Using Perusall

Rachel Remmel, PhD
Assistant Dean and Director
Teaching Center, AS&E

Ann Giralico Pearlman, MA
Instructional Designer/Learning Systems Support
University IT

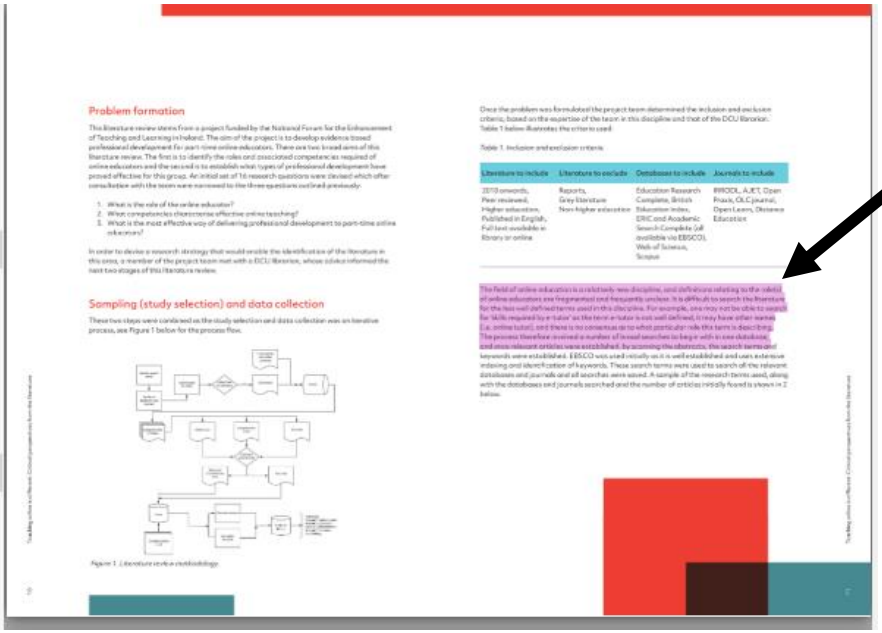
Learning Objectives
Participants will be able to…

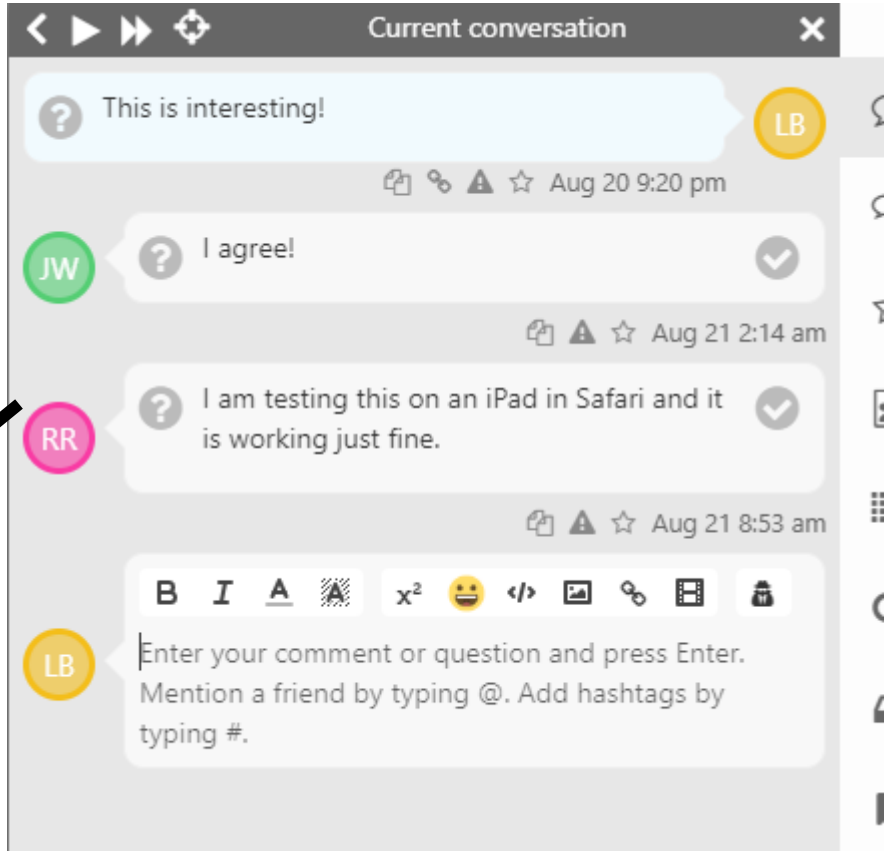
- Describe what Perusall can do
- Experience Perusall as a student
- Create a new assignment
- Review the grading setup
- Describe strengths and limitations of Perusall

