How to Use Different Discussion Tools in your Course

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Associate Professor in Educational Leadership

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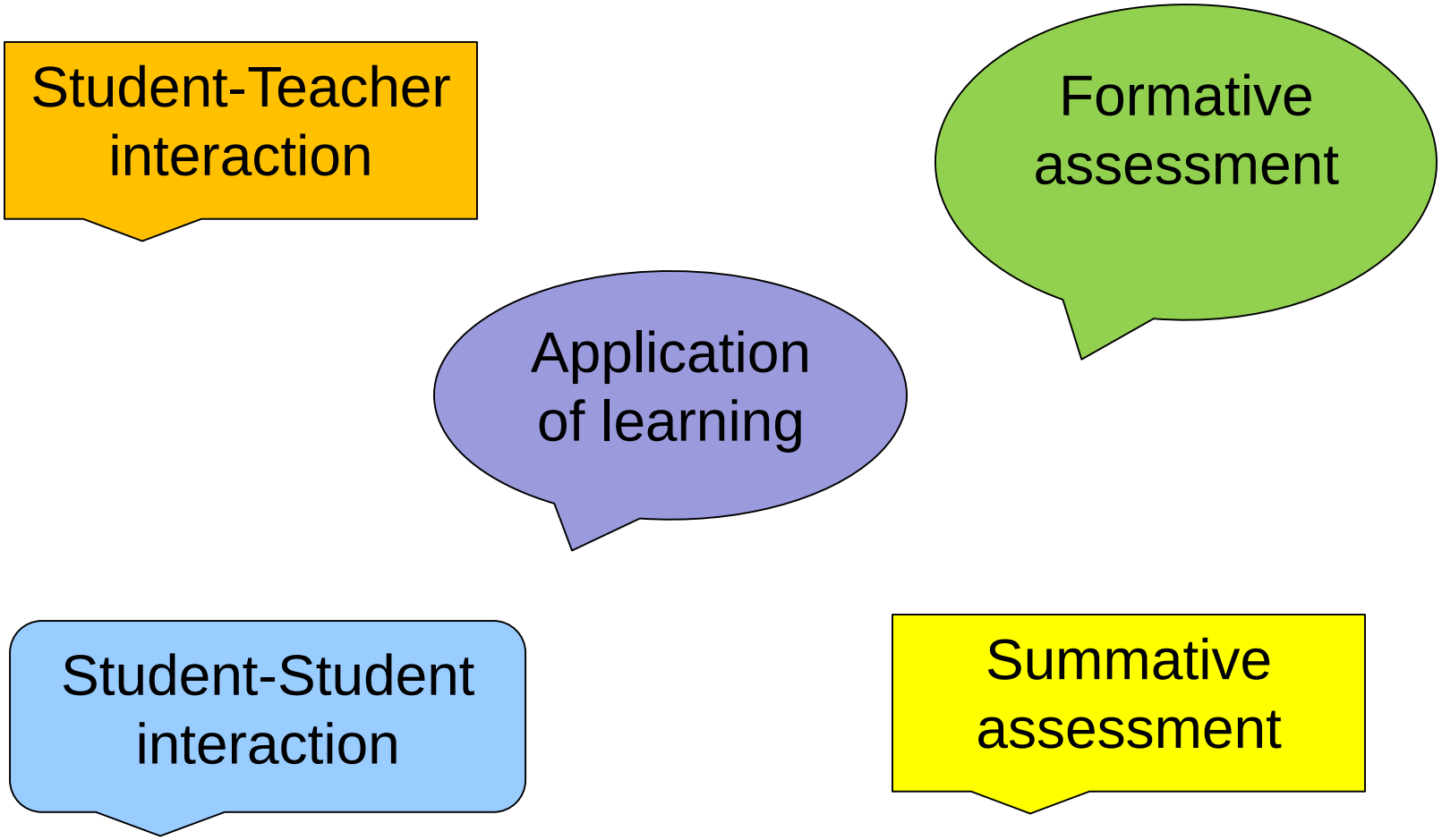
Assistant Director
University IT & URMC Institute for Innovative Education

Learning Objectives
Participants will be able to…

- Describe the value of asynchronous discussion in their course
- Explain the differences between the discussion tools (Blackboard, Voicethread, Yellowdig)
- Use any of the tools above for discussion

WHY DISCUSSION?


Student-Teacher interaction
Formative assessment
Application of learning
Student-Student interaction
Summative assessment

Types of Discussion

- Application / Synthesis of Learning
- Conversation Starter / Finisher
- Debate
- Role Play

Interactions to Encourage Knowledge Construction and Critical Thinking

Prompts	Elaboration	Clarification	Weaving
Perspectives	Inferences and Assumptions	Implications	Summary

BLACKBOARD DISCUSSION BOARDS

Thread: Gaps in the First Amendment

Search Refresh

Select: All None

Message Actions Expand All Collapse All

Thread 2 of 3

5 Post(s) in this Thread 0 Unread 0 Replies to me

Medical Student2019

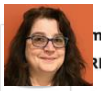
Gaps in the First Amendmer

11 months ago

Main Post or Thread

Sed ut perspiciatis unde omnis que ipsa quae ab illo inventore veritatis et quasi architecto beatae vitae dicta sunt explicabo. Nemo enim ipsam voluptatem quia voluptas sit aspernatur aut odit aut fugit, sed quia consequuntur magni dolores eos qui ratione voluptatem sequi nesciunt. Neque porro quisquam est, qui dolorem ipsum quia dolor sit amet, consectetur, adipisci velit, sed quia non numquam eius modi tempora incidunt ut labore et dolore magnam aliquam quaerat voluptatem. Ut enim ad minima veniam, quis nostrum exercitationem ullam corporis suscipit laboriosam, nisi ut aliquid ex ea commodi consequatur? Quis autem vel eum iure reprehenderit qui in ea voluptate velit esse quam nihil molestiae consequatur, vel illum qui dolorem eum fugiat quo voluptas nulla pariatur?

Reply Quote Edit Delete



medical student2018

RE: Gaps in the First Amendment

11 months ago

Reply

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fugiat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum."

Tracy Cherry

RE: Gaps in the First Amendment

11 months ago

Reply

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do e iqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis aute irure dolor in reprehenderit in voluptate velit esse cillum dolore eu fu n proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum."

▲ Hide 2 replies

medical student2018

RE: Gaps in the First Amendment

11 months ago

Second level Reply

Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea comm giat nulla pariatur. Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim id est laborum."

