

# Value of Voice:

Using VoiceThread for Teaching and Learning

Ms. Janice Florent (CAT+FD)

Dr. Cary Caro (Business)



# Workshop Objectives

- Introduction to VoiceThread
- Educational uses for VoiceThread



# Value of Voice





VoiceThread in

**BLACKBOARD**

# XULA Site License

## 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.

	Pro	Basic	Free
Access to Manager	Admin only	No	No
Create Groups	Yes	No	No
Share Securely	Yes	Yes	No
Number of VoiceThreads	Unlimited	50	5
Upload audio files as comments	Yes	Yes	No
Slides per VoiceThread	500	500	50
Can enable threaded commenting	Yes	Yes	No

# Features

	Instructor License
Threaded conversations	✓
Comment moderation	✓
Allow others to export	✓
Allow others to download original media	✓
Allow others to make a copy	✓
Secure sharing	✓



# VoiceThread Mobile

Available for iOS and Android devices



# VoiceThread Home Page

Blackboard @ Xavier University

Home Courses System Admin Faculty Resources Student Resources

VoiceThread > Sample VoiceThread

Home Browse Create

0 jlflorent@xula.edu

Menu

- All
- Owned by me
- Shared with me
- I've subscribed to
- Tutorials
- Show my groups

SORT ORDER

- Newest First
- Oldest First
- Title (a-z)
- Title (z-a)

VIEW TYPE

- Thumbnail
- List

What is VoiceThreading?

Rosie the Riveter 2

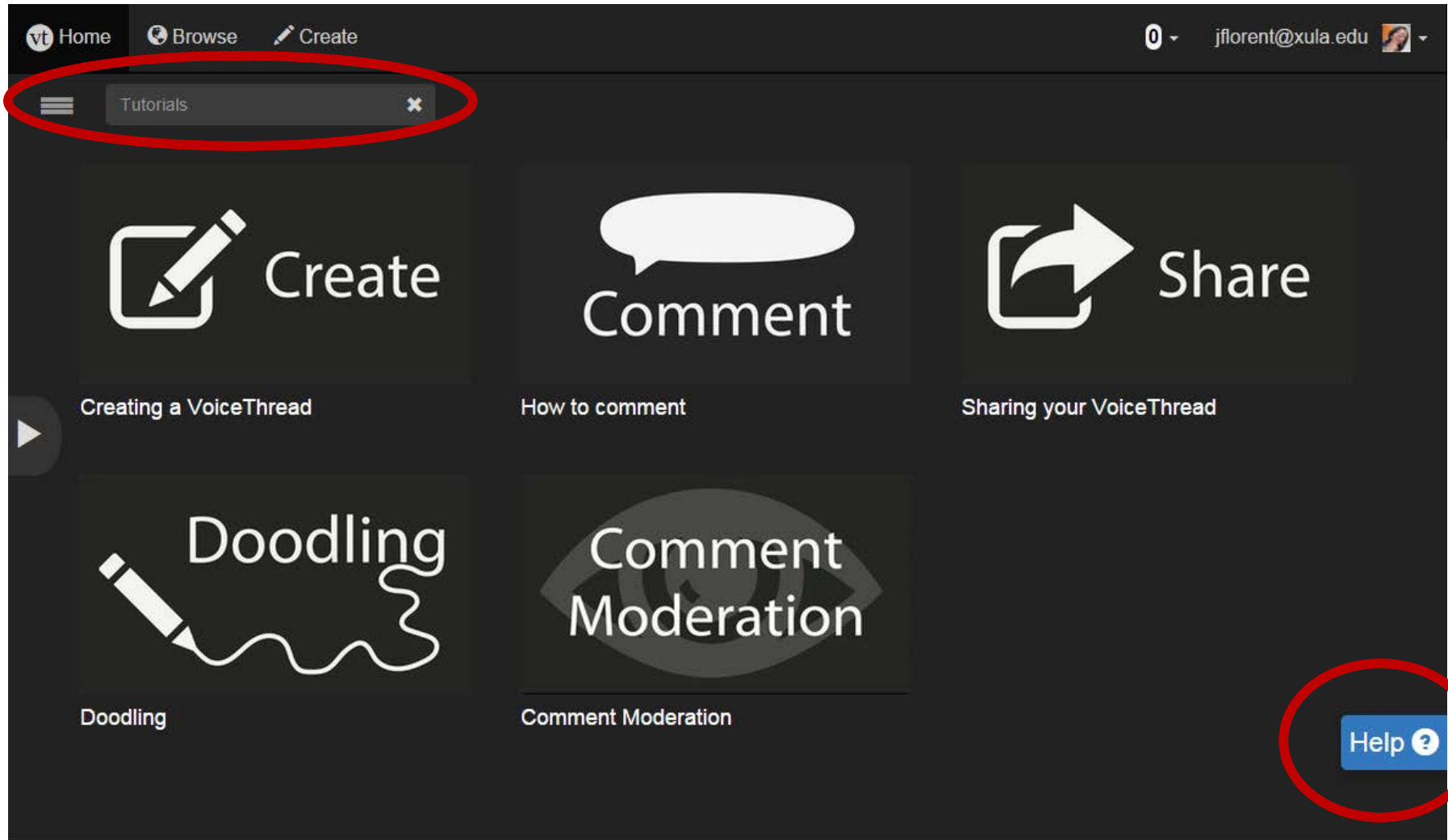
Help ?

