

Using Replace Strings

Replace strings are variable names enclosed in curly braces {} that are automatically replaced by the corresponding variable values. Replace strings allow instructors to customize course content and communications in Brightspace by incorporating the intended learner's personalized information, such as their name, automatically.

Replace strings can help instructors build better relationships with learners, increase engagement levels, and improve the overall learning experience. For example, if the text {FirstName} is in the code of an Announcement, users in that course will see their first name in the Announcement. If you enter the text {OrgUnitName} into the HTML Editor in the Content Tool, the course name will appear in its place when viewing the topic.

Replace strings are used in all tools that use the HTML editor. However, special rules apply to how they are interpreted:

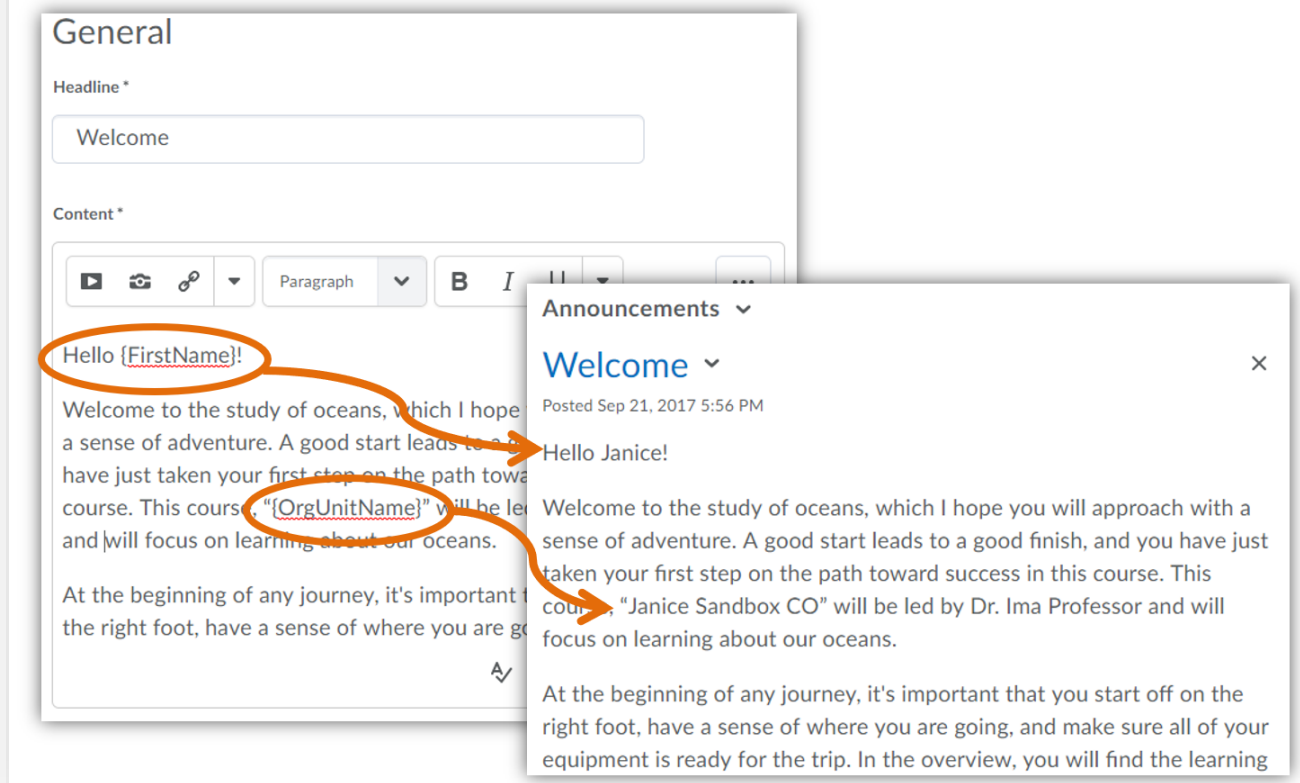
1. When composing a topic in the Content tool, curly braces are stripped even if the string is not a valid configuration variable or a replace string that does not apply to the Content tool. Replace strings are **evaluated only once** when the Content topic is first saved. Replacement strings are permanently replaced with their result. For example, if you enter {OrgUnitName} into a Content topic in course 'A' and later copy that Content topic into course 'B', the name of course 'A' course will display in the Content topic in course 'B'.
 - This does not apply for Content links where replacement strings are used to craft QuickLinks that are used as Content topics.
2. For all other tools, the replacement string is processed every time the tool is viewed. For example, if you enter {OrgUnitName} into a Discussion topic in course 'A' and later copy that Discussion topic into course 'B', the name of course 'B' will display in the Discussion Topic in course 'B'.
3. **Not all replace strings work in all tools.**

This table lists the most applicable replacement strings for use in Brightspace.

List of Common Replacement Strings		
Replace String	Description	Usage Restrictions*
{FirstName}	First name of the user.	Not usable when composing HTML files in Content Tool.
{LastName}	Last name of the user.	Not usable when composing HTML files in Content Tool.
{UserName}	Participant's username.	Not usable when composing HTML files in Content Tool.
{OrgUnitName}	Name of the course as set in Course Offering Information.	None

***NOTE: Replace Strings DO NOT work when sending email in Brightspace.**

Replace Strings Example



The screenshot illustrates the 'Replace Strings' feature in Brightspace. It shows a 'General' section with a 'Headline' field containing 'Welcome' and a 'Content' field with a rich text editor. The content contains placeholder strings like '{FirstName}' and '{OrgUnitName}'. A preview window shows the rendered announcement with these placeholders replaced by 'Hello Janice!' and 'Janice Sandbox CO'.

Example of a Replace String in an Announcement

Additional information about Replace Strings can be found at documentation.brightspace.com.