▲ Hide 1 reply

medical student2018

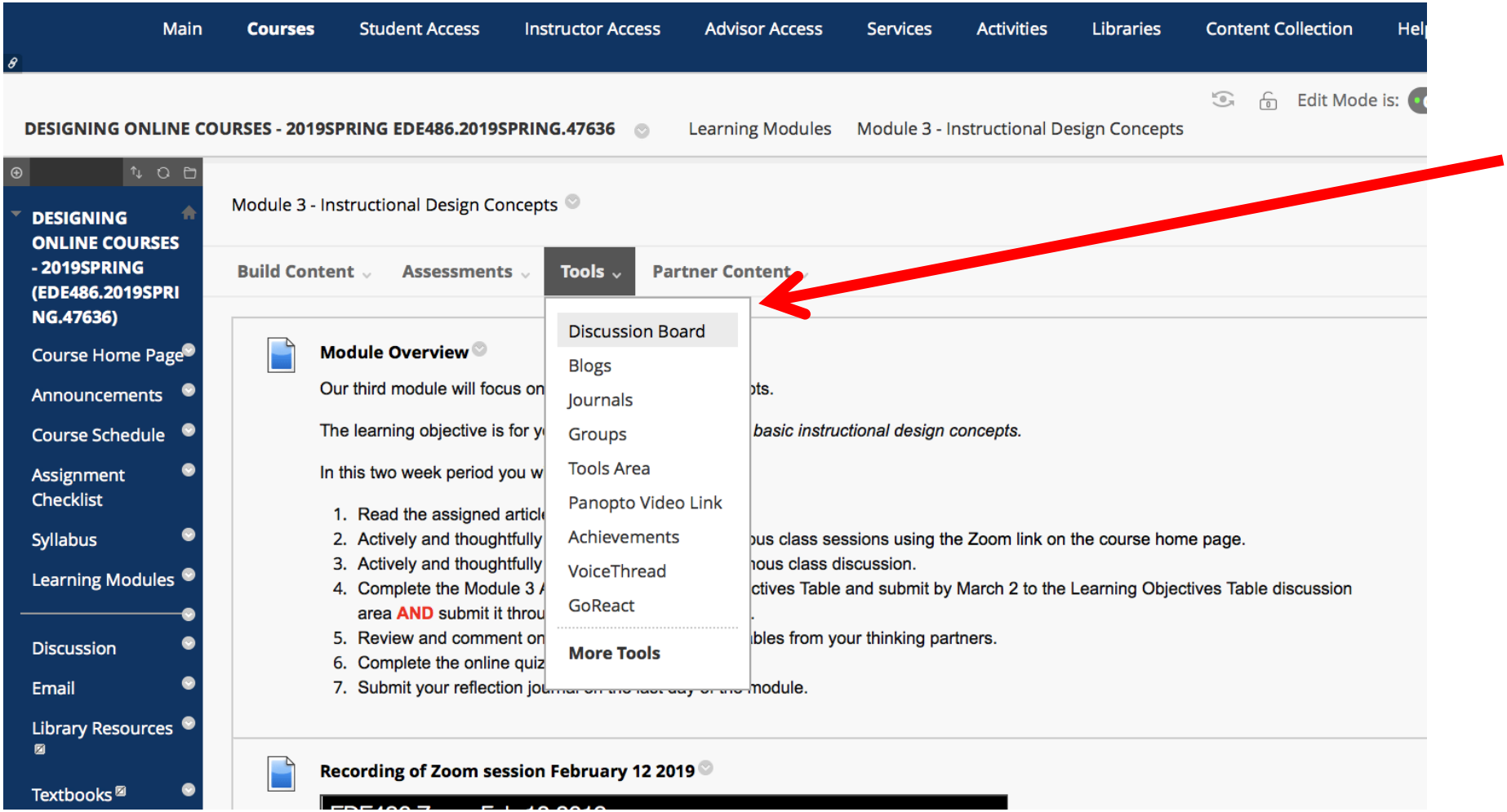
RE: Gaps in the First Amendment

11 months ago

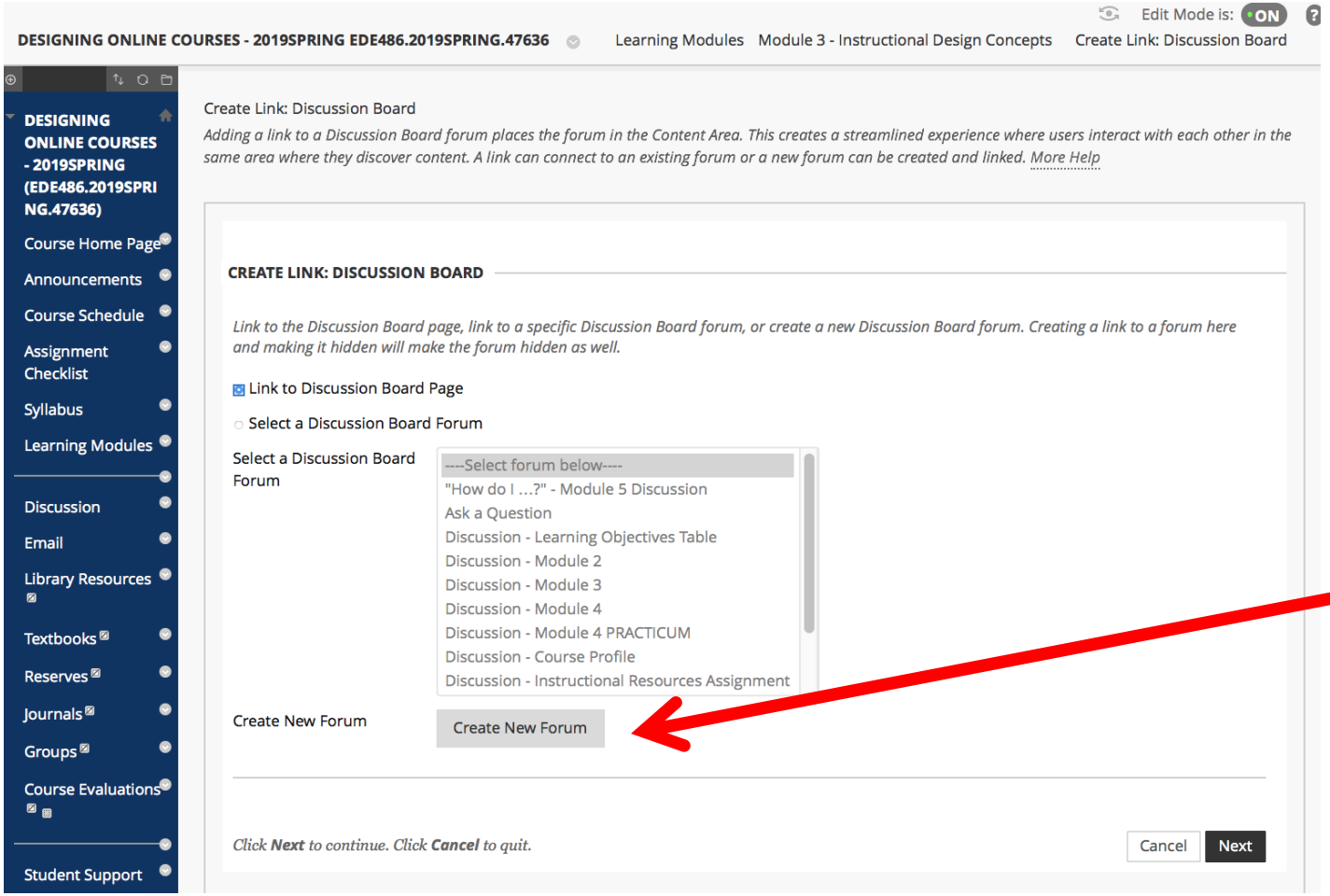
Second level Reply

Excepteur sint occaecat cupidatat non proident, sunt in culpa qui officia deserunt mollit anim

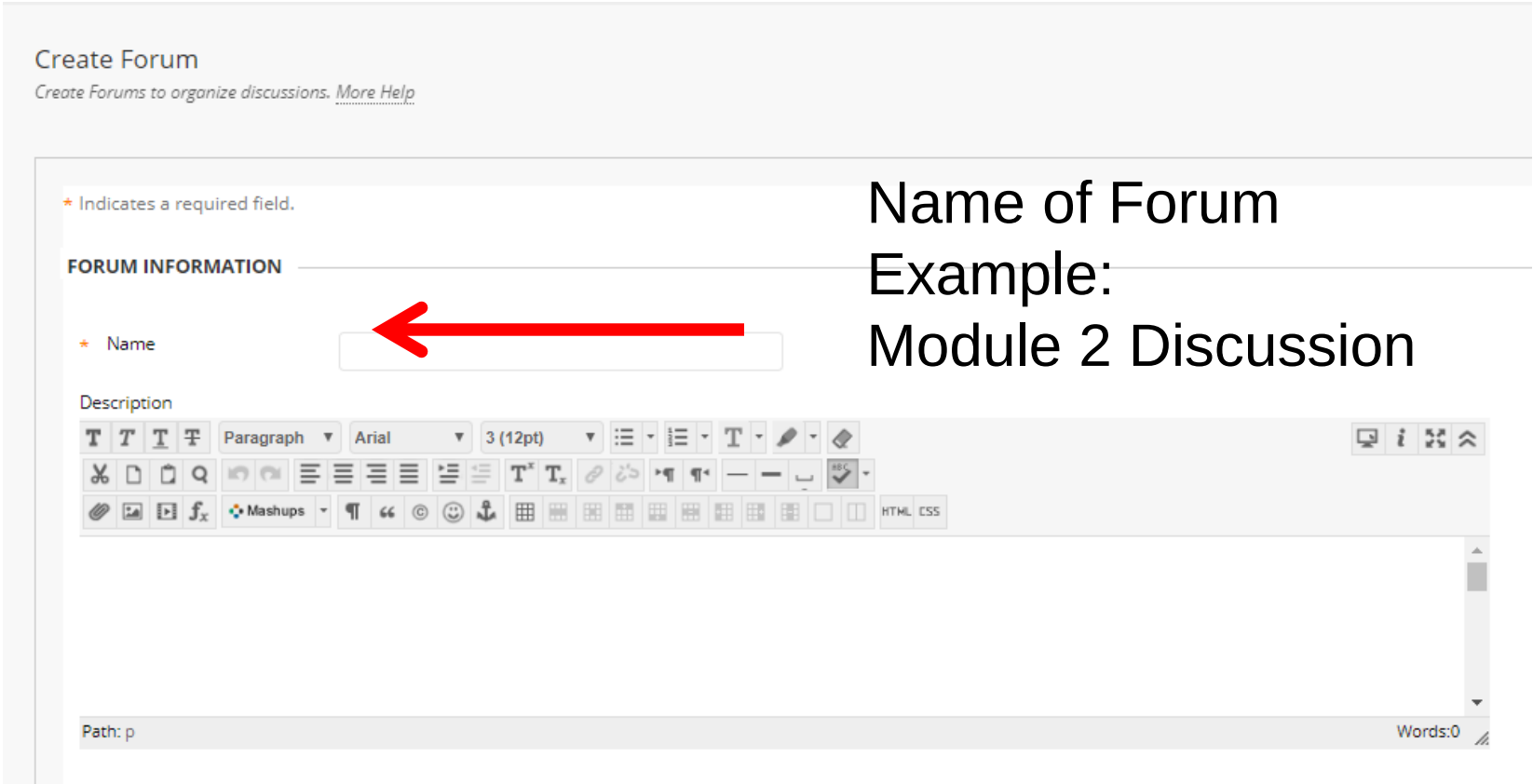
Create a Link to a Discussion Forum



Create a New Forum

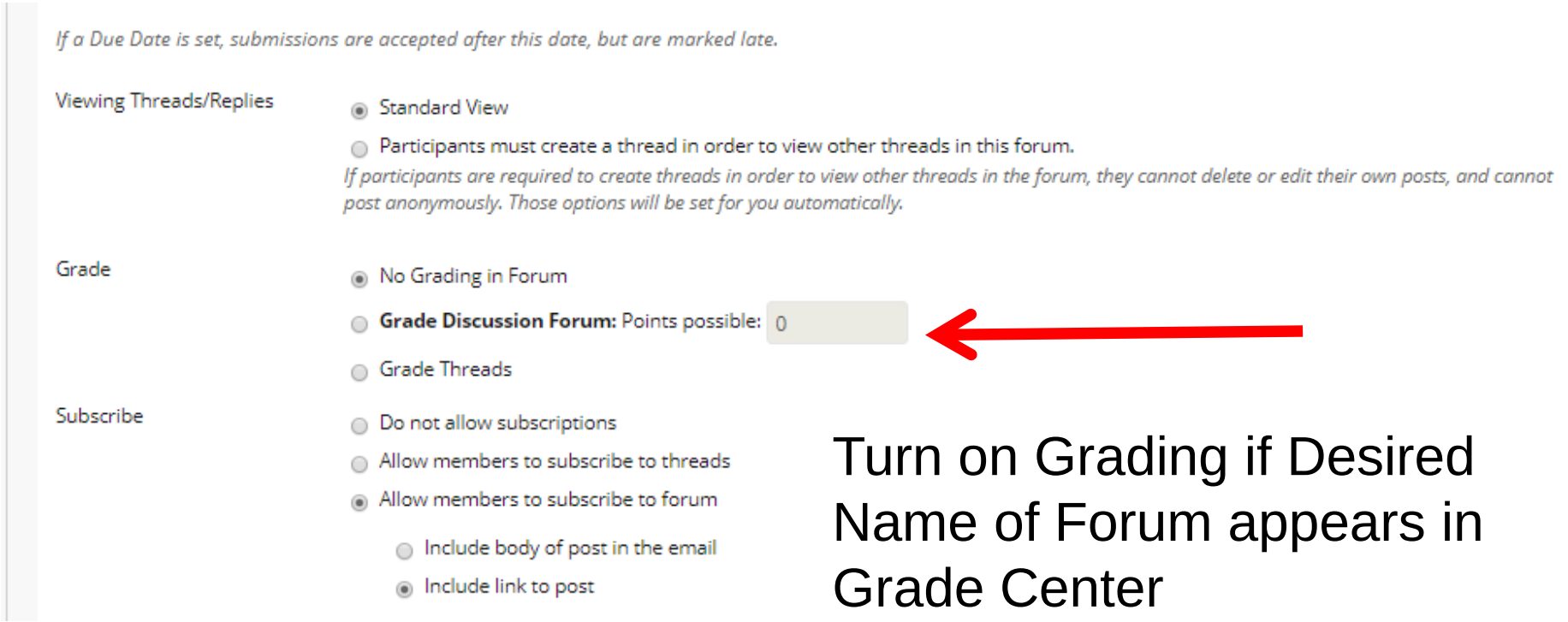


General Forum Information



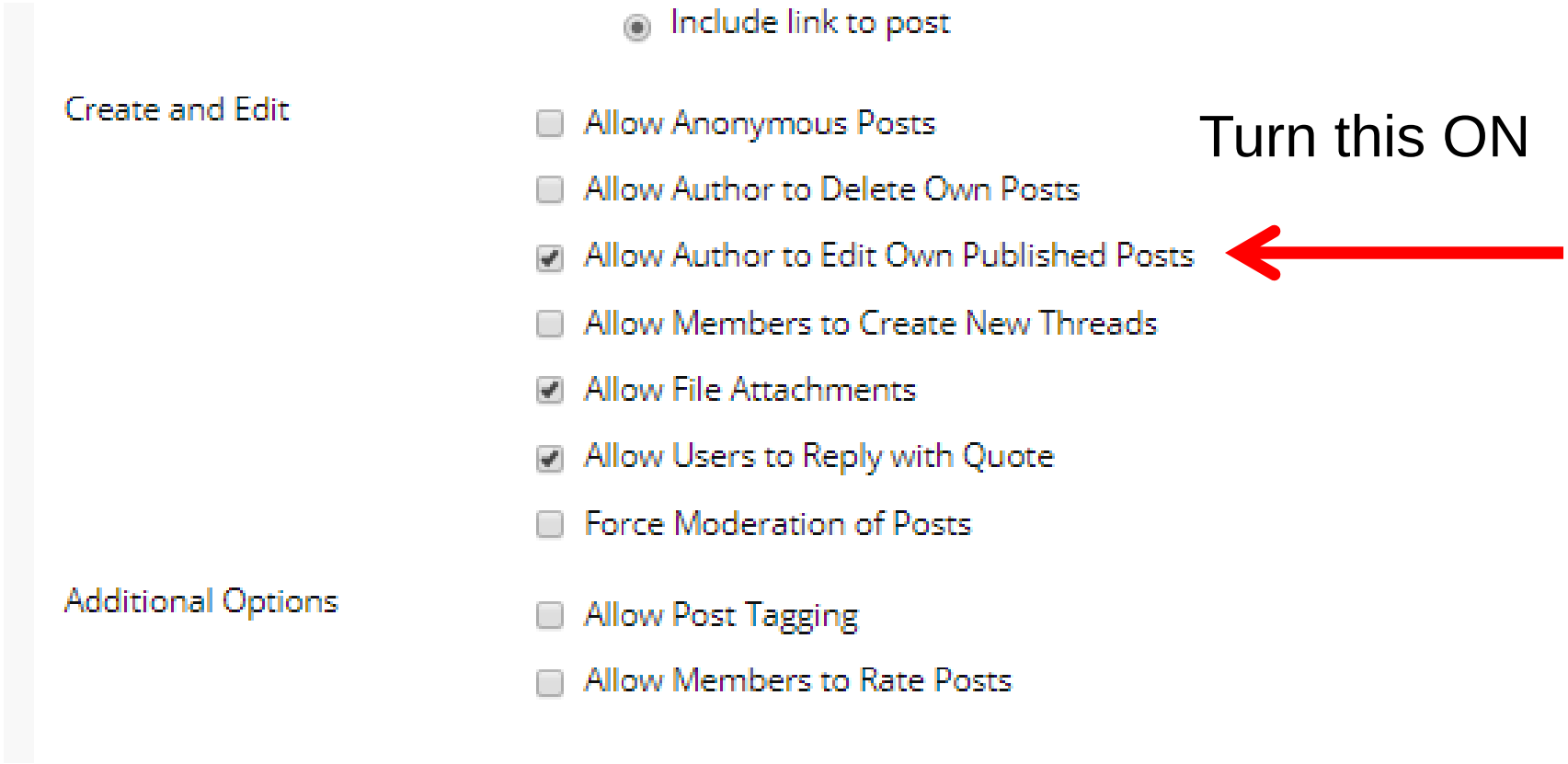
Name of Forum
Example:
Module 2 Discussion