Xavier University of Louisiana

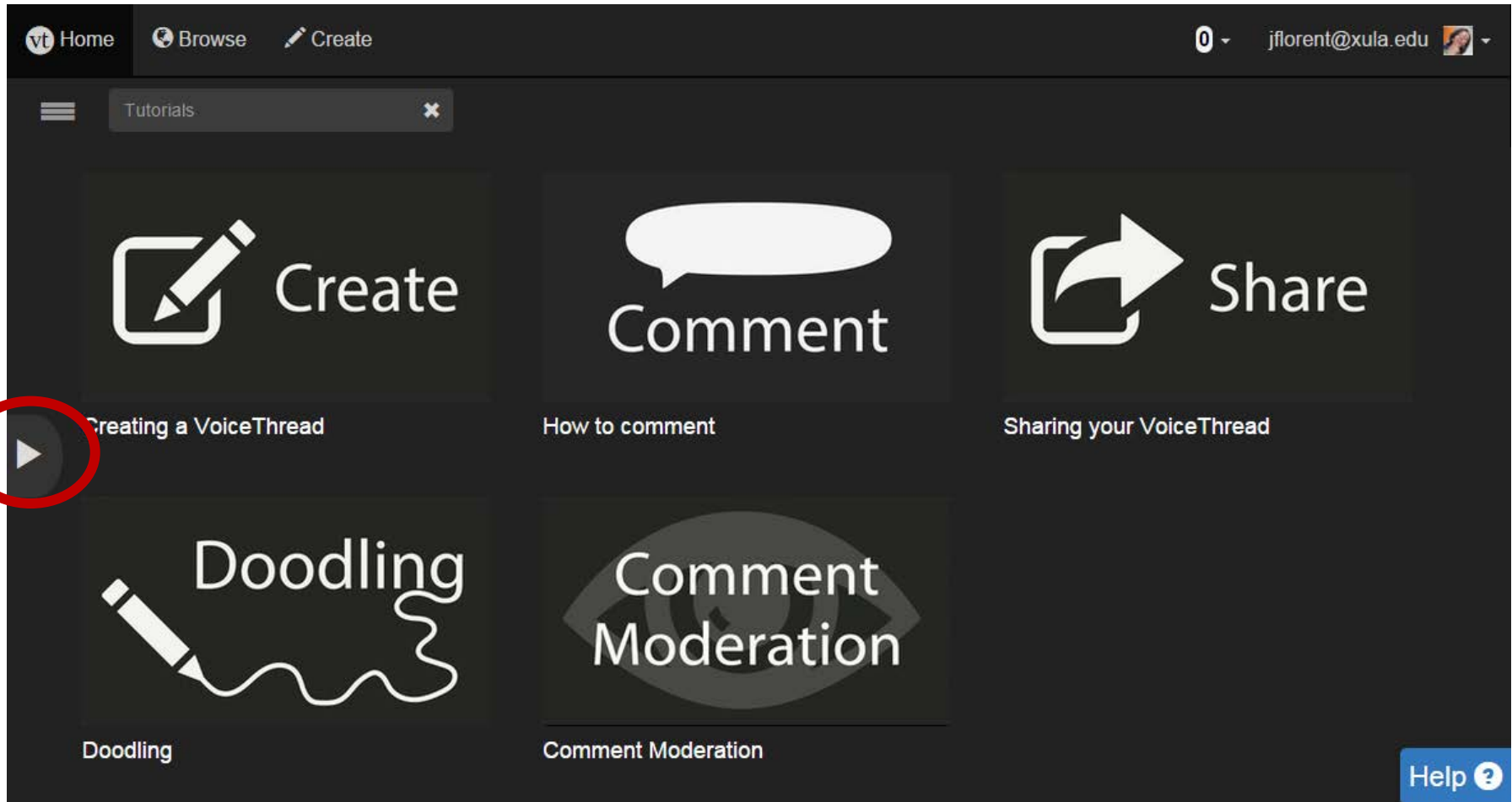
About



# Tutorials and Help



# Sidebar



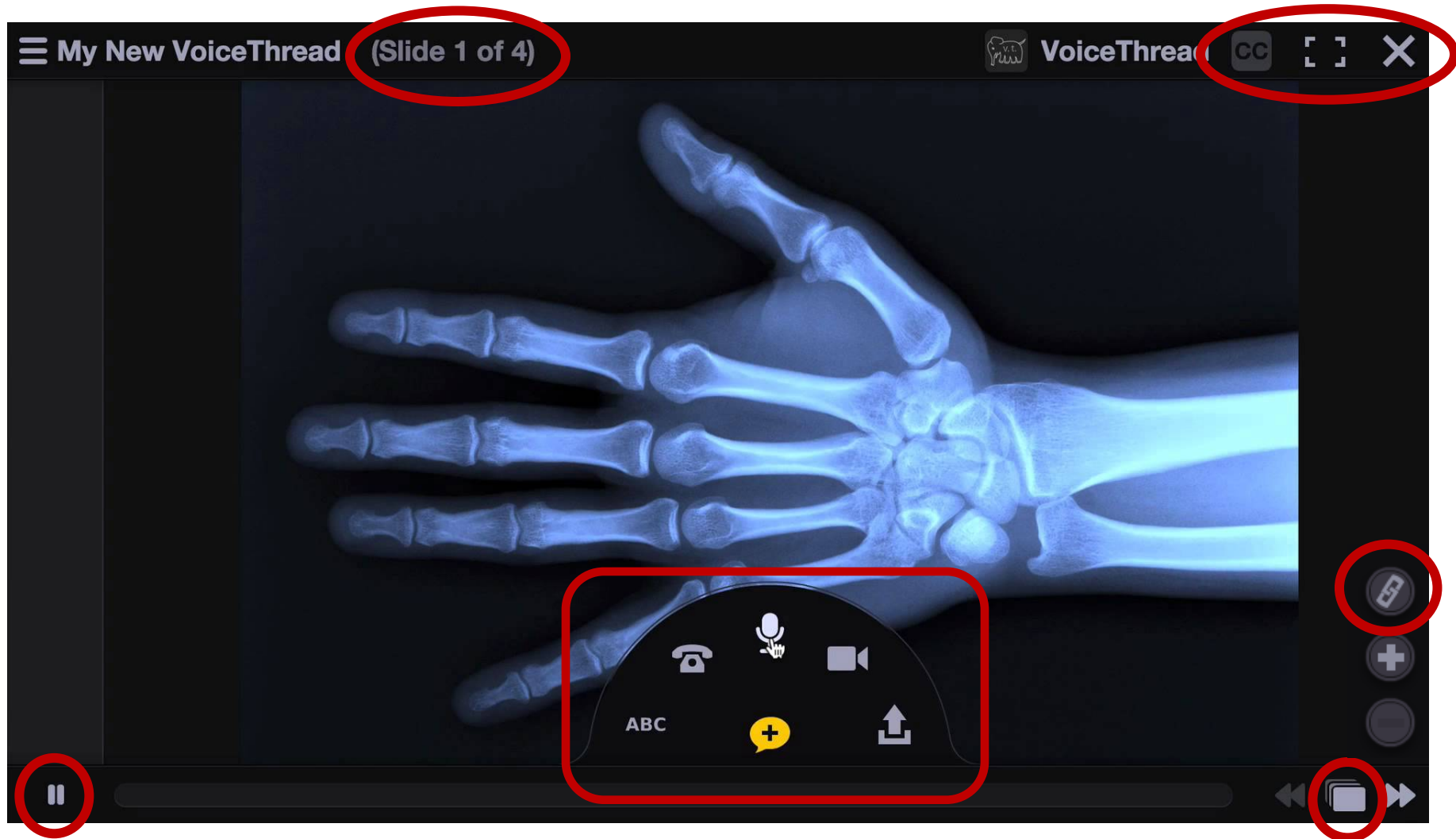
**Sidebar will expand and collapse to reveal groups**

# Groups

The screenshot displays the Blackboard @ Xavier University interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes links for Home, Courses (highlighted), System Admin, Faculty Resources, and Student Resources. The user profile for Janice Florent is visible in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, the breadcrumb trail shows 'VoiceThread > Sample VoiceThread'. The main content area features a sidebar on the left with a 'Groups' tab and a list of items: 'Bb91Sandbox.Training', 'Bb9Sandbox.jflorent', and 'Game-Based Learning Work...'. A red circle highlights a play button icon in the sidebar. The main content area displays a grid of VoiceThread items, including 'Using VoiceThread for Teaching and Learning' by Ms. Janice Florent (CAT+FD) and 'What is VoiceThreading?'. The bottom of the interface shows a row of four image thumbnails: a woman's face, a yellow background, a book cover, and a document.

