VoiceThread
New Assignment Features

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Zoom Communication Controls

Mute or unmute your microphone. Muting helps to reduce background noise.

Type a text message into the chat for participants and I to see.

Start your video, if you would like to show your face through your webcam.
Educational Technology Services

Consultations - Professional Development

- Course Design/Development
- Organization Design/Development
- Departmental Training
- Blackboard LMS
- Educational Tech Tools
- Video Production
- Accessibility
- Open Educational Resources

To set up an appointment: [www.albany.edu/edtech](http://www.albany.edu/edtech)
Agenda/Learning Outcomes

After this webinar you will be able to:

- Describe VoiceThread (VT) new features
- Activate VoiceThread in Blackboard and generate your license
- Create a VT link in Blackboard and upload media
- Compare and contrast old vs. new assignment features and functionality
- Enable new features prior to June 30, 2021
- Find and utilize VT help resources
Required Technology

- Browsers - HTML5 Fully Supported
  - Google Chrome
  - Mozilla FireFox

- Speakers & Headphones – Audio

- Recording
  - Webcam & Microphone

- VoiceThread Universal – Screen Readers
New Assignment Highlights

- Live June 30, 2021
- Number of new features
- Different functionality
- Improved workflow Instructor/Student
- None of past assignments will break!
Instructor Assignment Setup - Updates

1. Content Organization – Assignment controls all VT content associated.
2. Streamlined workflow for creation process
3. Dictate playback settings
4. Edit access to student VT’s
5. Sharing
6. Peer Review (Student Gallery)
Instructor Assignment Setup Updates

7. Customize messaging to students
8. Timed release dates
9. Assessment style (Percentage or Pass/Fail)
10. Student review
11. New criteria – Set number of comments & tabulation of watching media
12. Control student submissions
Building New Assignments
Create Assignment

- **Use Case:** Student creates VT & records comments
  - Student presentation or project
  - Skill demonstration
  - Paper or document feedback

- **Pro Tip**
  - Student Gallery – Peer Review
  - Select/review playback options carefully!
  - Create a model VT – Example URL
Comment Assignment

- Use Cases: Comment on Lecture
  - Graded Discussions
  - Quizzes
  - Speaking Practice

- Pro Tip
  - Consider Comment Moderation
  - Enable Threaded Commenting
  - Exemplar Comment
Watch Assignment

- Use Case: Non-graded lectures
  - Compliance and training

- Pro Tip
  - Consider active listening?
Watch Building New Assignments
Instructor Grading Updates

1. View full summary of assignment
2. Three status categories of students
3. Grading of those students who are “In Progress”
4. Cleaner “to-grade” list
5. Instructor ability to “un-submit” and try again
Grading New Assignments

- Column automatically created in Blackboard
  - Grade from within VT interface
  - Grade flows from VT to Blackboard

- Pro Tip
  - Do not create Bb grade columns
  - Deletion of assignment
    - Don’t forget Bb grade ctr column!
Watch Grading Assignments
Student Submission Updates

1. Dynamic checklist for assignment completion
2. Published due date, grading style and submission status
3. Assignment submission messaging clearer
4. Student gallery for viewing classmates' assignments
Watch Student Submission
Features No Longer Supported

- Sharing a VT from assignment outside of assignment.
- Group assignments will be more complex.
Accessibility Features - UDL

- VoiceThread Universal
- Closed captioning & editing
- Rich set of 5 participatory methods
  - Text
  - Phone
  - Microphone
  - Webcam Video
  - File upload
Best Practice – Pro Tips

- Review ten step success strategy
- Set up VT Home page with tutorials
- Set up VT Icebreaker assignment
- Create exemplars and clear instructions
- Captions – consider using and editing
- Use 24x7 support and askIT wiki resources
Time-Saver & High-Quality Conversation Tips

- Model ideal level of participation
- Record your own exemplary voice/video comment – sets the tone of conversation
- Time limit on comments Feature
- Re-ordering quality comments to the top of conversation channel
- Speed Playback Feature
VoiceThread (VT) Planning – Ten Step Success Strategy

Step 1
- Conduct self-assessment for VoiceThread and Blackboard technology.
  - How proficient are you with both Blackboard and VoiceThread technologies? Consider available time and learning curve.

Step 2
- Understand VoiceThread technical needs for both you and your students.
  - Develop an understanding of the VoiceThread tool functionality.

Step 3
- Brainstorm current course assignments and assessments for possible VT alignment.
  - Consider how you will align assignments and assessments using VT. (Requires an understanding of VT to plan & design activities).

Step 4
- Decide what current teaching materials will you utilize (PPT’s, MSWord docs, images, video’s etc.)
  - Curate, modify, create and design, any new materials you want to import into VT.

Step 5
- Learn VT interface (watch tutorials, attend training sessions, schedule a consultation and explore vendor resources).
  - Learn set-up process within Blackboard Learning Management System (creating VT tool link) and grade center functionality.

Step 6
- Understand and differentiate between the VT set-up options for both graded and non-graded assessments (Seven blue box options). This step is imperative to the VoiceThread functioning as you intended.

Step 7
- Navigate to your Blackboard course and set up your first VT link within a Course Content area of your choice.
  - Activate your VT License by clicking on your first VT link within the Blackboard content area that you created.

Step 8
- Finish set-up of your VT link in Blackboard by selecting the appropriate (blue box) set-up option for your intended outcome.

Step 9
- Design, import and comment on the VT media you want to share with your students.

Step 10
- Complete the design and set-up playback settings of your VT and share with your class as the final step.
UAlbany Help Resources

- **Vendor 24/7 Support for Faculty & Students**
  - Help request submission – Captures UAlbany Credentials
    https://wiki.albany.edu/x/CpfzAw

- **AskIT Wiki Articles:**
  - VT Main - https://wiki.albany.edu/x/zY-zAw
  - Faculty Guide - https://wiki.albany.edu/display/askit/VoiceThread+Faculty+Guide
  - Student Guide - https://wiki.albany.edu/display/askit/VoiceThread+Student+Guide
  - FAQ - https://wiki.albany.edu/display/public/askit/VoiceThread+%28VT%29+FAQ
VT Vendor Help Resources

▪ Support instructions, tutorials, & more https://voicethread.com/howto/

▪ Digital Library – Guidance & Inspiration on successful VT projects http://voicethread.com/about/library/

▪ Tutorials - https://voicethread.com/myvoice/#browse/threadbox/44

▪ YouTube Channel - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXggZ2yUPudu9EKx5ZtrdAw/feed

▪ Workshops - https://voicethread.com/workshops

▪ Vendor 24/7 Support for Faculty & Students!
  ▪ Help request submission – Captures UAlbany Credentials https://wiki.albany.edu/x/CpfzAw
Schedule a Consultation

www.albany.edu/edtech
518-442-4288