Grading Settings

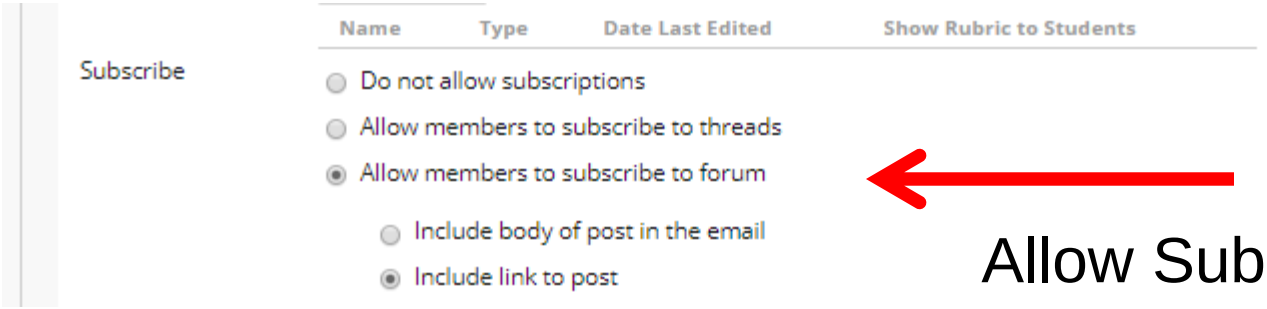


Turn on Grading if Desired
Name of Forum appears in Grade Center

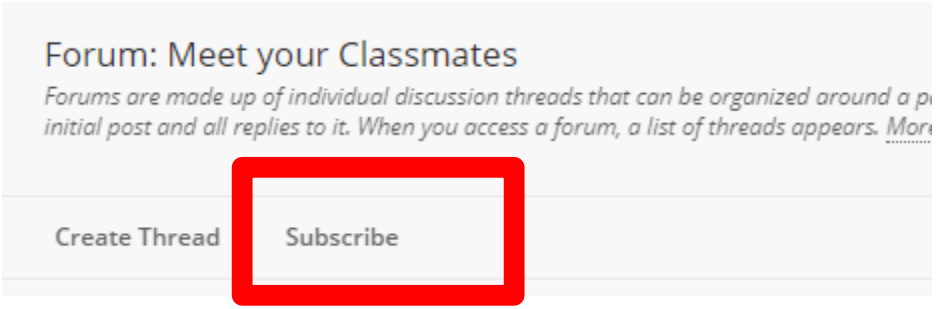
Edit Settings



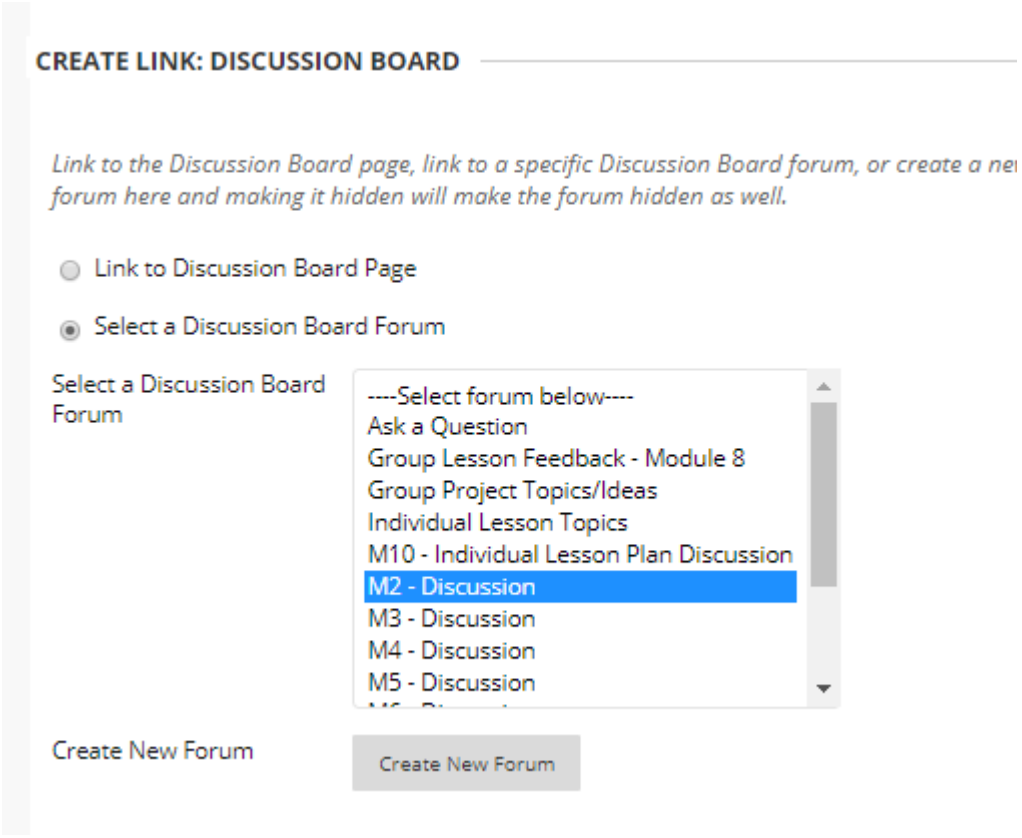
Recommended Setting



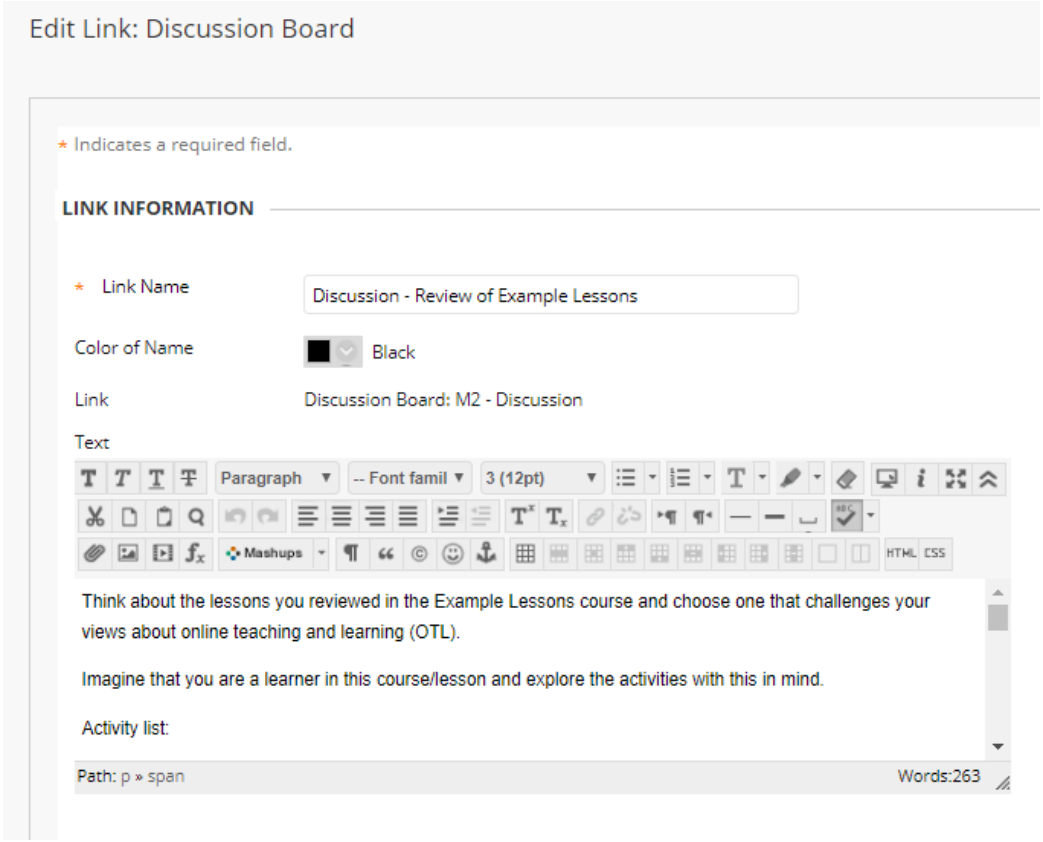
Allow Subscribe
Tell Students How



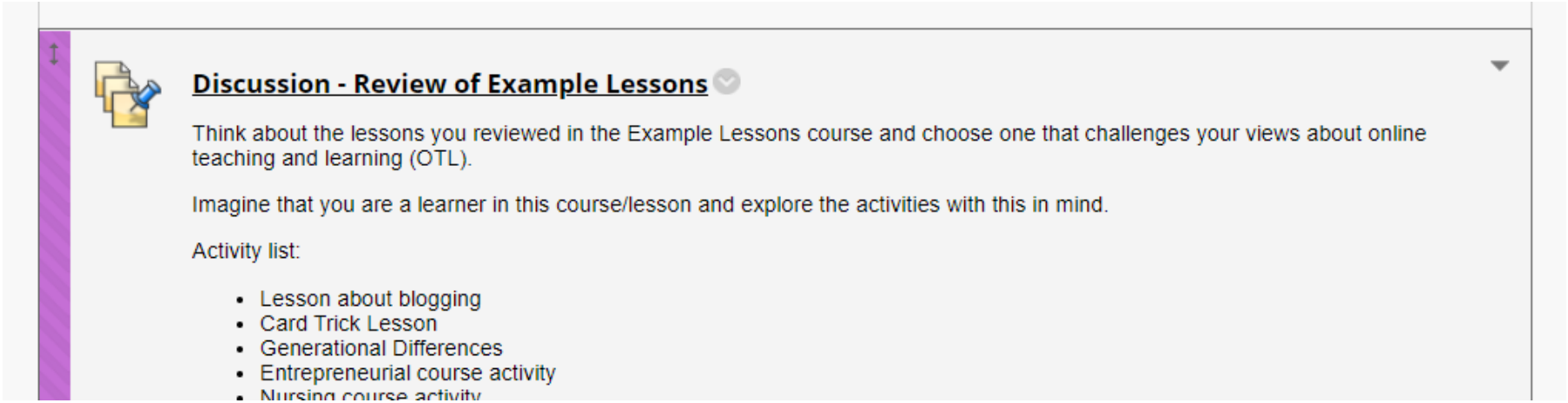
Select Forum to Link To



Link Name and Instructions



Result in your Course



VOICETHREAD DISCUSSION

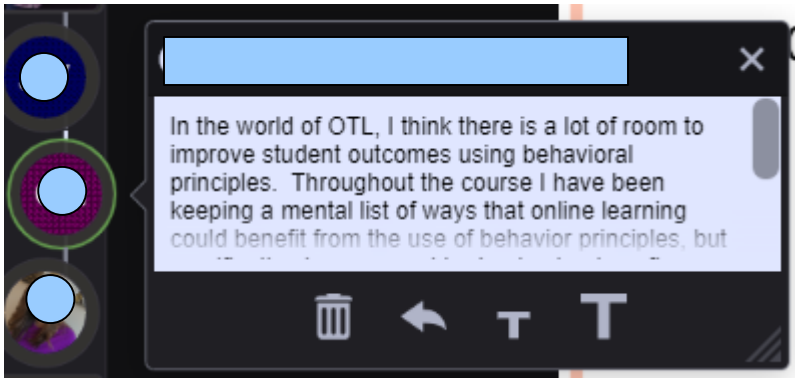
Use for…

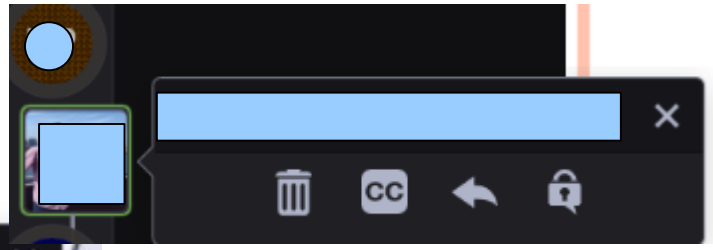
- Introductions
- Discussion board

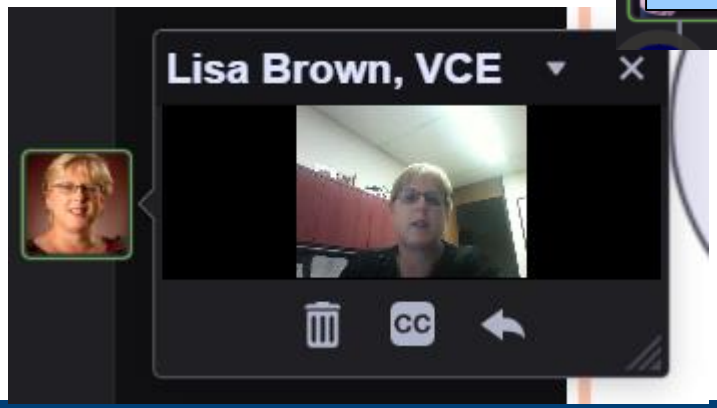
- Multimedia discussion board
- Start with Powerpoint or Video
- Supports text, voice, and video
- Support annotations