Sidebar will expand and collapse to reveal groups

# Navigating Around a VoiceThread

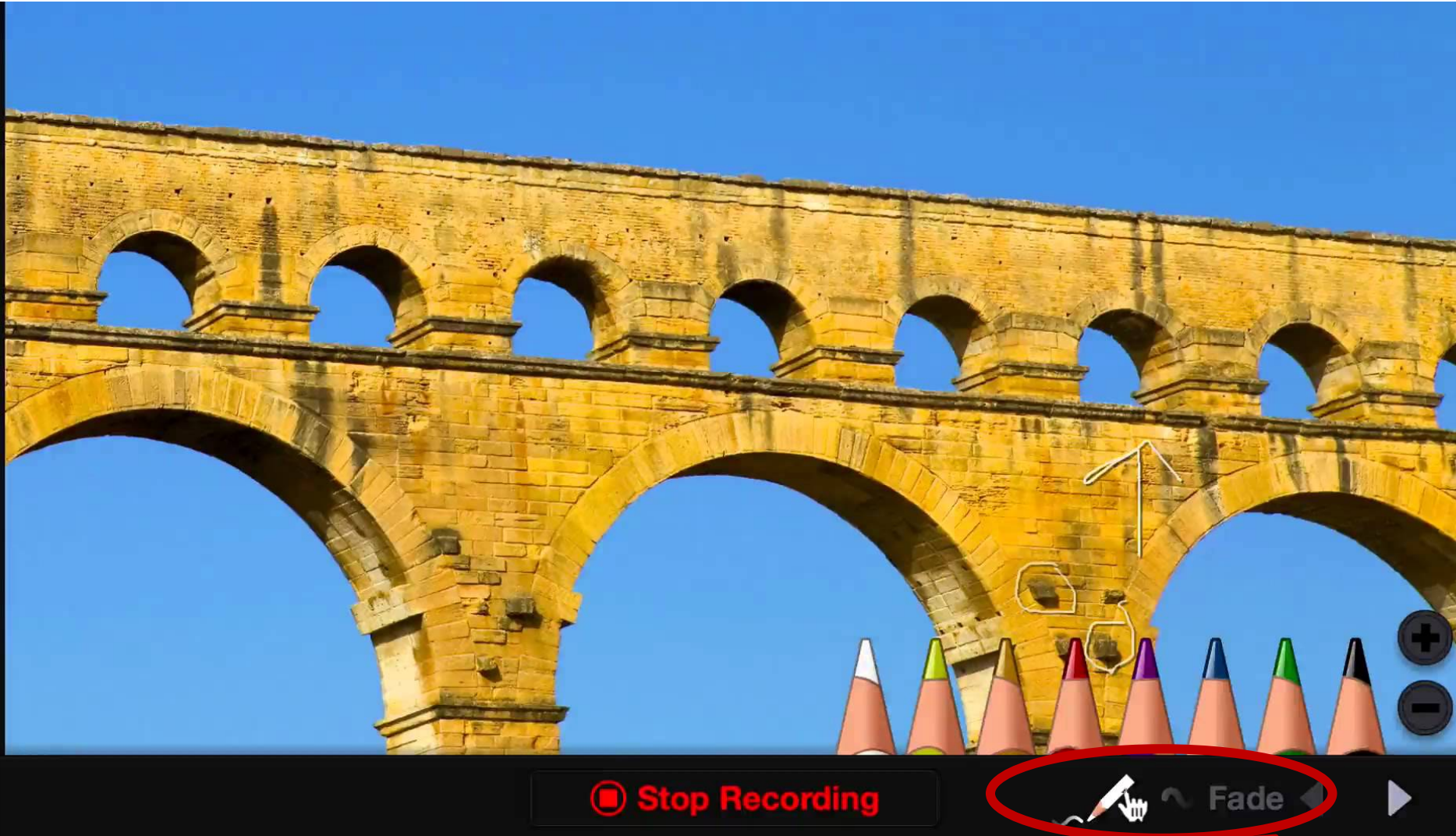


# VoiceThread Comments





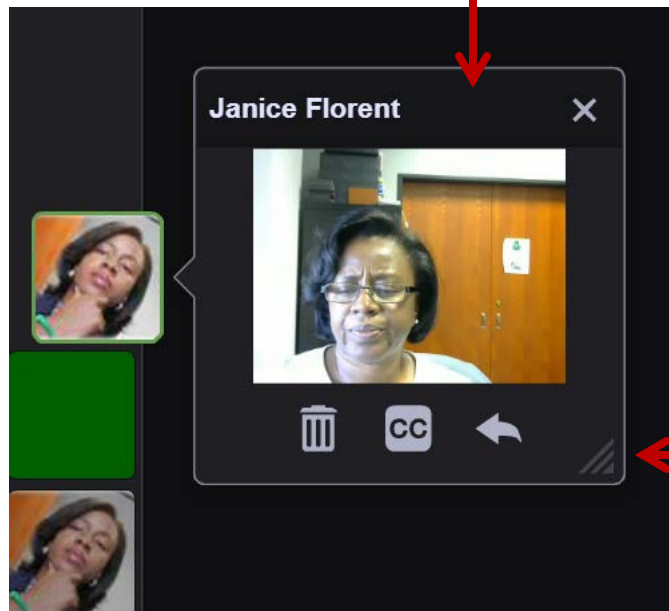
# Doodling on a VoiceThread



Available when recording a comment using microphone or webcam

# Comment Window

Click and drag to move to new location



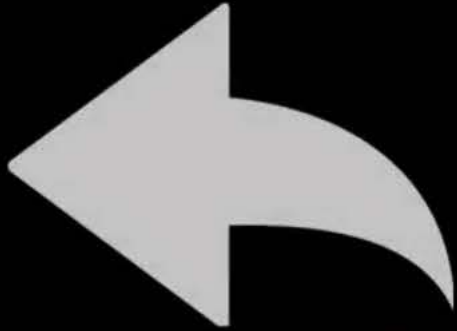
Resize window

# Comments



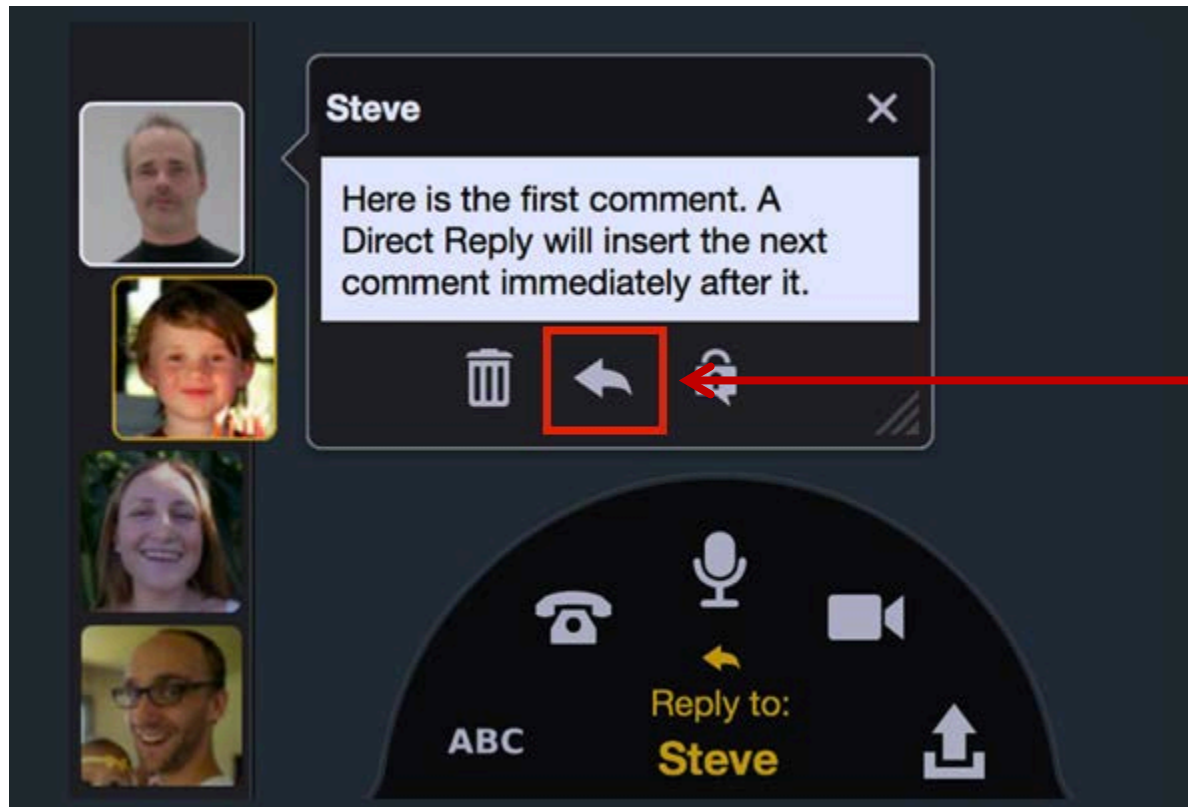


# Direct Reply



Make a Direct Reply

# Direct Reply

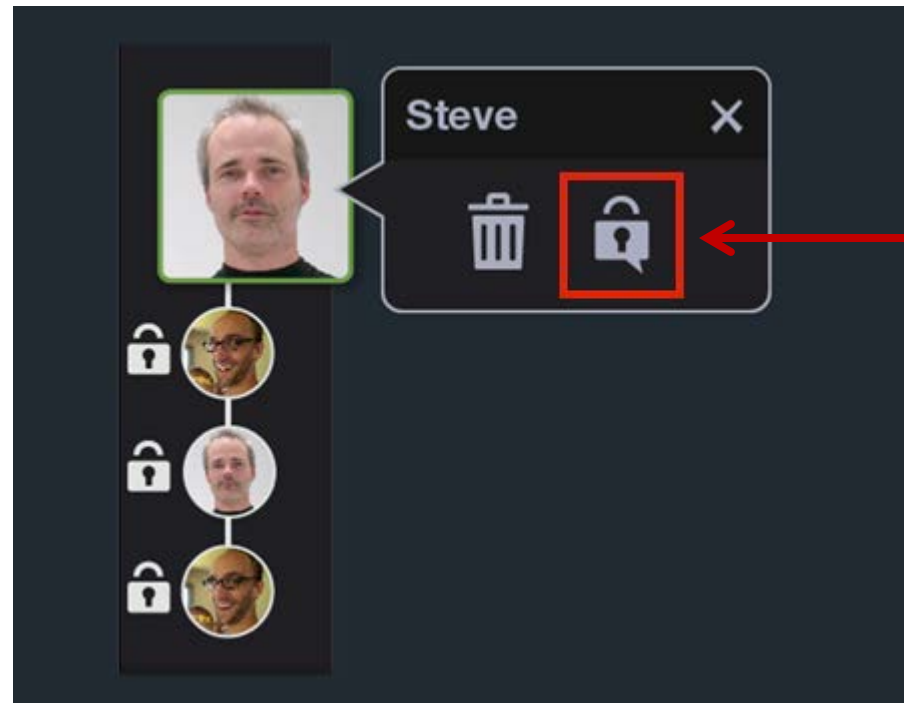


# Private Reply

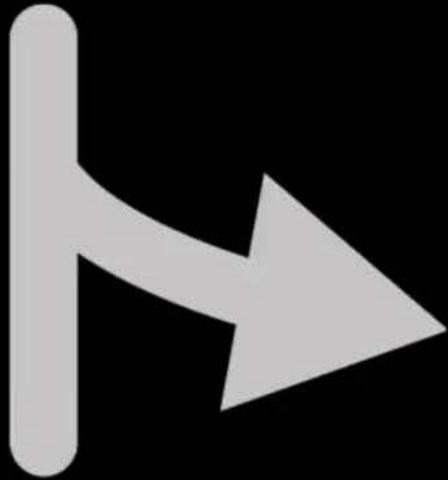


Make a Private Reply

# Private Reply



# Threaded Comments

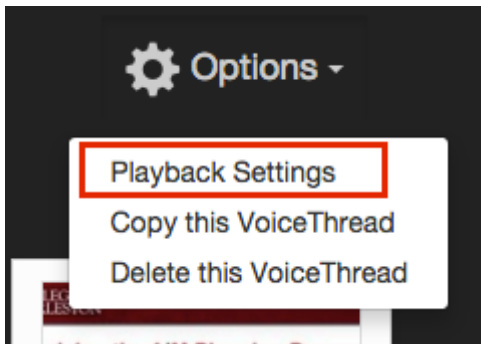


Make a new Thread

# Threaded Comments



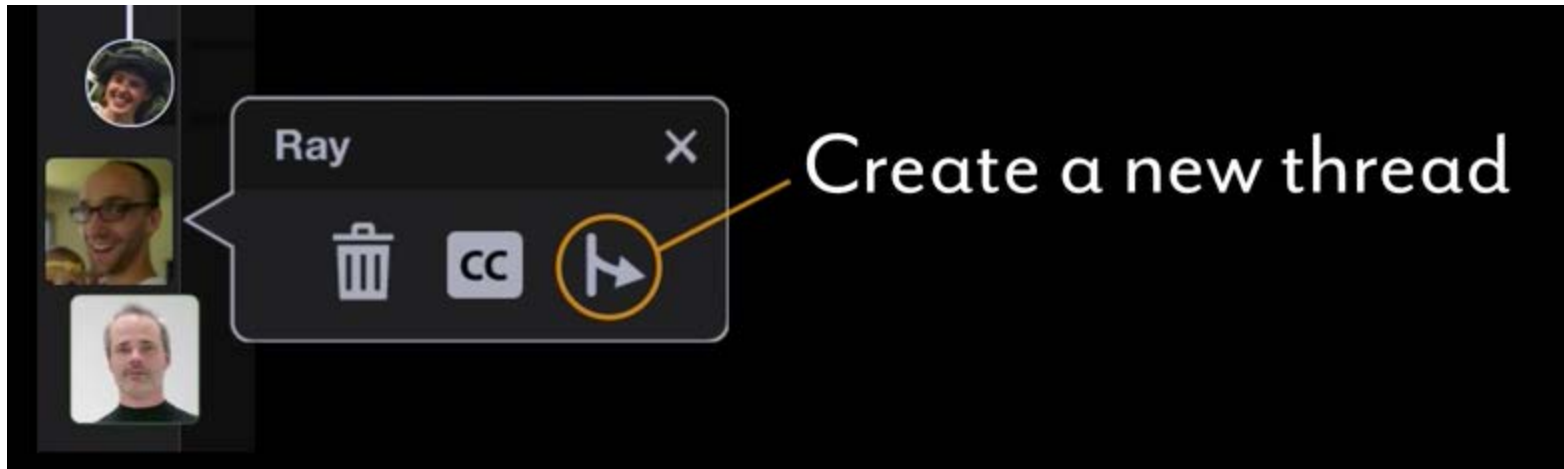
# Threaded Comments



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

A screenshot of the 'Thread Settings' dialog box. The dialog has a title bar with a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the title, there are three tabs: 'Title/Description', 'Playback Options', and 'Cover Art'. The 'Playback Options' tab is currently selected. Under this tab, there are two columns of settings. The left column contains a list of checkboxes: 'Enable threaded commenting' (checked), 'Allow others to download original media' (unchecked), 'Allow others to export' (unchecked), 'Start playing when opened' (unchecked), 'Allow others to make a copy' (unchecked), 'Enable Comment Moderation' (unchecked), 'Automatically advance to the next slide after 4 seconds' (unchecked), and 'Don't allow commenters to delete their own comments' (unchecked). The right column is titled 'Allowed Comment Methods' and contains a list of checkboxes: 'Microphone' (checked), 'Webcam' (checked), 'Telephone' (checked), 'File upload' (checked), and 'Text' (checked). At the bottom right of the dialog, there is a blue 'Save' button.