WHAT IS PERUSALL

Perusall is…

- Annotation tool
- Conversation Space

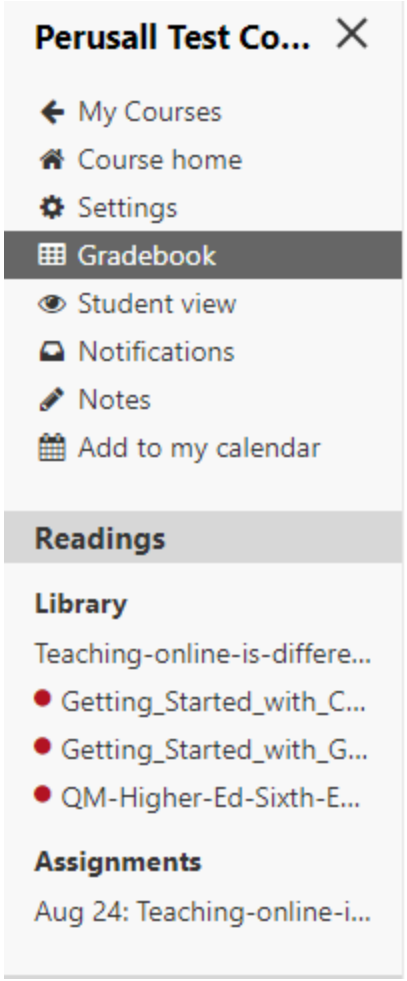


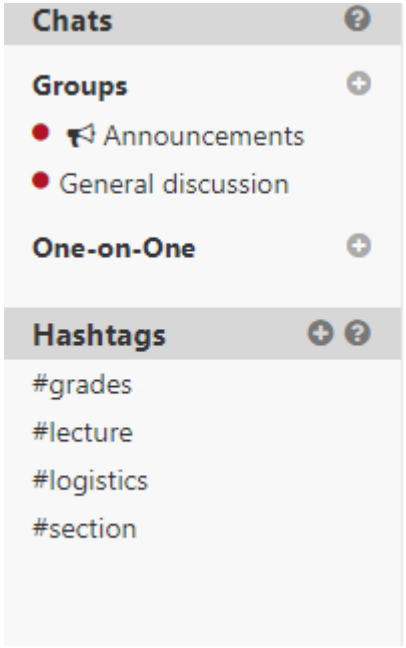


Use Cases for Annotation

- Course Readings
  - Uploaded Documents
  - Digital Textbooks (Caution: Access)
- Course Documents
- Peer Review (including student uploads)
- Images and Diagrams
- Video and Audio Files
  - Uploaded Files
  - Certain Unrestricted Online Videos and Podcasts
- Webpage Snapshots