Types of Discussion

- Text
- Audio
- Video







Threaded Asynchronous Conversation

Main “Post”

Main “Post”

Reply

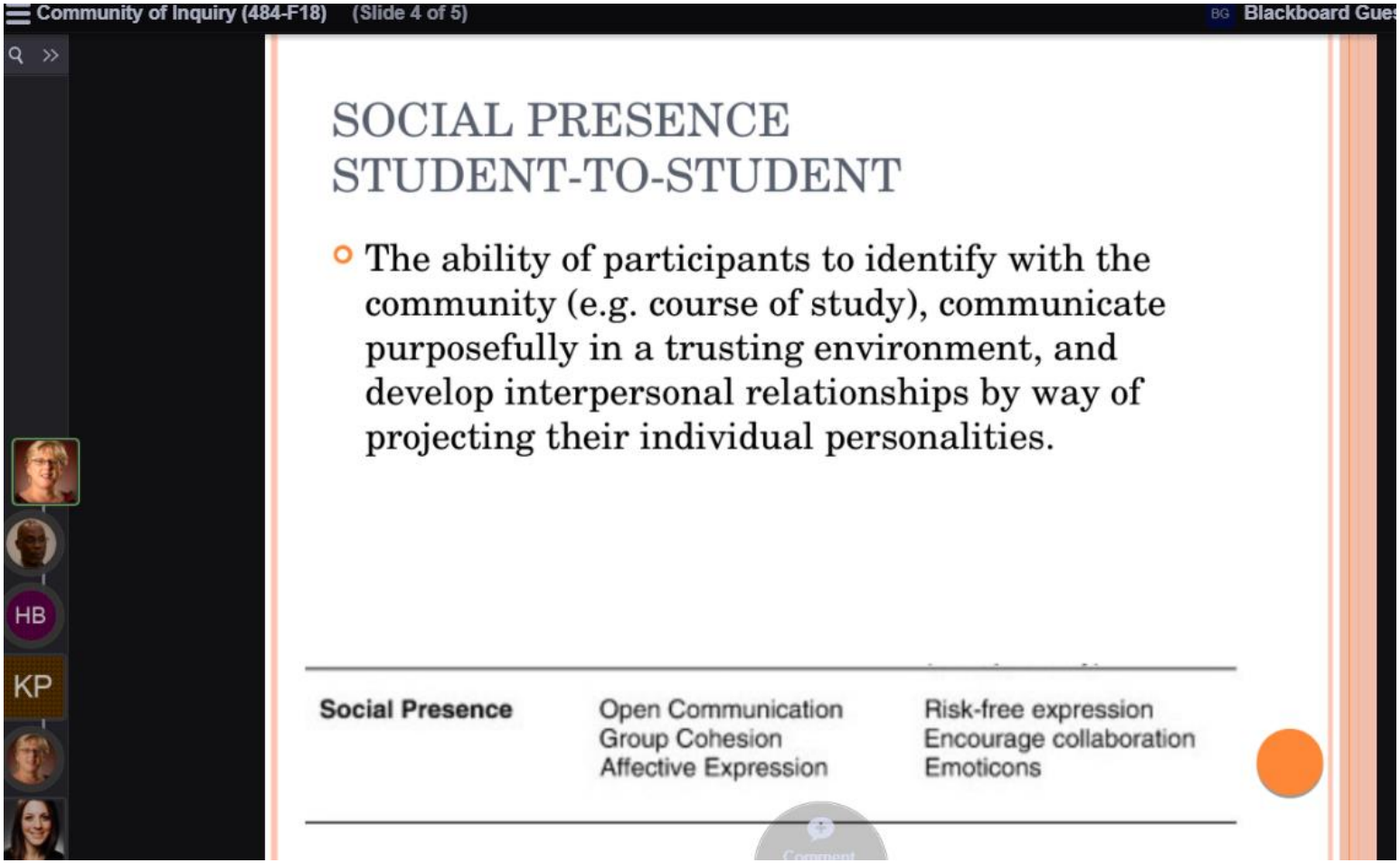
Main “Post”

Reply

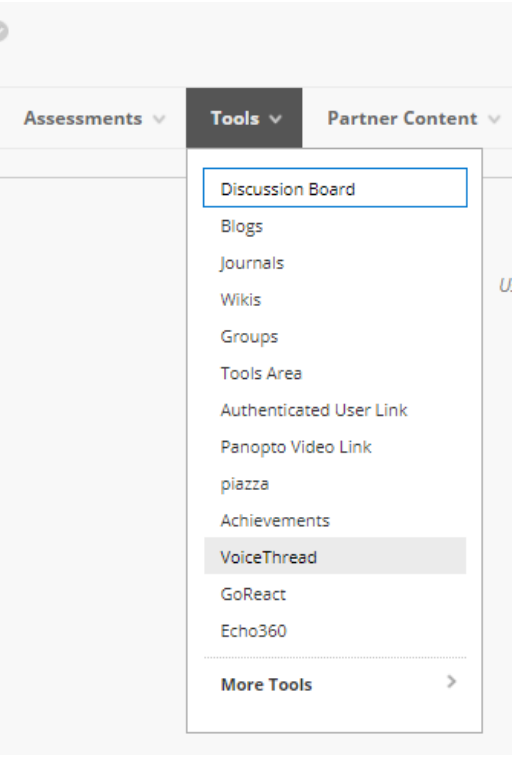
Reply

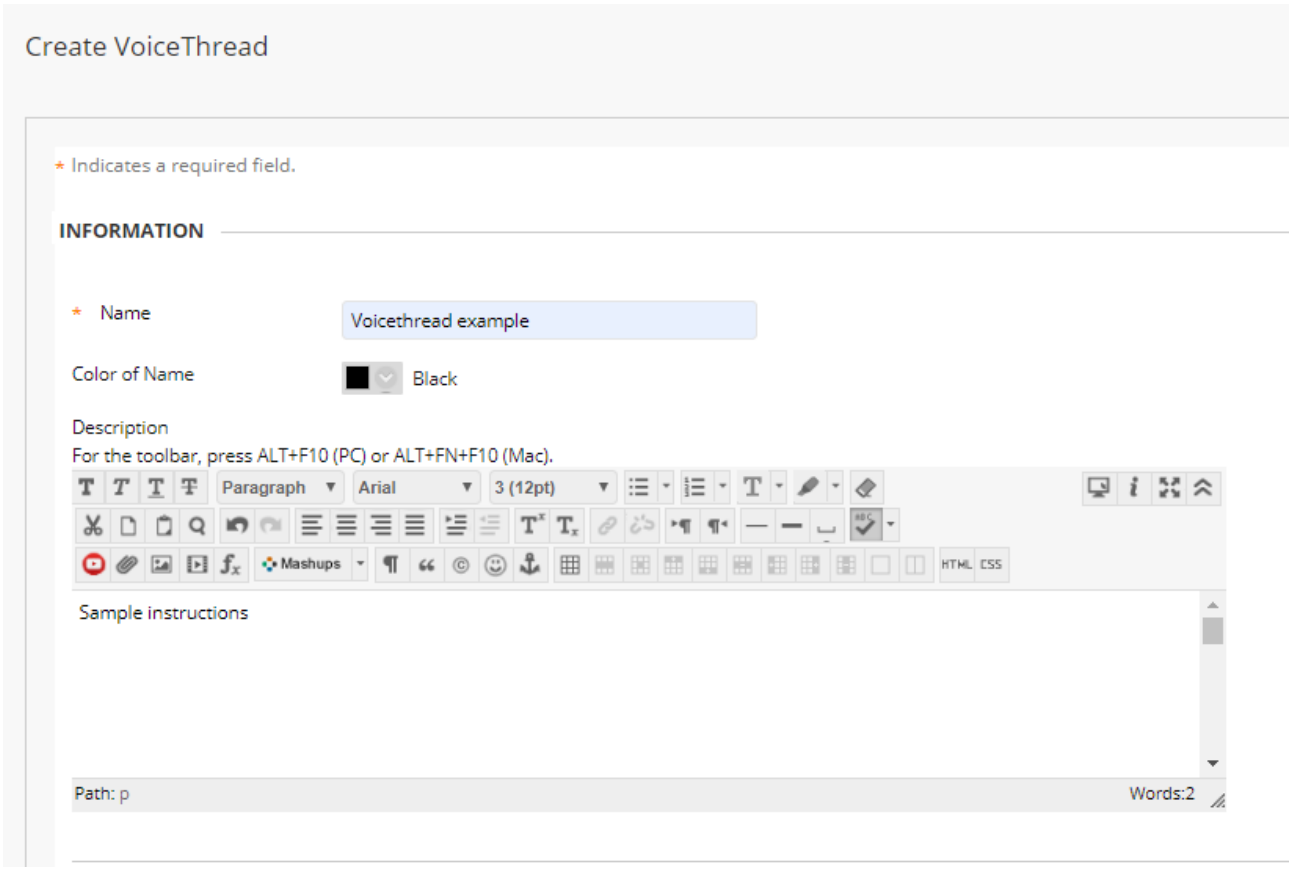
Main “Post”

Discussion "Forum"