# Threaded Comments






# Threaded Comments

Introductions for VCE- cohort 9 (Slide 1 of 2) George

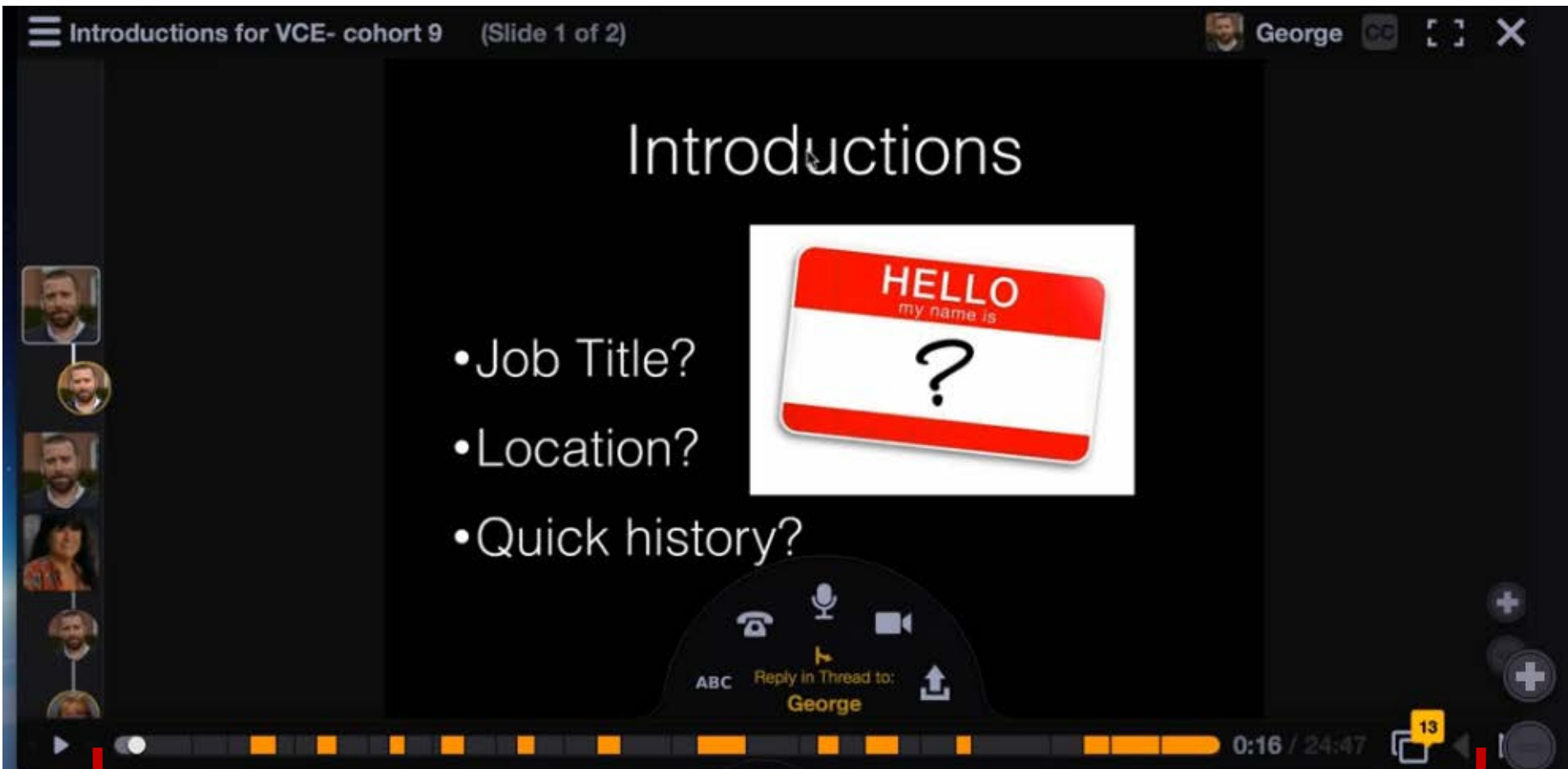
## Introductions

- Job Title?
- Location?
- Quick history?



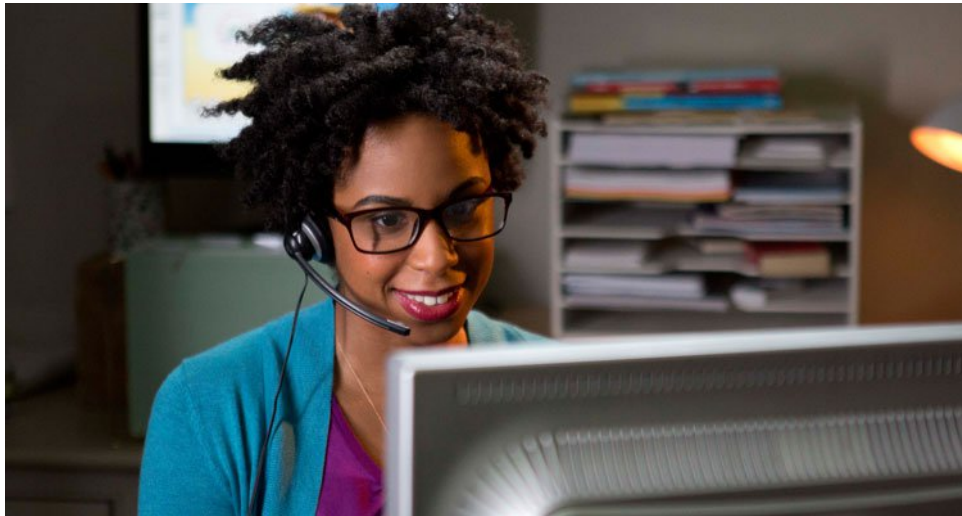
ABC Reply in Thread to: George

0:16 / 24:47 13



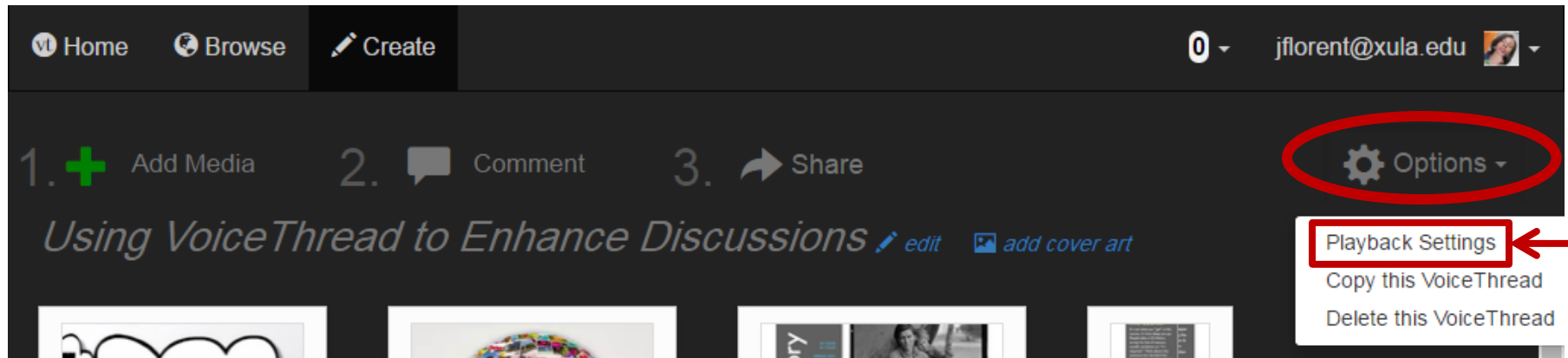
New comments are highlighted

# Comment Moderation



**Moderator on Duty**

# Comment Moderation



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the VoiceThread interface. It includes links for 'Home', 'Browse', and 'Create'. On the right, there is a user profile for 'jflorent@xula.edu'. Below the navigation bar, a sequence of steps is shown: '1. Add Media', '2. Comment', and '3. Share'. The main content area displays the title 'Using VoiceThread to Enhance Discussions' with 'edit' and 'add cover art' links. In the top right corner, an 'Options' button with a gear icon is circled in red. A red arrow points from this button to a dropdown menu. In this menu, the 'Playback Settings' option is highlighted with a red box, and another red arrow points to it from the right edge of the frame.

