Citing Popular Blogs in Academic Research Papers

You can (and should) cite anything, including a conversation, email exchange or blog. Citing a blog in an academic paper could be considered similar to citing an op/ed in a newspaper. The real question is how the professor (or other grader) will consider the authority of the source.

When doing research, especially on the Web, be wary of unreliable sources since anyone can publish on the Internet. The professor who grades your paper could accept a blog source IF it was reliable and relevant. Citing a respected author/writer with expertise in a field would be fine since he/she is a “known quantity.” Citing an anonymous blogger would not.

If a “fact” stated in your paper comes from a blog it is probably wise to verify from a more concrete source. Currently, blogs, like Wikipedia, are not respected in scholarship. They should only be cited to demonstrate a level of knowledge that is conversed about at the popular level. But basing real research on them is not a good idea.

To sum up, you can certainly use the blog as a cited source, but you should not count it as fulfilling the requirement of 3-5 academic sources.