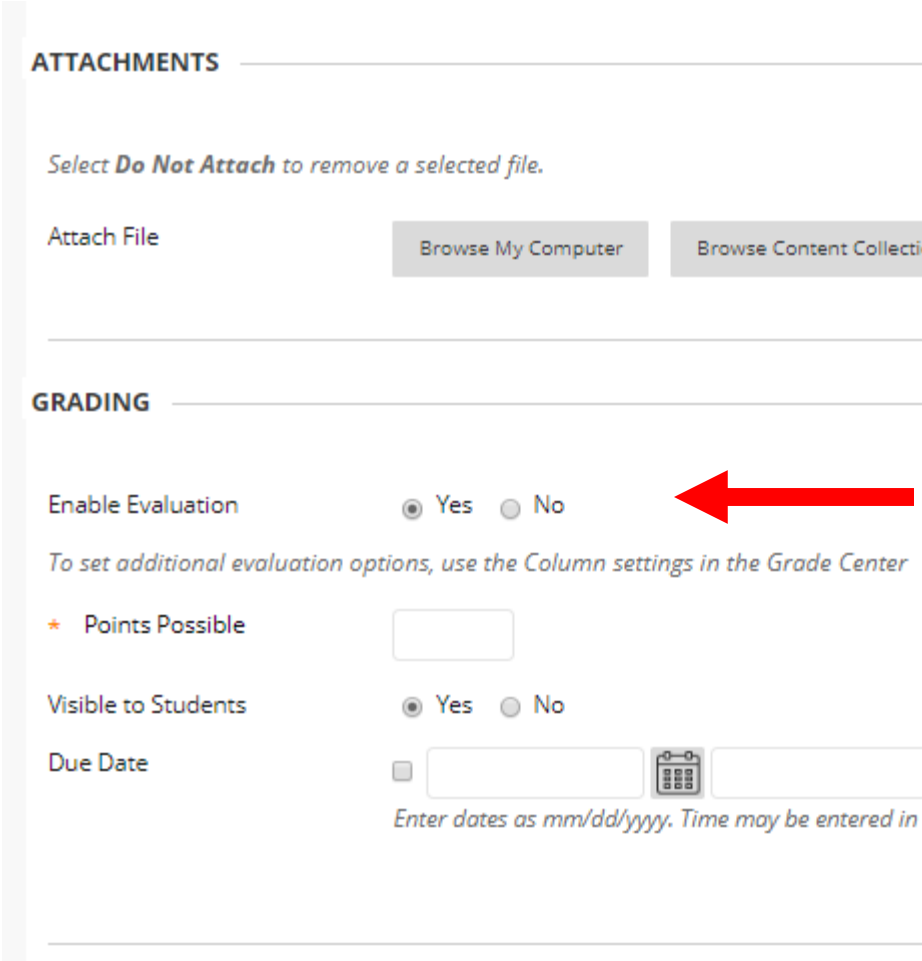


Add Tool to Content Area



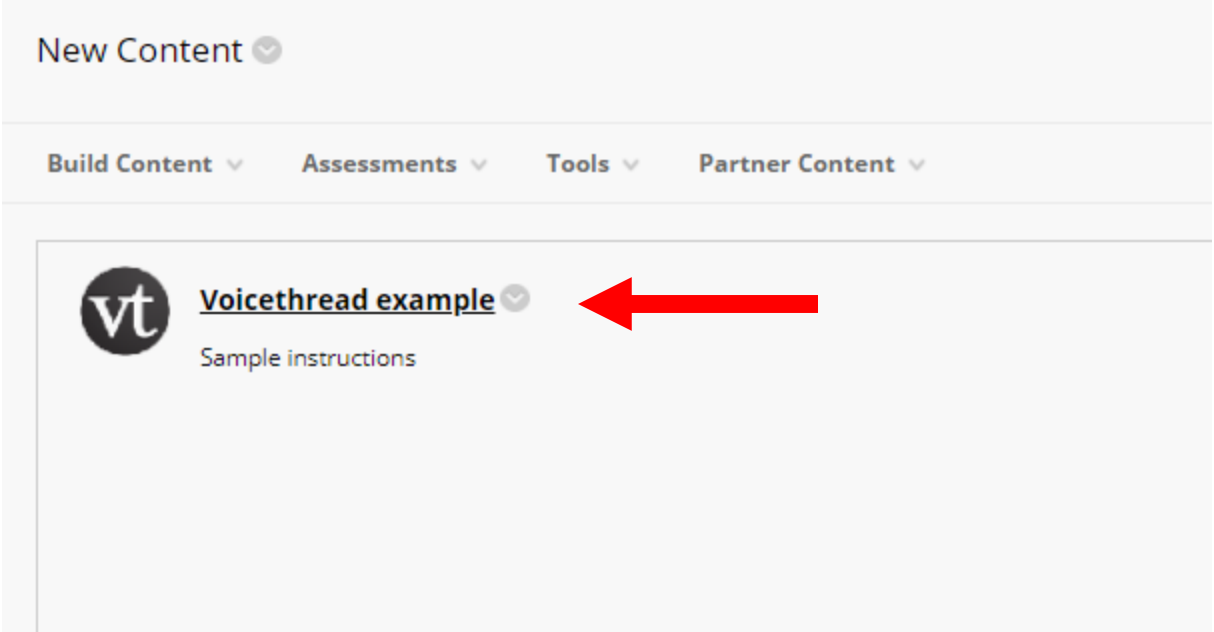


Voicethread Options



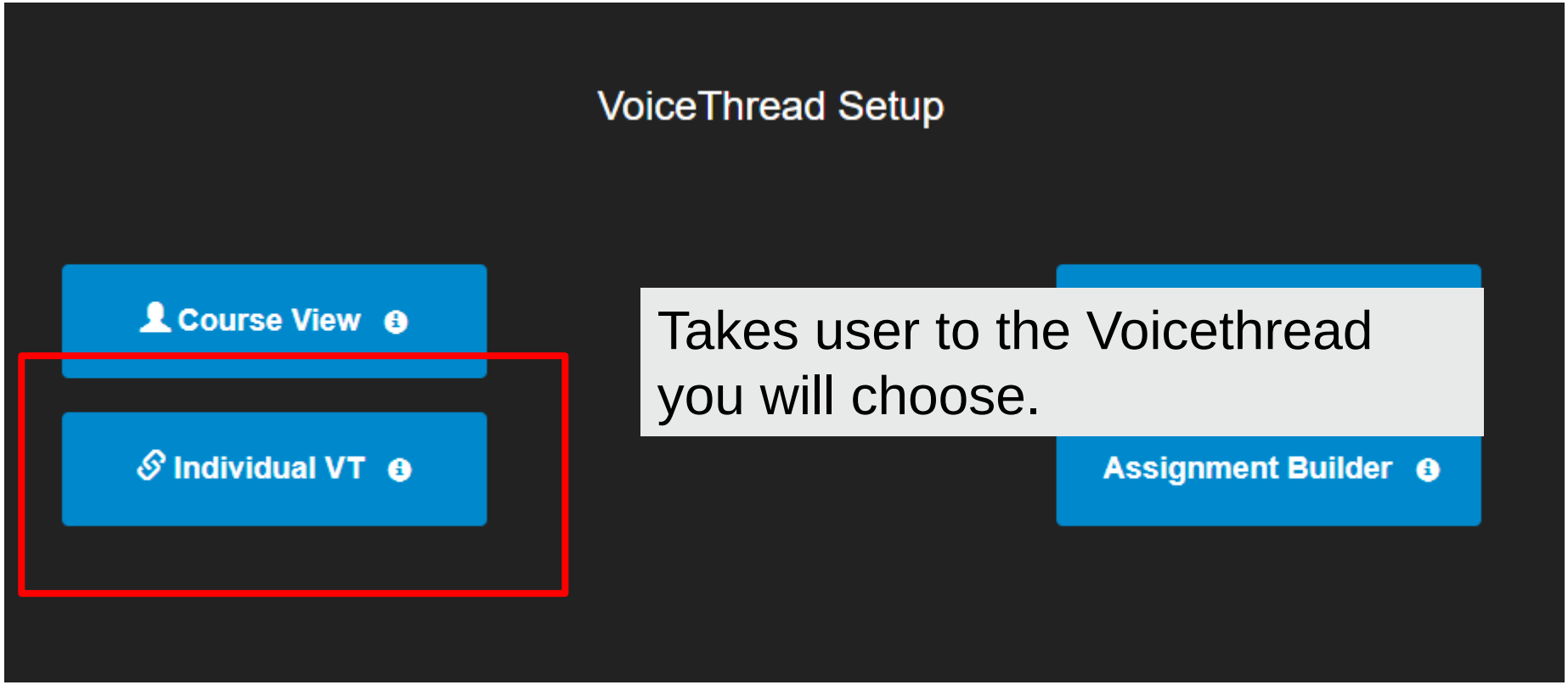
Creates a Grade Center column

Click this Link

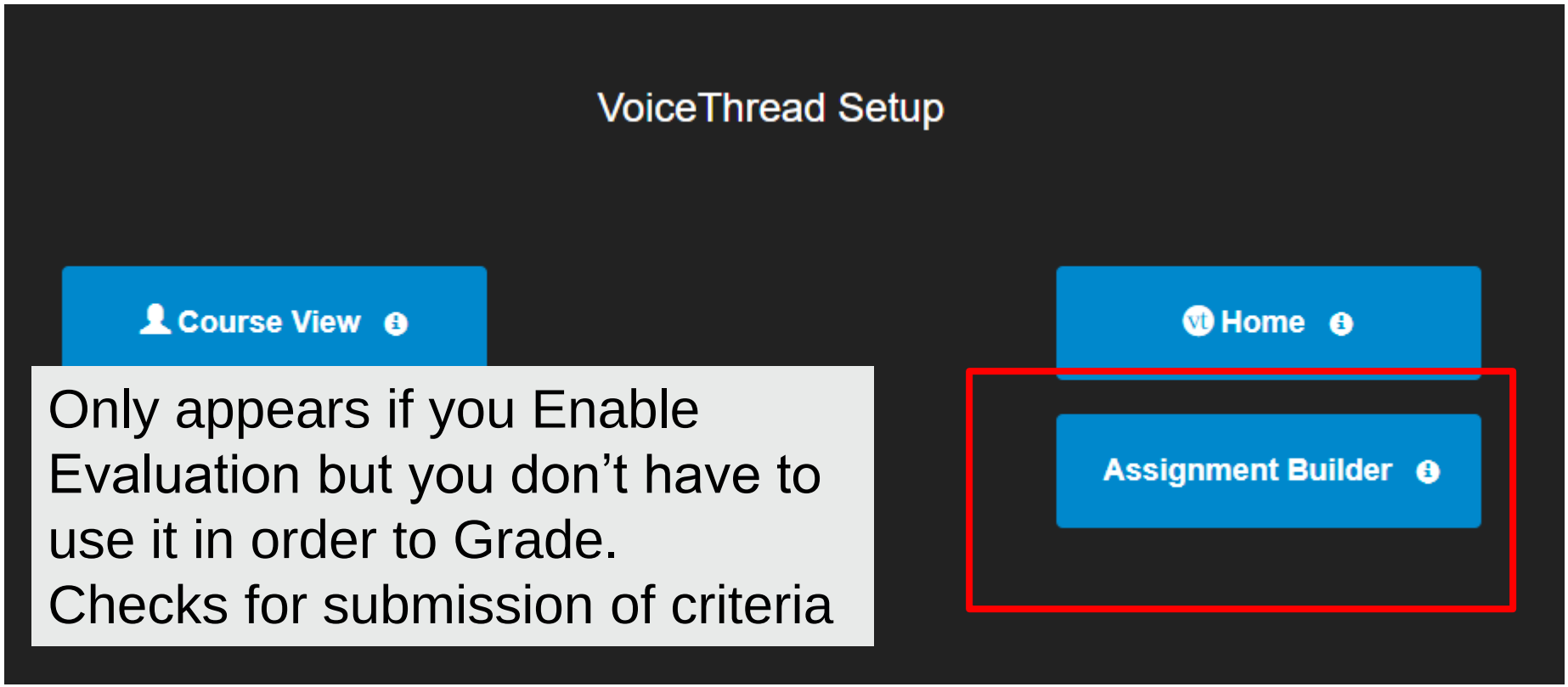


Every VT link must be initialized to indicate what function it will have.