vt Home Browse Create 0 jflorent@xula.edu

1. Add Media 2. Comment 3. Share

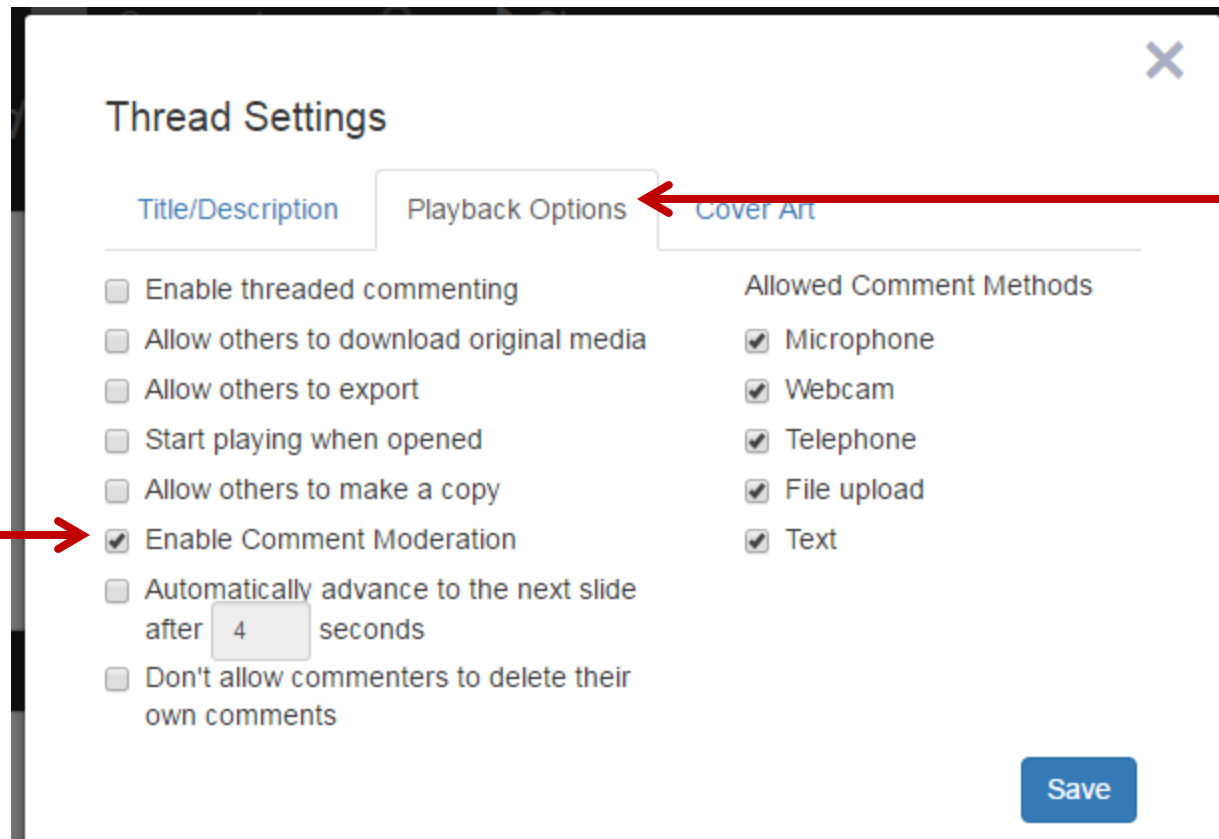
Using VoiceThread to Enhance Discussions edit add cover art

Options

Playback Settings

Copy this VoiceThread

Delete this VoiceThread



The screenshot shows a 'Thread Settings' dialog box with a close button in the top right corner. It has three tabs: 'Title/Description', 'Playback Options', and 'Cover Art'. The 'Playback Options' tab is selected and highlighted with a red box, with a red arrow pointing to it from the right. The dialog is divided into two columns. The left column contains several checkboxes: 'Enable threaded commenting', 'Allow others to download original media', 'Allow others to export', 'Start playing when opened', 'Allow others to make a copy', 'Enable Comment Moderation' (which is checked and has a red arrow pointing to it from the left), 'Automatically advance to the next slide after 4 seconds', and 'Don't allow commenters to delete their own comments'. The right column is titled 'Allowed Comment Methods' and contains a list of checked options: 'Microphone', 'Webcam', 'Telephone', 'File upload', and 'Text'. A 'Save' button is located at the bottom right of the dialog.

Thread Settings

Title/Description Playback Options Cover Art

☐ Enable threaded commenting

☐ Allow others to download original media

☐ Allow others to export

☐ Start playing when opened

☐ Allow others to make a copy

☒ Enable Comment Moderation

☐ Automatically advance to the next slide after 4 seconds

☐ Don't allow commenters to delete their own comments

Allowed Comment Methods

☒ Microphone

☒ Webcam

☒ Telephone

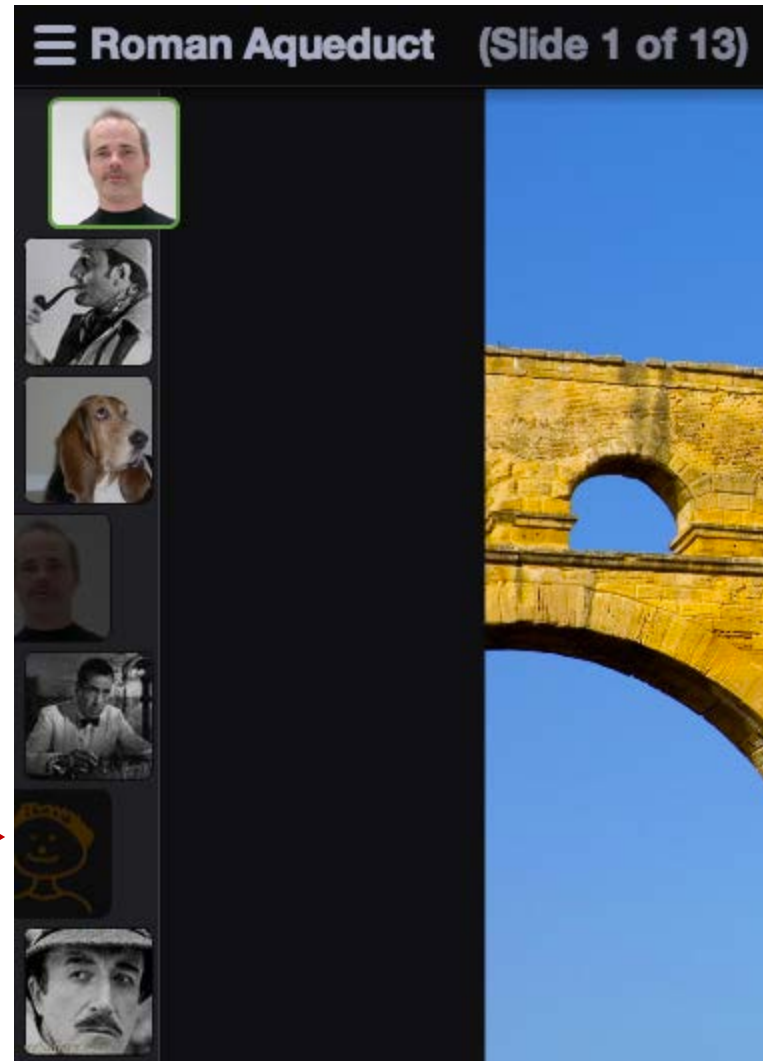
☒ File upload

☒ Text

Save

# Comment Moderation

Hidden comments  
appear darkened  
and offset.