Menu Options



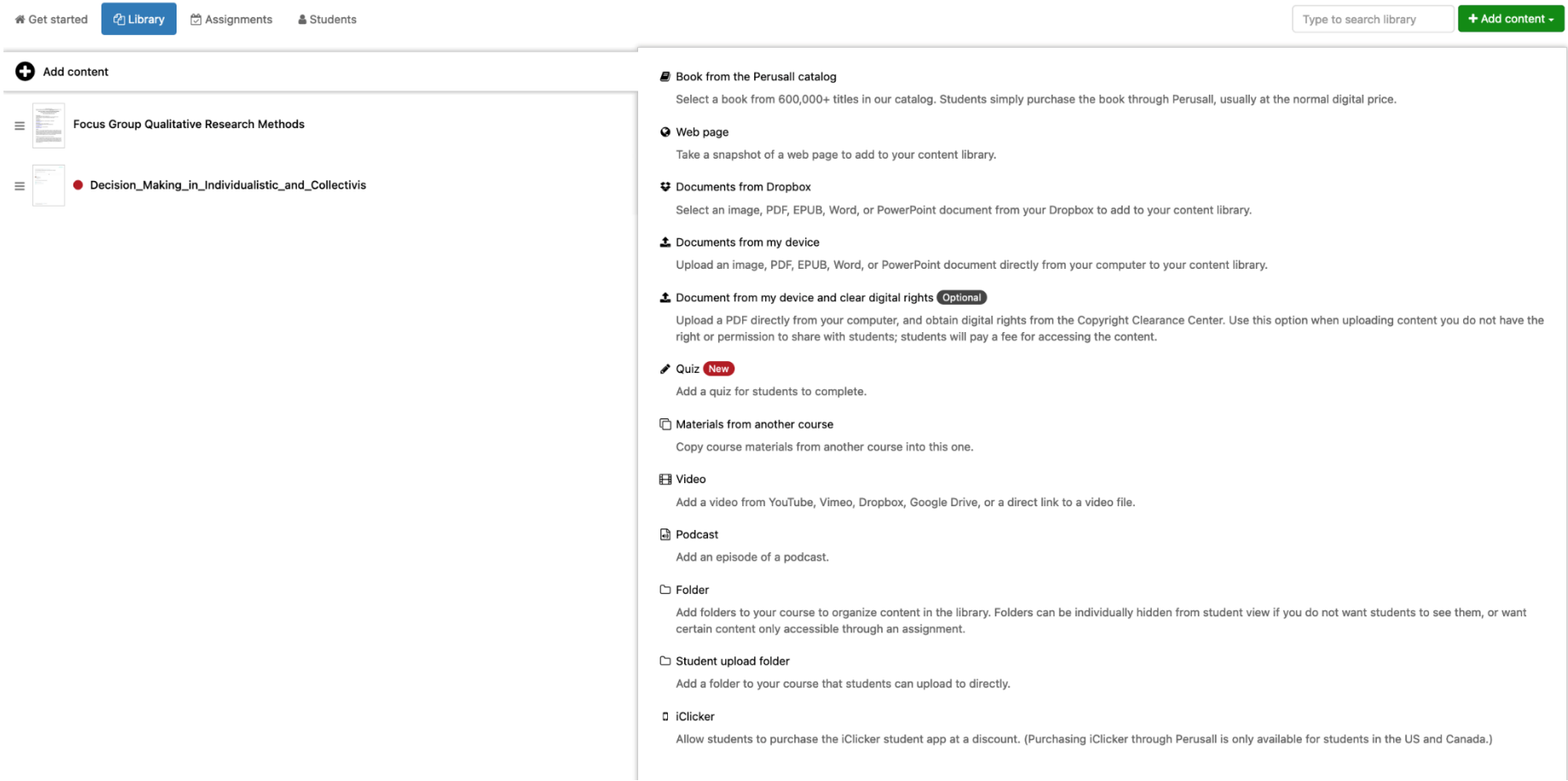


Recommended Reading

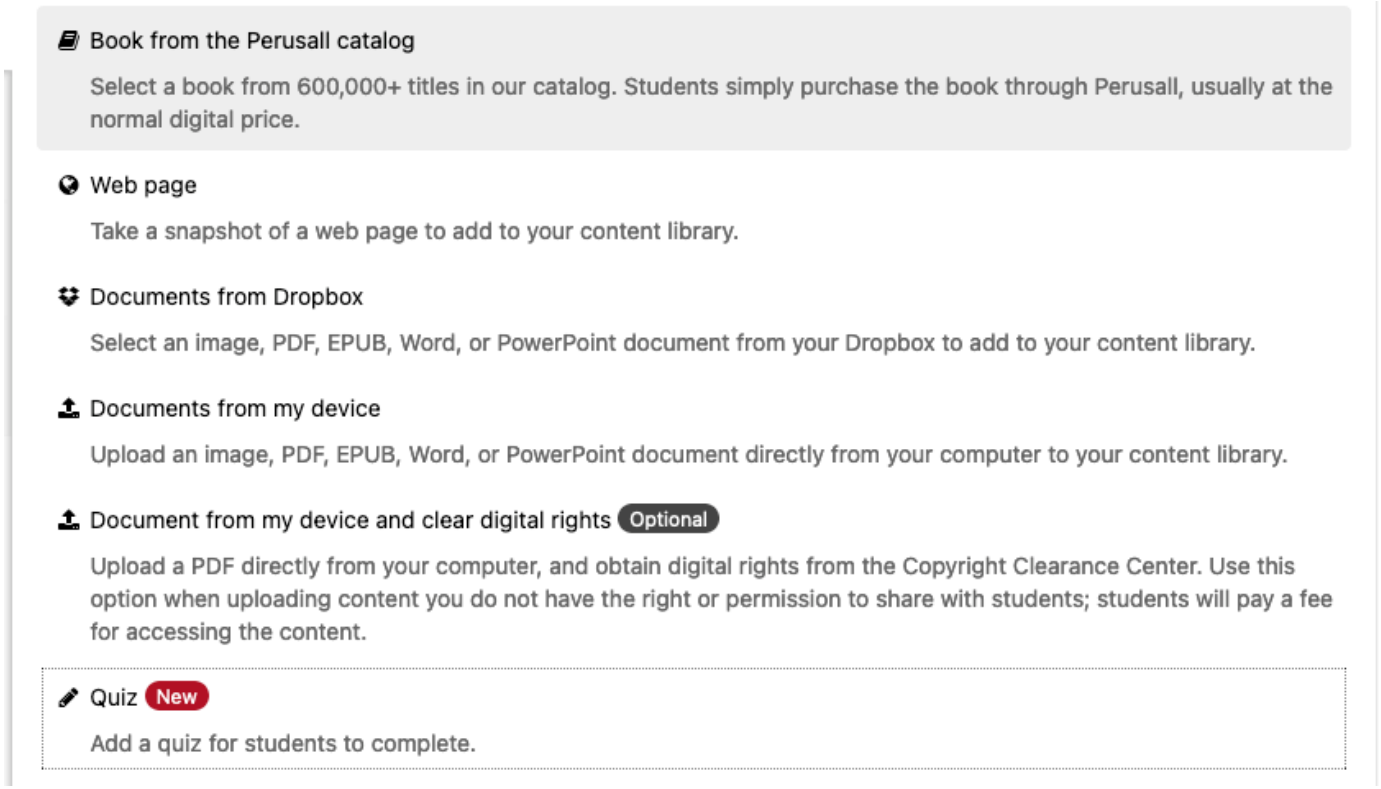
https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002157414-Instructors