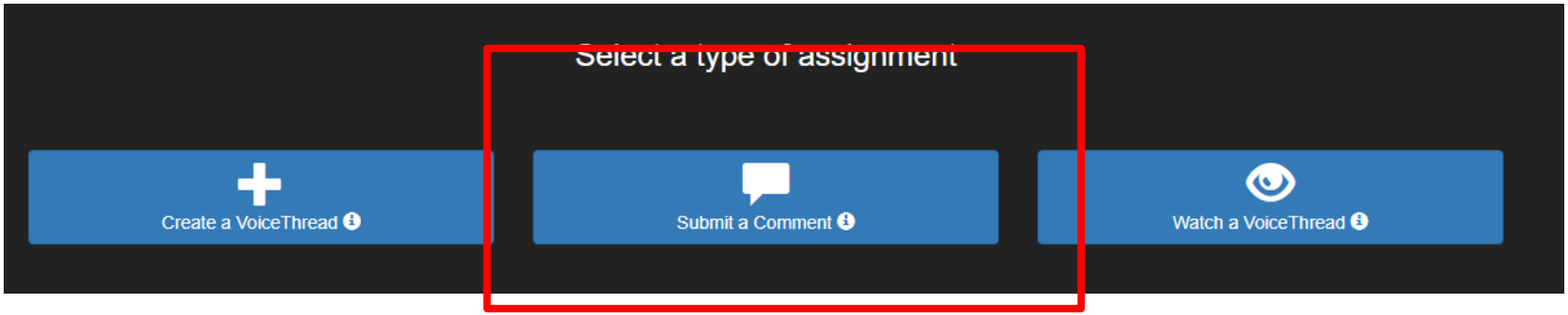
Individual VT Button



Assignment Builder Button



Comment on a Voicethread Assignment

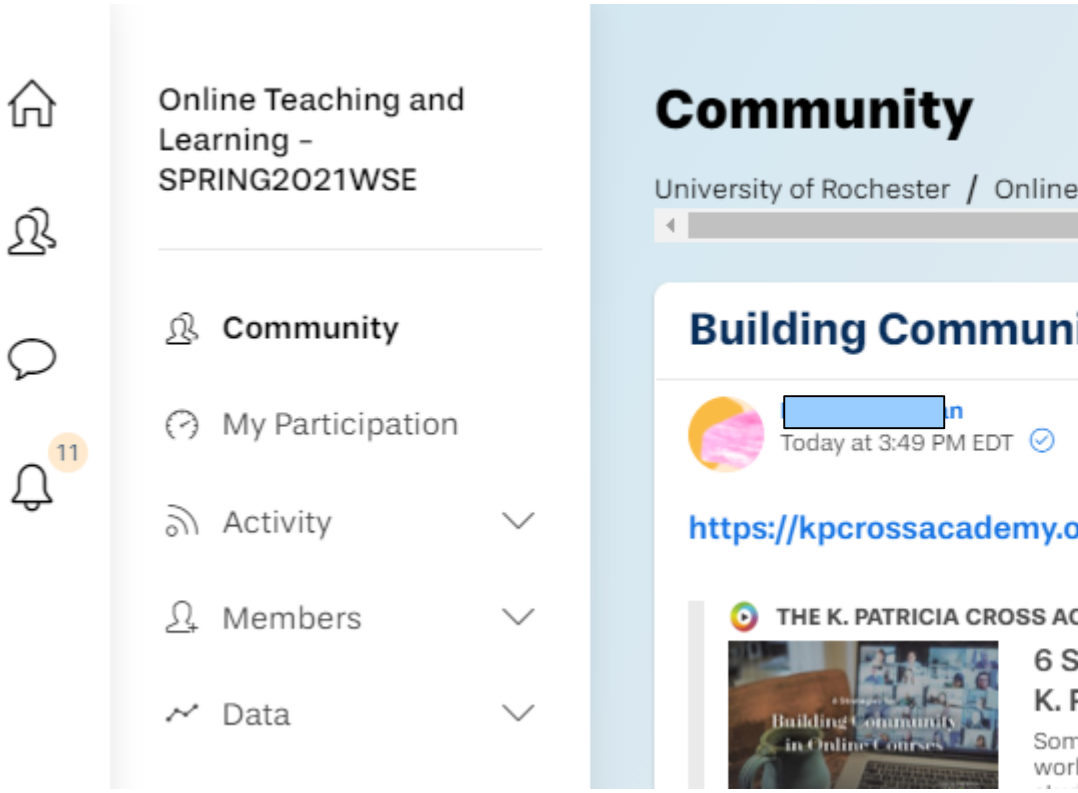


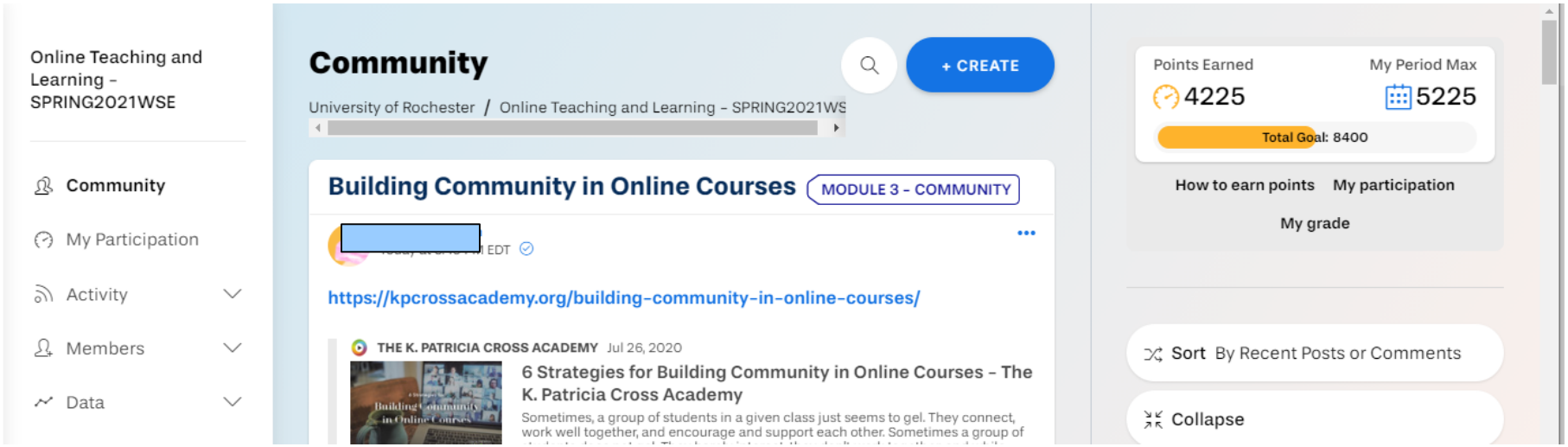
Students get credit for COMMENTING on a Voicethread
Note that you provide a number of comments to make

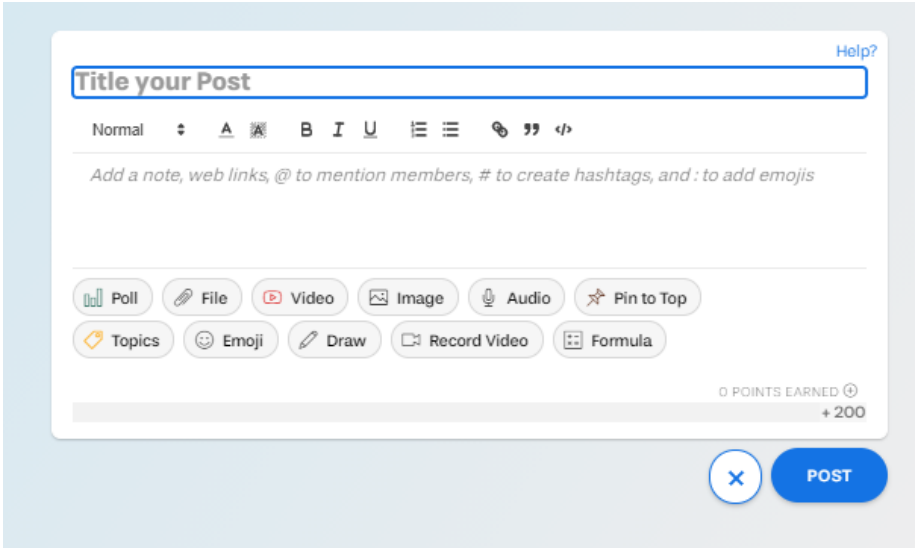
YELLOWDIG DISCUSSION

Yellowdig

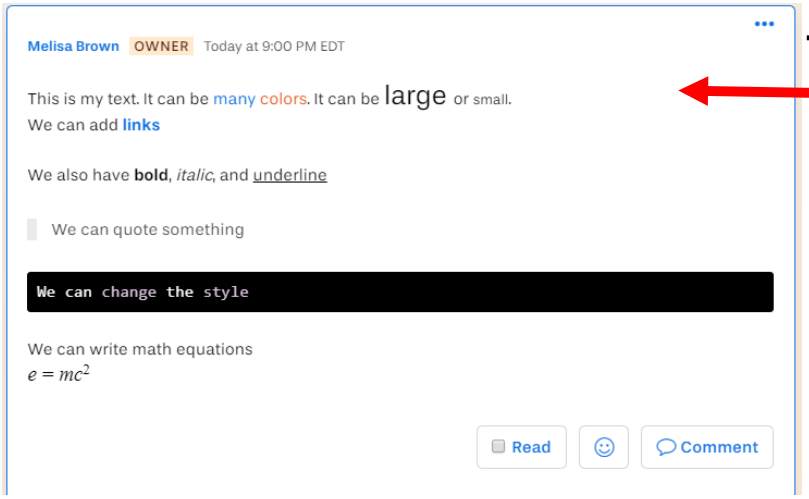
- Facebook-like
- Gamified through points-based interactions
- Badges and Reactions
- Topics and Tags
- Grade passback to Blackboard



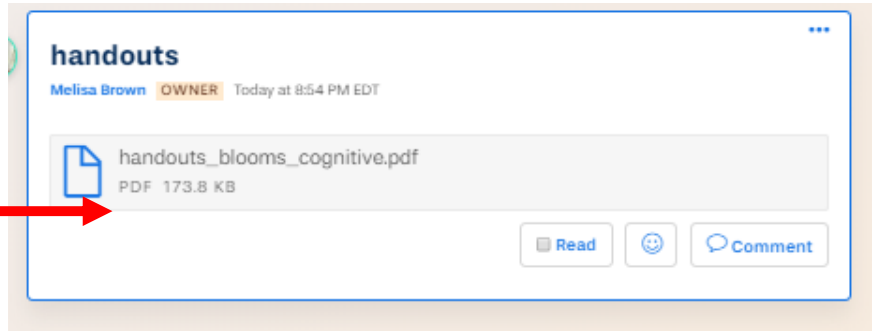

Online Teaching and Learning - SPRING2021WSE
Community
My Participation
Activity
Members
Data
Community
+ CREATE
University of Rochester / Online Teaching and Learning - SPRING2021WS
Building Community in Online Courses
MODULE 3 - COMMUNITY
EDT
https://kpcrossacademy.org/building-community-in-online-courses/
THE K. PATRICIA CROSS ACADEMY Jul 26, 2020
6 Strategies for Building Community in Online Courses - The K. Patricia Cross Academy
Sometimes, a group of students in a given class just seems to gel. They connect, work well together, and encourage and support each other. Sometimes a group of
Points Earned
4225
My Period Max
5225
Total Goal: 8400
How to earn points
My participation
My grade
Sort By Recent Posts or Comments
Collapse


Help?
Title your Post
Normal
Add a note, web links, @ to mention members, # to create hashtags, and : to add emojis
Poll
File
Video
Image
Audio
Pin to Top
Topics
Emoji
Draw
Record Video
Formula
0 POINTS EARNED
+ 200
POST