# Comment Moderation



*Hidden Comment*



*Visible Comment*

# Use Breadcrumbs to Go Back

Blackboard @ Xavier University

Home Courses System Admin Faculty Resources Student Resources

Home VoiceThread Sample VoiceThread

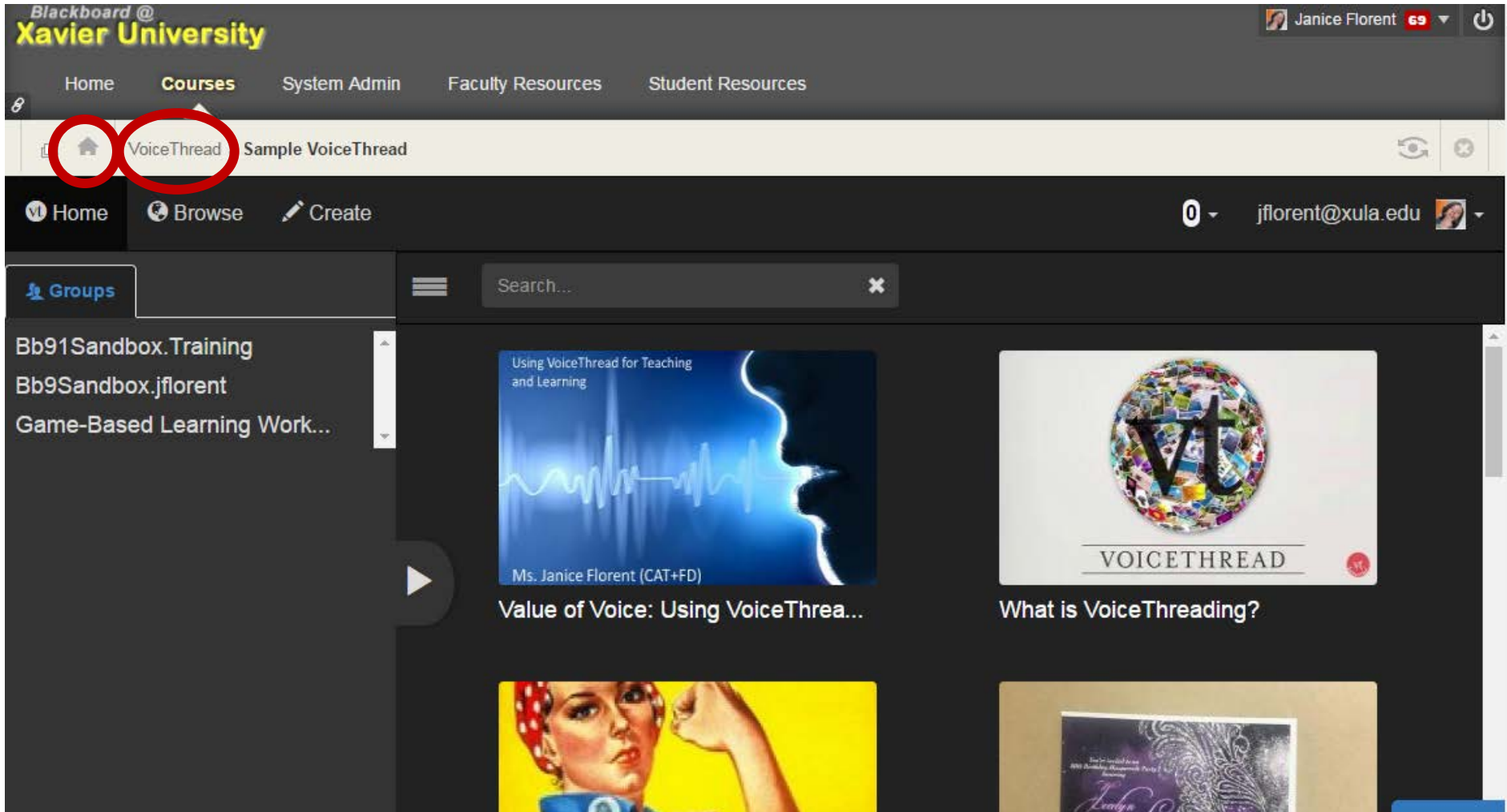
Home Browse Create

Groups

Bb91Sandbox.Training  
Bb9Sandbox.jflorent  
Game-Based Learning Work...

Using VoiceThread for Teaching and Learning  
Ms. Janice Florent (CAT+FD)  
Value of Voice: Using VoiceThrea...

What is VoiceThreading?



The screenshot shows the Blackboard @ Xavier University interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Courses', 'System Admin', 'Faculty Resources', and 'Student Resources'. Below this, a breadcrumb trail is visible: 'Home' (with a house icon) and 'VoiceThread' (with a document icon), both of which are circled in red. An arrow points from the 'VoiceThread' breadcrumb to the 'Courses' menu item. The main content area displays a list of groups on the left and a grid of course content on the right. The first item in the grid is 'Using VoiceThread for Teaching and Learning' by Ms. Janice Florent (CAT+FD), with a thumbnail image of a blue silhouette of a head with a white waveform. The second item is 'What is VoiceThreading?' with a thumbnail image of a globe made of colorful squares. Below these, there are two more thumbnails: a yellow one with a woman's face and a purple one with a book cover.

# Hands-on Activity





# My Identities

Blackboard @ Xavier University

Home Courses System Admin Faculty Resources Student Resources

VoiceThread > Sample VoiceThread

Home Browse Create

0 jflorent@xula.edu

Search...

Using VoiceThread for Teaching and Learning

Ms. Janice Florent (CAT+FD)

Value of Voice: Using VoiceThrea...

What is VoiceThreading?

Rosie the Riveter 2

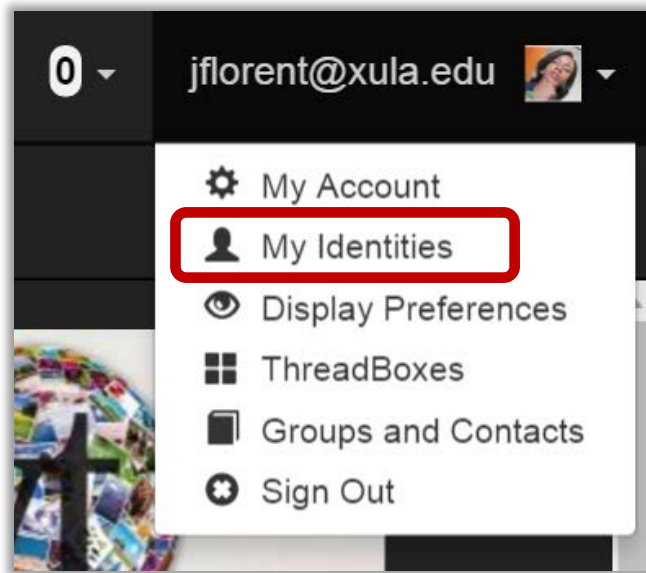
Help ?

