someone with my words. When I am told that something I wrote made a difference to them.

Having a place that is mine, good or bad.

Knowing that I'm providing value content.

Share my views resulting from my hobby of photography.

Getting positive feedback about including someone's post on my blog or in my column.

Connecting with other people, especially moms, who are passionate about the performing arts and want to share that passion with others.

Validation.

Interacting with other women/readers and the friendships that have been developed through blogging.

Easy to update and add bits whenever I feel like it.

Feeling like I'm a part of something - that's just for me and separate from my life as a mom/wife/full-time employee. And it makes me proud when I write something that other people enjoy. I love to write.

Meeting people like me all over the US. And, randomly running into them at conferences that I never intended to.

To this day, I still love connecting with other mothers, even though the tone of my blogs has changed quite a bit since I first started blogging six years ago.

The ability to work from home so I don't have to put my kids in daycare.

Having someone read something, and tell me they thought it was funny.

The way it leads me to focus my thinking on the topics about which I write.

Being able to teach others how to be thrifty.

Meeting new people in the area. I've made several good "now in real life" friends from the experience. Also I like building a fan base, because when I publish something outside the blog or participate in an event, it gets more notice.

Looking back at all the memories I've documented.

Having the ability to look back on things that have happened to/around me. I get to see whether my feelings on any given subject have changed, or remained the same, thereby gaining a deeper understanding of who I was and who I've become.

Making people laugh or inspiring people.

Building a community of friends.

Connecting with other people, encouraging others, and hopefully showing what Christ has done in my heart and if He can love me and change me WOW He will love anyone!

Feedback, sense of accomplishment.

When our readers are touched or we help someone with an issue they have been struggling with.

Relationships / Being part of a community.

Meeting other fellow bloggers and making online friends.

Being able to connect with others who love animals as much as I do.

I frequently get comments telling me that my posts made them cry. That is, I do find that I am making connections to people through my writing.

Meeting bloggers who are interested in agriculture, farming, FarmStyle.

Quick feedback on the articles I write, which doesn't happen very often with publishing books.

Having traffic increase when I don't promote my posts.

Connecting with other women who are experiencing similar things I am, who have helpful advice to give. Getting positive reinforcement from readers.

Talking with like-minded people.

Feeling I am connecting with other people and am accomplishing something. Recognition!

Meeting other people and making real friends.

Feedback.

Positive feedback from readers.

The emails telling of changed lives, friends made, a sense of making a difference, the feeling I am 'known.'

Having people tell me how much my blog has helped them in various areas, lifting them up and helping them go on.

Helping people to get back on their feet and trudge through difficult times.

The community. The friends I've made.

It gives me an outlet to write: To be creative, take risks and look back on how my style has improved over time.

I guess, after all this time, writing has become an important part of my life and I can't imagine a day when I am NOT blogging, about something. Yes, my kids are getting older, but that doesn't mean I stop being a mom, or a person, for that matter. I am inspired by the blogging community. I love meeting moms (and dads) from all walks of life and enjoy learning a little about myself, from reading their stories, as well.

Inspiring other fempreneurs to be more of themselves

The connections, the friendships, the chance to learn something I love, the ability to help others learn - to see them take my advice/tips and become confident.

Talking to the people who read it. Answering their questions and learning from them.

Hearing new moms say that our ideas inspired them.

It reminds me of who I am and why I homeschool.

The therapeutic effect of writing online.