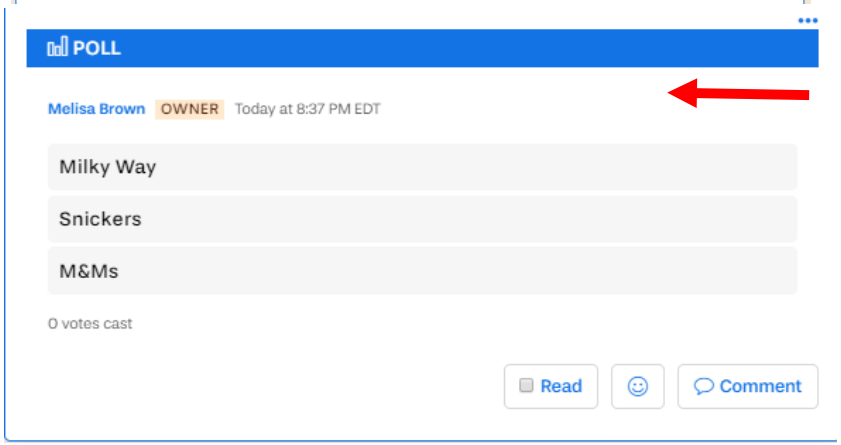
Post Types



Text

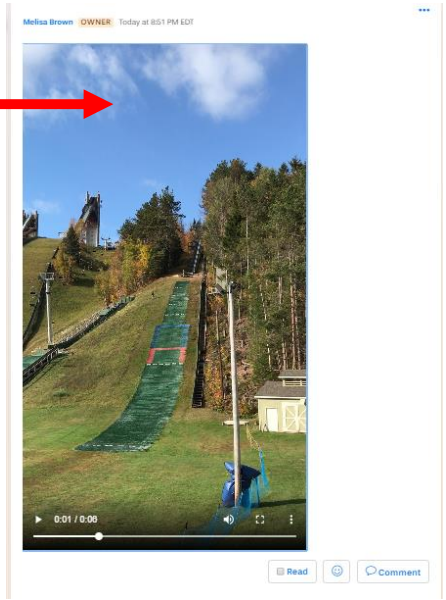


File

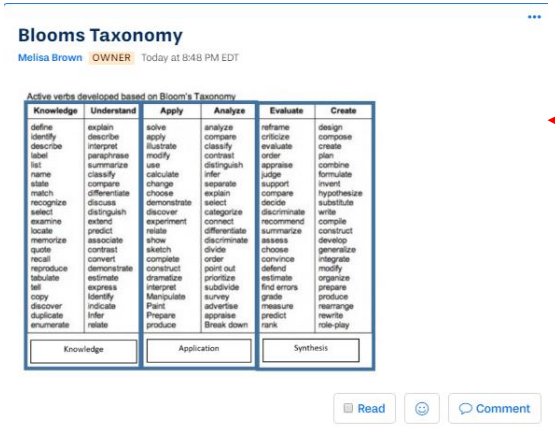


Poll

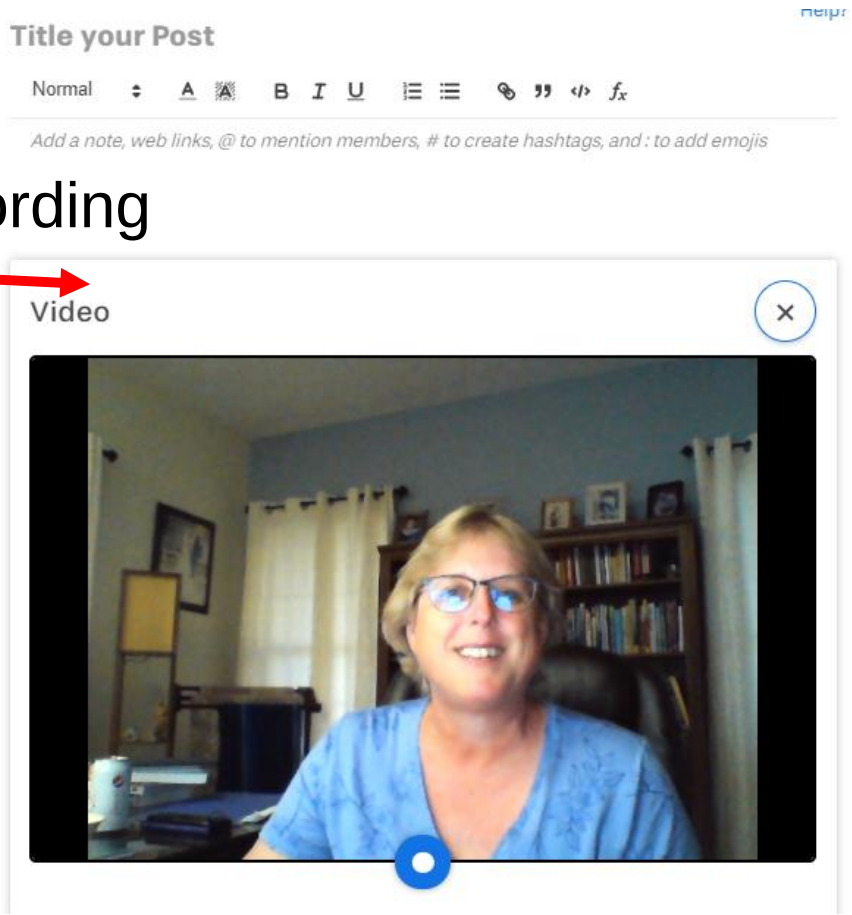
Video



More Post Types



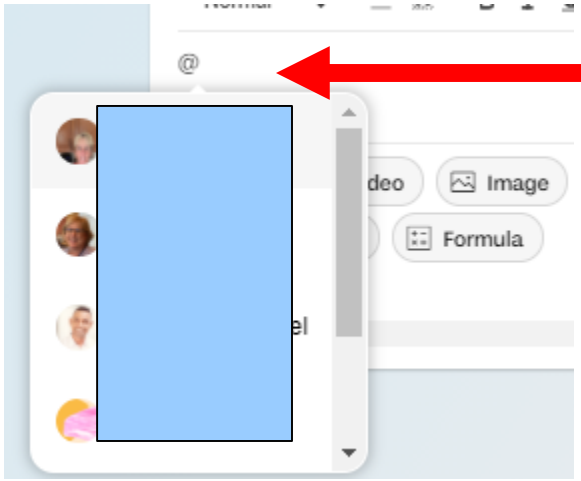
Image



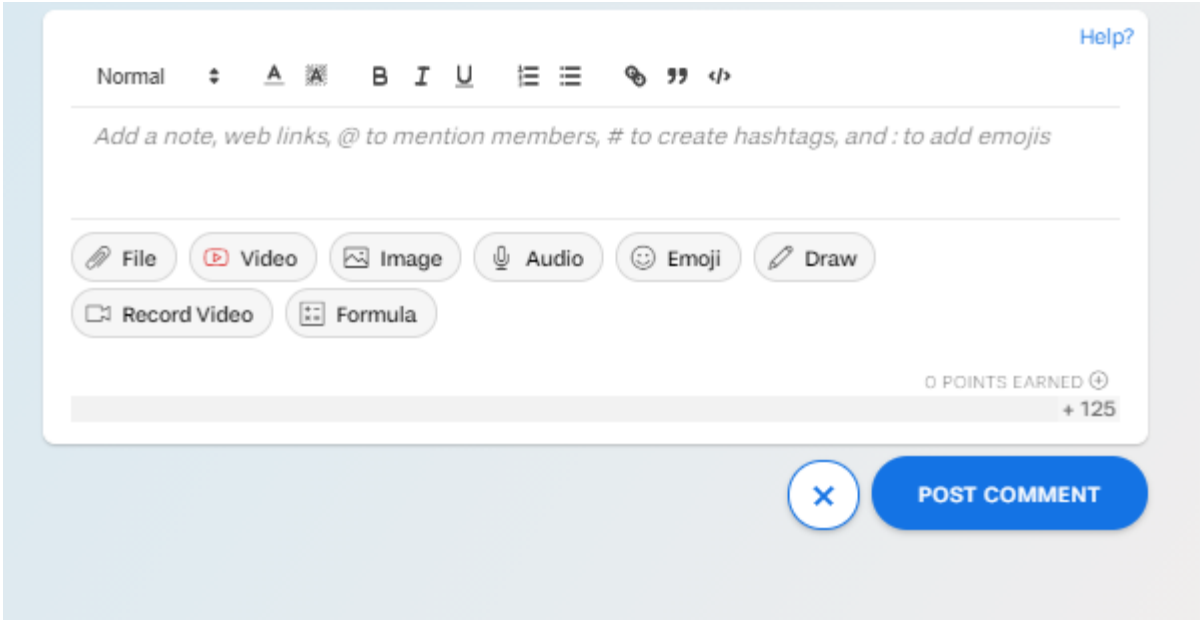
Recording

Drawing

Make A Comment



@mentions



4 Community-Building Strategies MODULE 3 - COMMUNITY

[redacted]
03/25/2021

https://www.edutopia.org/article/4-relationship-building-strategies-help-finish-school-year-strong 2

EDUTOPIA Mar 25, 2021

4 Relationship-Building Strategies to Help Finish the School Year Strong 2

Students still have time to make connections with their classmates, and projects that require teamwork are a great place to start.

This article provides 4 relationship-building methods for online courses. I think the second method is very interesting, and author lists some examples of big-idea proposal which we could reference and apply in our future online learning. Moreover, these 4 strategies could be helpful for us to building the community.

Comment

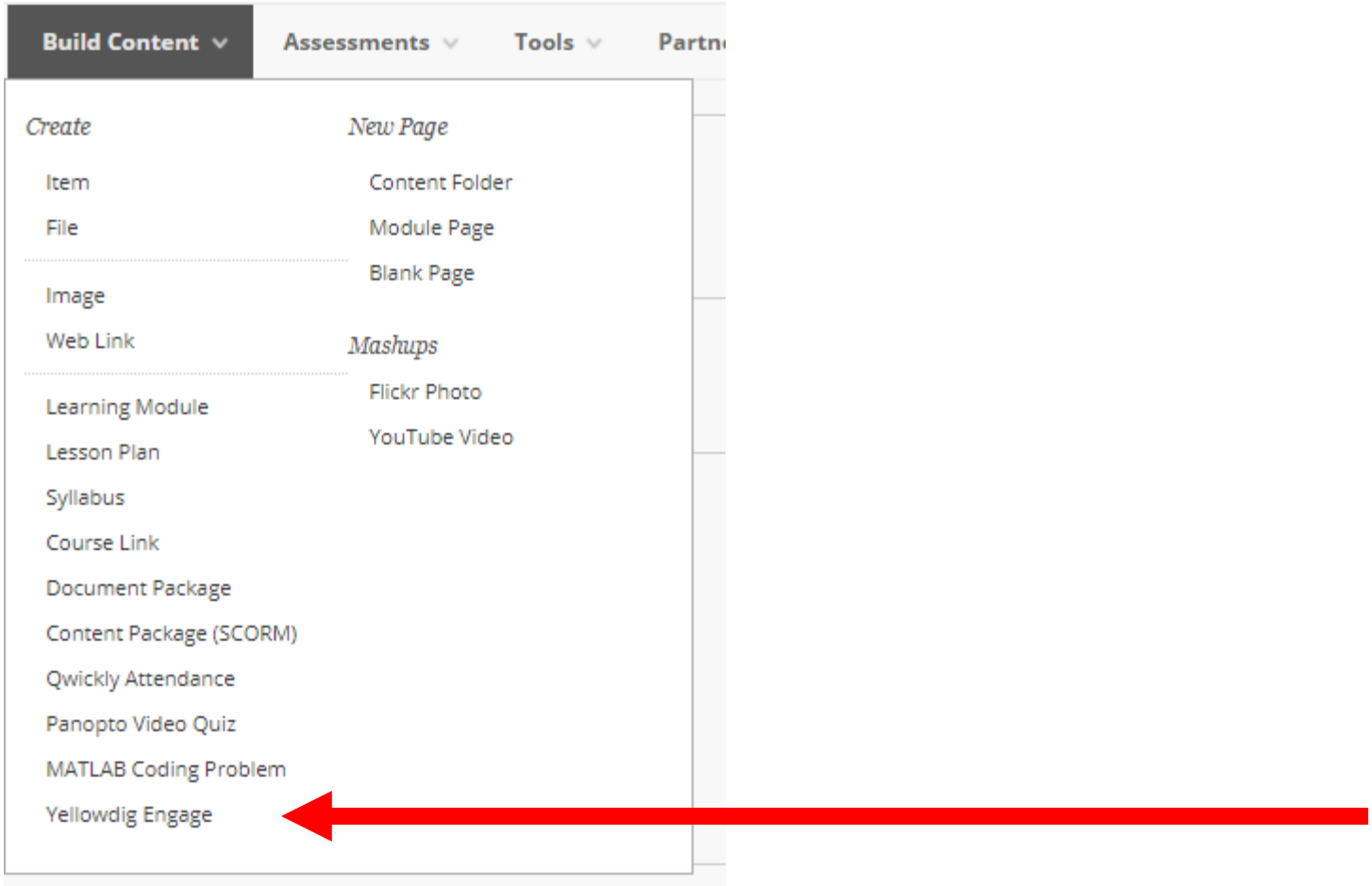
[redacted]
Last Sunday at 10:20 AM EDT

Hi Yuzhou,
I am catching up on all the great posts here on Yellowdig, as I have been busy with our group project! Thank you for this great post- we often don't talk about or learn too much about the school year or class ends. I have one great article that I did get on preparing for your last class of a semester, I'll have to find that and post as well!
Thanks again - Joyce