Xavier University of Louisiana

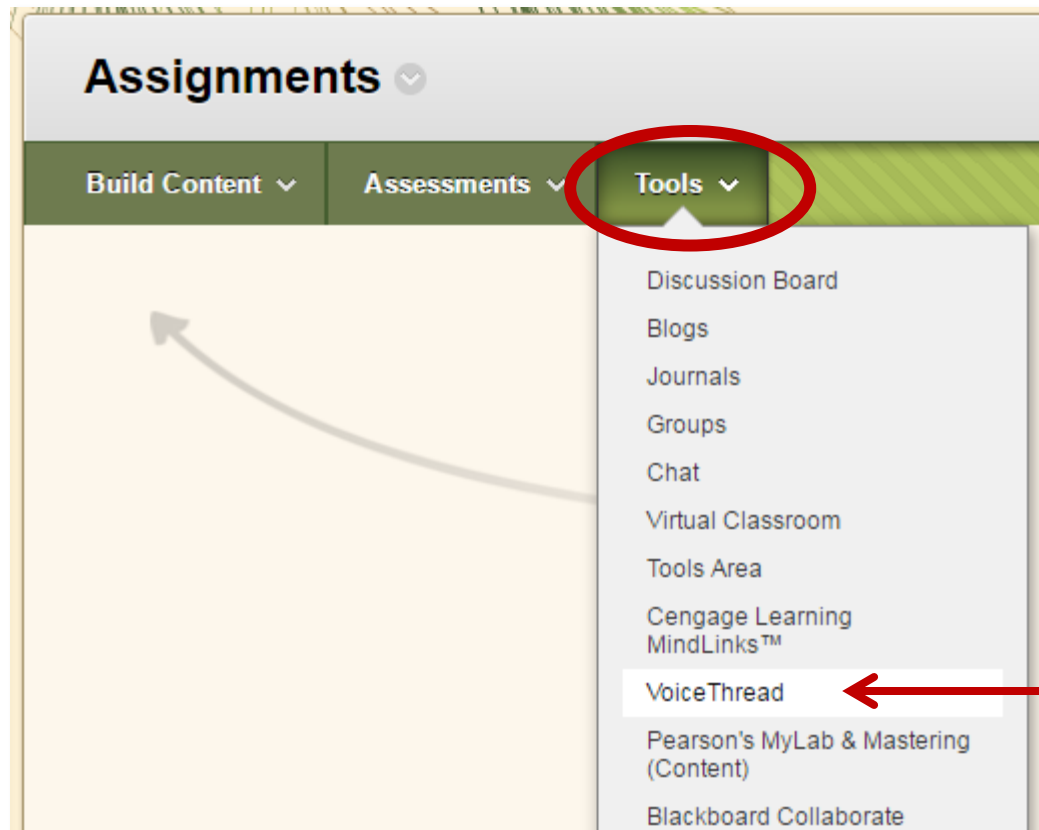
About



# My Identities



# Create VT Assignment



# Grading

When setting up the VT assignment you choose whether you want to grade the VT assignment.

**GRADING**

Enable Evaluation ☐ Yes ☒ No

**GRADING**

Enable Evaluation ☒ Yes ☐ No

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

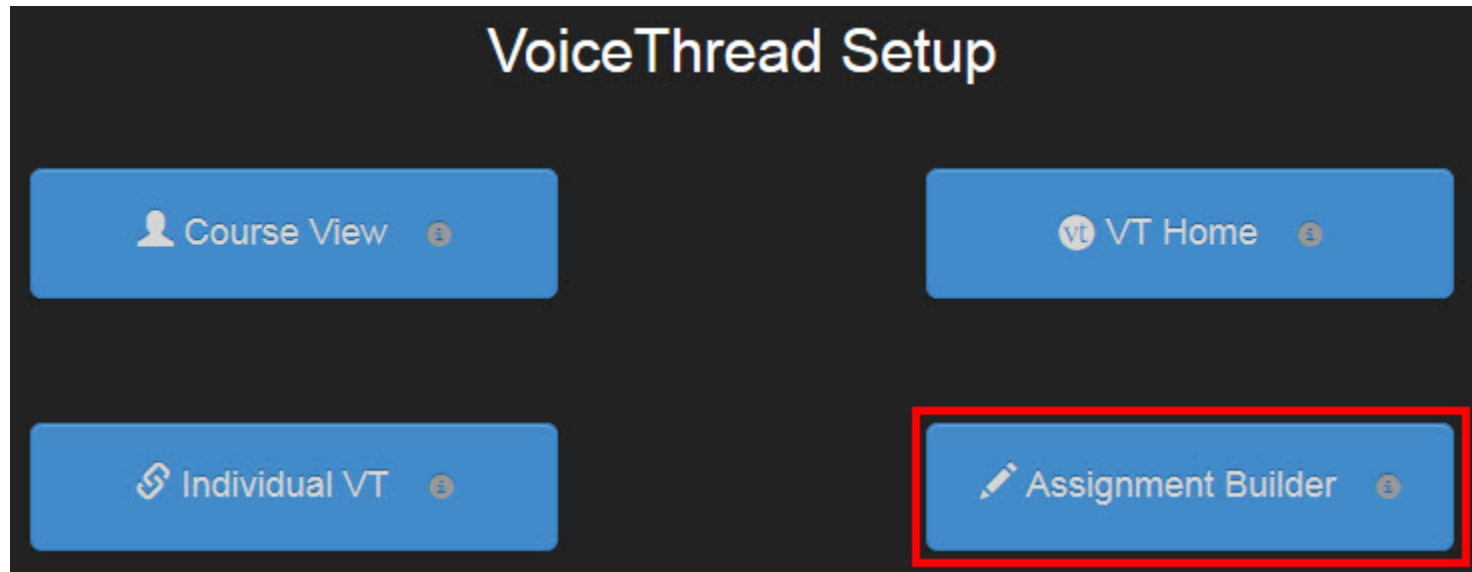
\* Points Possible

Visible to Students ☒ Yes ☐ No

Due Date ☐

*Enter dates as mm/dd/yyyy. Time may be entered in any increment.*

# VT Assignment Types



**Use if you want integration  
with the Grade Center**

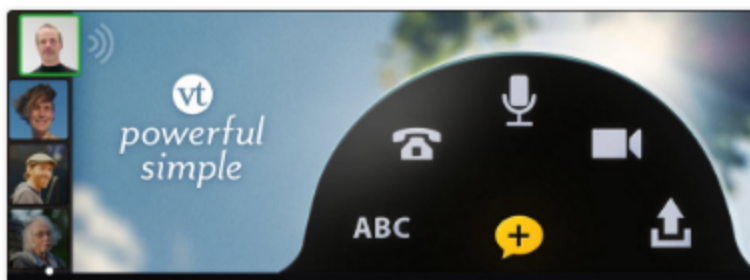


# CAT FooD

(for thought)

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## 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

## BLACKBOARD SUPPORT

### BLACKBOARD DOCUMENTS

- [Guide to Taking Tests in Blackboard](#)
- [Collaborate](#)
- [Record, Upload, and Share Video on YouTube](#)

### BLACKBOARD FAQ

- [Respondus Monitor FAQ](#)
- [Respondus LockDown Browser FAQ](#)
- [VoiceThread FAQ](#)

## TOPICS



Penn State created this [Voicethread - Simply Speaking video \[2:24\]](#) 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" ( $4 / 5 = .80 \times 100 = 80$ ).

# Editing VT Links

## 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

## 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>



A wooden structure, possibly a small house or a signpost, with a yellow-painted roof. The main body is made of horizontal wooden planks, some of which are painted white and others a light pink. The text "YOU ARE YOUR VOICE" is painted in black, uppercase letters across the white-painted section. The structure appears to be outdoors, with some greenery visible in the background.

YOU ARE YOUR VOICE

# Practical Applications for Teaching and Learning



Do you have any





# Homework

- Let us know
  - If you decide to use VoiceThread
  - What worked and didn't work for you



# **Please fill out workshop evaluation**





Xavier University of Louisiana