Value of Voice:
Using VoiceThread for Teaching and Learning

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Workshop Objectives

• Introduction to VoiceThread
• Educational uses for VoiceThread
Value of Voice
VoiceThread in Blackboard
What's included?

The **Site License** includes:

- Pro accounts for **all** faculty
- Basic accounts for **all** students
- A virtual Organization that holds all of your accounts
- A Manager where you create and manage members' accounts
- System integration
- Enhanced support
- Advanced Security Controls
- Unlimited export credits.
- Custom homepage
- Two (2) online training sessions with a member of our Support Team

Below are the features of the accounts included in this license compared with the free account.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pro</th>
<th>Basic</th>
<th>Free</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to Manager</td>
<td>Admin only</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create Groups</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share Securely</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of VoiceThreads</td>
<td>Unlimited</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upload audio files as comments</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slides per VoiceThread</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can enable threaded commenting</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Features

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Instructor License</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threaded conversations</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comment moderation</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow others to export</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow others to download original media</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allow others to make a copy</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure sharing</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VoiceThread Mobile

Available for iOS and Android devices
Tutorials and Help
Sidebar

Sidebar will expand and collapse to reveal groups
Groups

Sidebar will expand and collapse to reveal groups
Navigating Around a VoiceThread
VoiceThread Comments

- Microphone
- Webcam
- Telephone
- Text
- File upload
Doodling on a VoiceThread

Available when recording a comment using microphone or webcam
Comment Window

- Click and drag to move to new location
- Resize window
Comments

Direct  Private  Threaded
Direct Reply
Direct Reply

Here is the first comment. A Direct Reply will insert the next comment immediately after it.
Private Reply

Make a Private Reply
Private Reply
Threaded Comments

Make a new Thread
Threaded Comments

a thread off of the main conversation
Threaded Comments

NOTE: If threaded commenting is enabled, then direct reply commenting is not available.
Threaded Comments

Create a new thread
Introductions

- Job Title?
- Location?
- Quick history?

Threaded Comments

New comments are highlighted
Comment Moderation
Comment Moderation

Hidden comments appear darkened and offset.
Comment Moderation

Hidden Comment

Visible Comment

The Pont du Gard (literally: Gard Bridge) is an ancient Roman aqueduct bridge that crosses the Gardon River[4] in Vers-Pont-du-Gard near
Use Breadcrumbs to Go Back
Hands-on Activity

Using VoiceThread for Teaching and Learning

Ms. Janice Florent (CAT+FD)

Value of Voice: Using VoiceThread...
My Identities
My Identities
Create VT Assignment

[Diagram showing the process of creating a VoiceThread assignment]
When setting up the VT assignment you choose whether you want to grade the VT assignment.

To set additional evaluation options, use the Column settings in the Grade Center.

- Points Possible
- Visible to Students
- Due Date

Enter dates as mm/dd/yyyy. Time may be entered in any increment.
VT Assignment Types

VoiceThread Setup

- Course View
- VT Home
- Individual VT
- Assignment Builder

Use if you want integration with the Grade Center
VoiceThread FAQ

VoiceThread is a web 2.0 tool that allows you to humanize interactions in an online environment. VoiceThread transforms stale, text-based discussions by infusing your content and conversations with human presence, just as if students were all sitting in the classroom together, but without scheduling a specific time to meet.

VoiceThread is a powerful tool that changes the way students learn and educators teach. VoiceThread:

- Provides "untethered," on-demand participation for students and educators
- Builds a stronger sense of community within classes
- Removes logistical barriers of time and place from online learning
Penn State created this VoiceThread - Simply Speaking video for their faculty. The video has a very good explanation of VoiceThread.

FAQs

- How do I setup a VoiceThread assignment in my course?
- What are the four VoiceThread assignment options?
- Where can I get help on using VoiceThread features?
- What's included in our Blackboard integration?
- How do students submit VoiceThread assignments?
- Do I have to enter grades for VT graded assignments on a percentage scale?
- What are some better practices for using VoiceThread?
- Where can I find tips for incorporating VoiceThread in my courses?
- Where can I find examples of how educators are using VoiceThread in teaching and learning?
- Where can I find VoiceThread accessibility information?
Grading

Do I have to enter grades for VT graded assignments on a percentage scale?

In order for grades to calculate properly, you must enter grades as a percentage of the total points. Grades for VT graded assignments have to be entered on a percentage scale of 0-100. For example, you have a VT assignment that is worth 5 total points. A student earned 4 points for the assignment. In order for the grade to calculate correctly, in the Grade on a percentage scale box for the student you have to enter "80" (4 / 5 = .80 X 100 = 80).
Can I edit my VT assignment link in Blackboard?

Care should be taken when creating the VT assignment link in Blackboard. **It is not possible to edit a link after it has been configured.** What the instructor would need to do is delete the existing link, and then create a new link that points to the tool he or she would like to use for the assignment (Course View, VT Home, or Individual VoiceThread). The instructor can then enter the new description and set the number of comments students will need to record for the assignment.
Troubleshooting tips

Known issues specific to Blackboard

Error message: “Your signature for authentication is invalid.”

Can’t see student submission for grading

Don’t have the option to enable grading for your VoiceThread link

You’re not automatically signed in to VoiceThread when you click on a VT link

When you click on a VT link, you see a page titled “VoiceThread Account Verification.”
Troubleshooting tips

Known issues specific to Blackboard:

- Assignment due dates do not save within Blackboard. *(Fixed in the Q2 2016 version of Blackboard)*
- You cannot have a line break or hyperlinked item in the description of any link. *(Fixed in Q2 2016 release of Blackboard)*
- Submitted assignments do not show up in the “Needs Grading” area of the grade center.

Error message: “The authentication failed; the signature on your request did not match the expected value.”

If the issue is isolated to a single link, the description entered by the instructor when setting up the VoiceThread link in the course likely contains a line break. Descriptions in Blackboard must be a single, continuous paragraph. To correct this, edit the description so that it does not contain any line breaks at all. *Note: This is fixed in the Q2 2016 release of Blackboard.*

If the issue occurs with all links in all courses, have your Blackboard administrator check to make sure the Shared Secret is entered correctly in your Global LTI Configuration and Placement, and that the clock on your Blackboard server is accurate.

Can’t see student submission for grading

The student likely did not click the “Submit Assignment” button after completing his work. The student can simply go back into the assignment and click “Submit Assignment” at a later time. He will not need to re-do his work.
Resources

• VoiceThread Digital Library
  – http://voicethread.com/about/library/

• Using VoiceThread for Assessments
  – https://voicethread.com/blog/category/formative-assessment/

• Links to Sample VoiceThreads are on the event description web page
  – http://cat.xula.edu/events/?id=01467
VoiceThread Workshops

https://voicethread.com/workshops
YOU ARE YOUR VOICE.
Practical Applications for Teaching and Learning
Do you have any Questions?
Homework

• Let us know
  – If you decide to use VoiceThread
  – What worked and didn’t work for you
Please fill out workshop evaluation