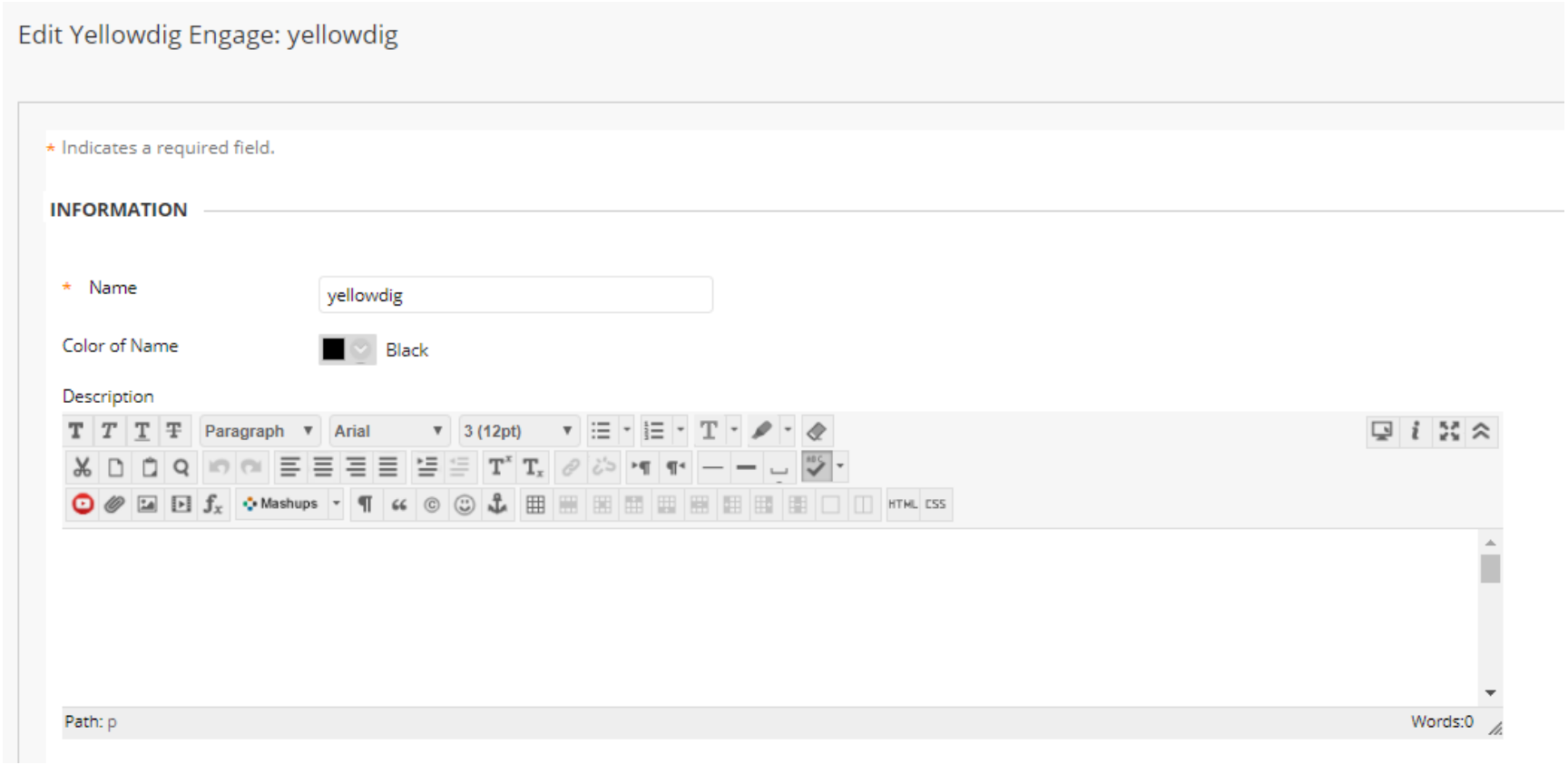
Reply

[redacted]
Last Sunday at 1:05 PM EDT (Edited Last Sunday at 1:06 PM EDT)

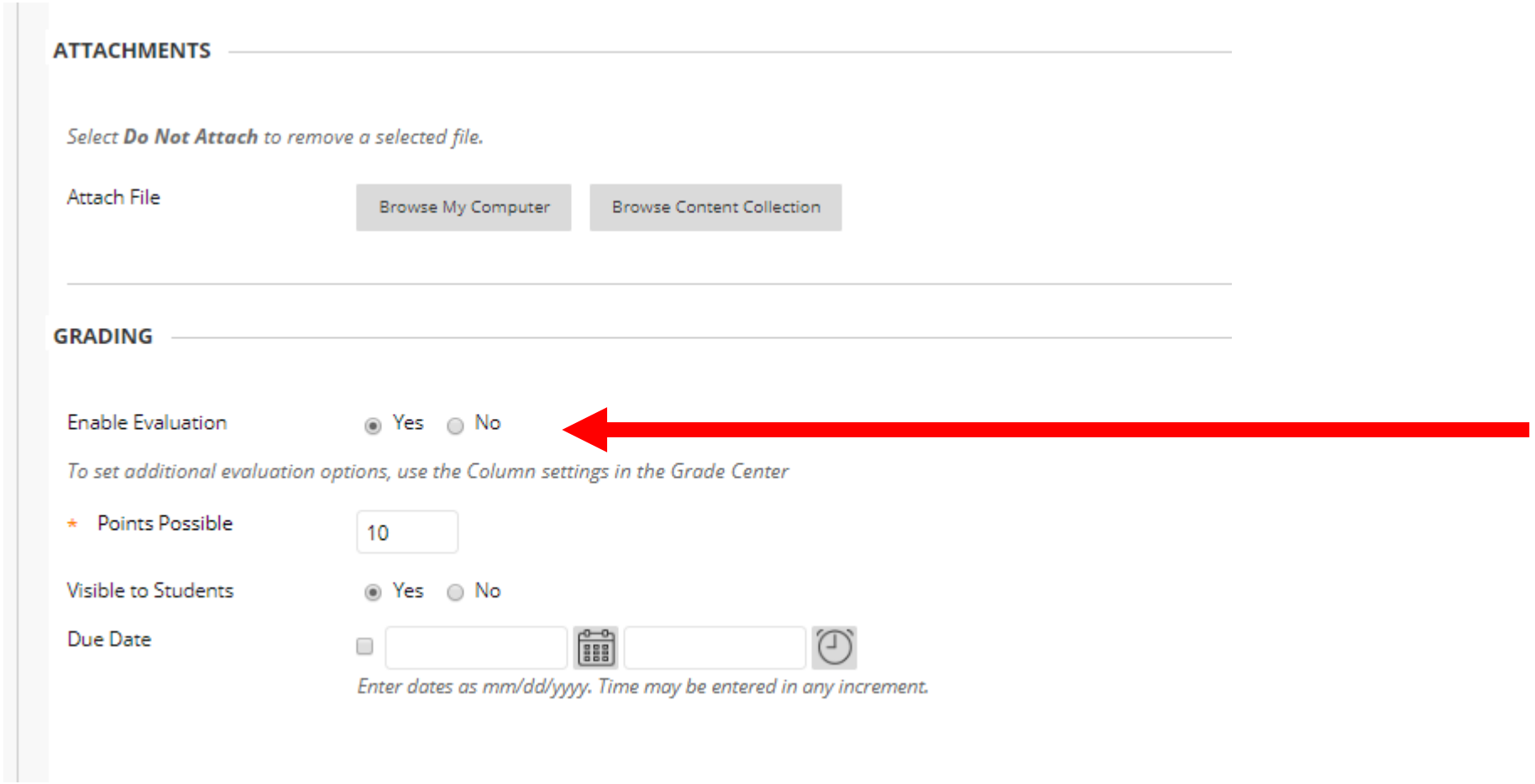
Choose Tool


Build Content
Assessments
Tools
Partn
Create
Item
File
Image
Web Link
Learning Module
Lesson Plan
Syllabus
Course Link
Document Package
Content Package (SCORM)
Qwickly Attendance
Panopto Video Quiz
MATLAB Coding Problem
Yellowdig Engage
New Page
Content Folder
Module Page
Blank Page
Mashups
Flickr Photo
YouTube Video

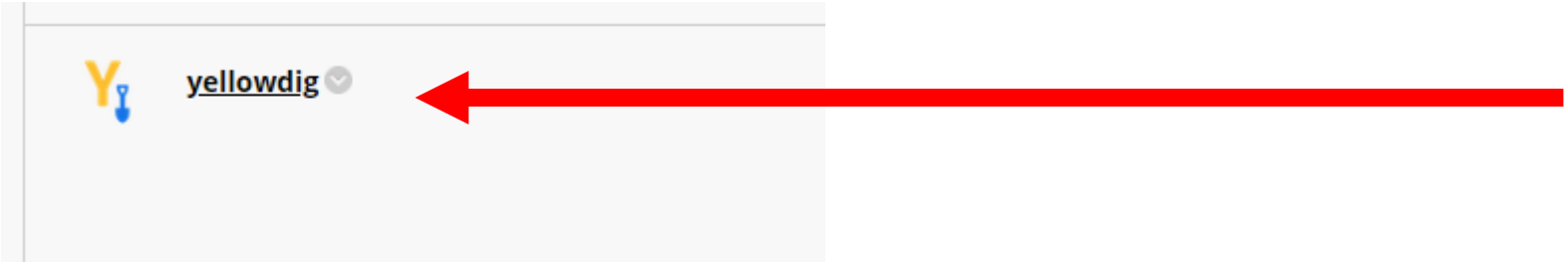
Setting up the Link



Grade Passback?



Click to Initialize

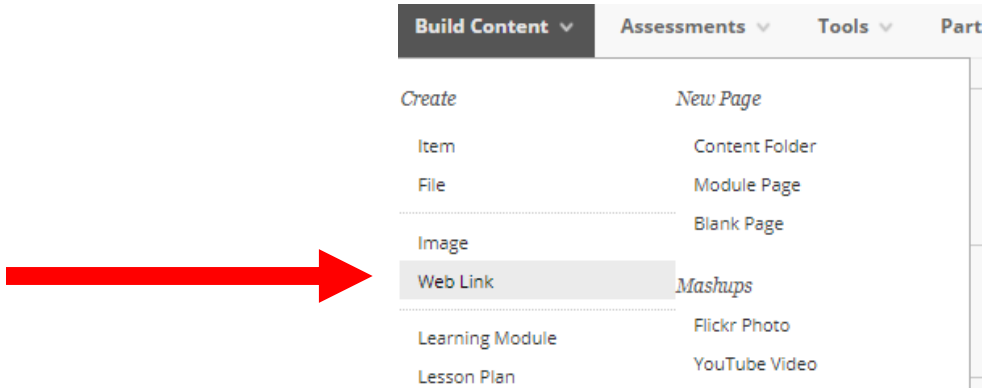


Launches Yellowdig and creates your Board.

NOTICE

Only place ONE original Yellowdig tool link in your Blackboard course.

Make additional links using Web Link and copy the original link into these.



COMPARISONS

Technical Features

Feature	Blackboard	Voicethread	Yellowdig
Threaded	Y	Y	Y
Multimedia Posts and Responses	N	Y	Y
Auto-grading	N	N	Y
Easy grading	Y	Maybe	NA
Separate forums	Y	Y	N (topics)

Pros

Blackboard

- Gathers student submissions together for grading
- Excellent for textual summaries
- Grading with rubrics

Voicethread

- Uses student voice and video
- Casual interactions

Yellowdig

- Automatic grading
- Lots of options for participation
- Easy to bring in outside sources
- Social media experience

Cons

Blackboard

- Less friendly
- Can be text heavy

Voicethread

- Time consuming to review
- Long responses are harder to follow

Yellowdig

- Everything counts equally toward grade
- Harder to read large amounts of text

Practical Uses

Blackboard

- Formal Discussion
- Written language skills

Voicethread

- Conversational Discussion
- Language learning

Yellowdig

- Information sharing
- Casual conversations
- Social interactions

THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?

More Workshops

http://rochester.edu/online-learning/index.html

- **Learn more about Padlet**
  - Dates: *Friday, April 9, 12 noon*
- **Course Organization with the Blackboard Template**
  - Dates: *Tuesday,. April 13, 12noon*
- **Learn more about Perusall**
  - Dates: *Friday, April 16, 12 noon*
- **Voicethread Assignment Feature Changes**
  - Dates: *Friday, April 30, 12 noon*

Video Tutorials

- http://rochester.edu/online-learning/disruption/index.html