https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/sections/360005183594-Scoring-and-grades

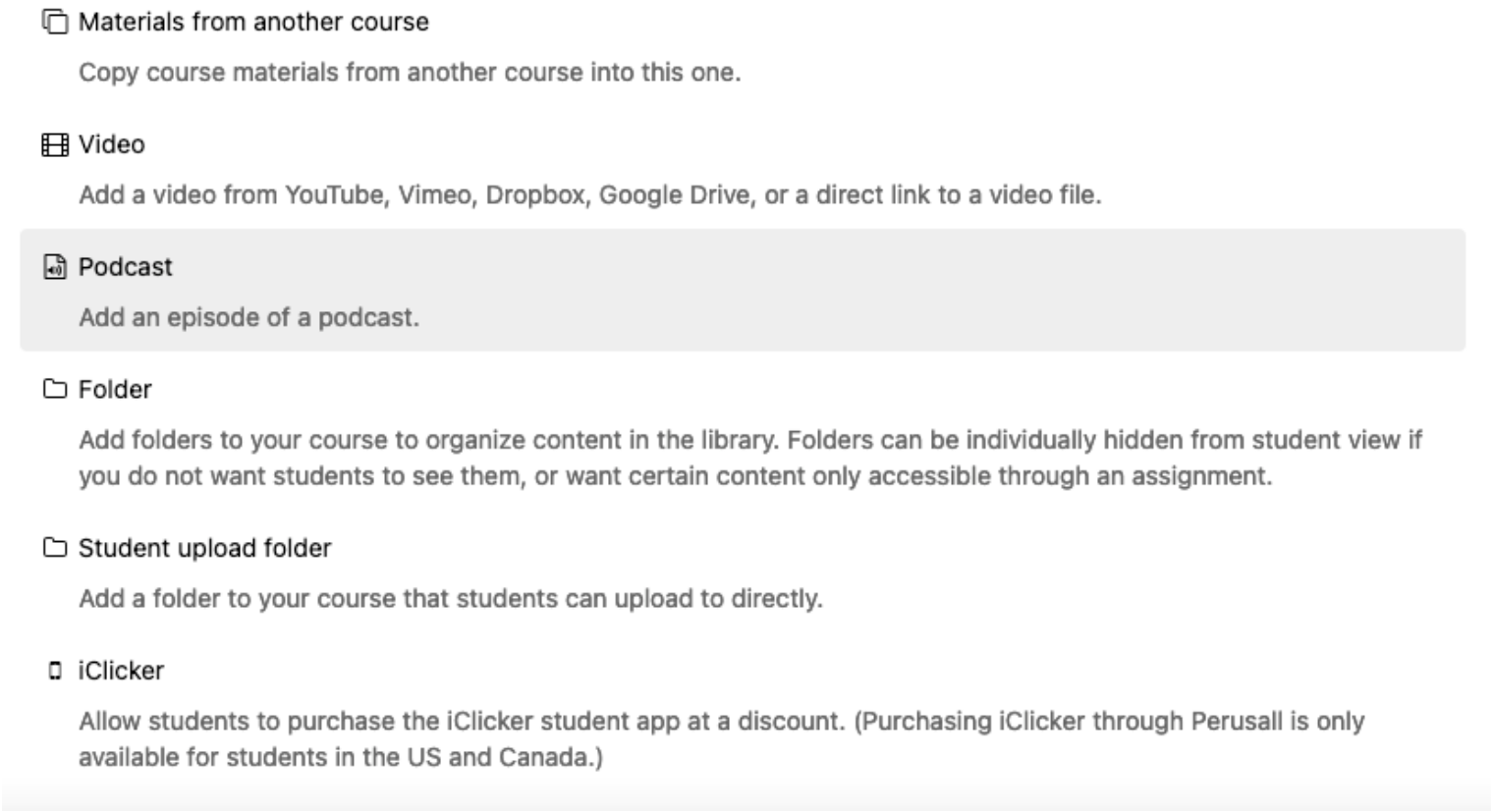
Build a Library



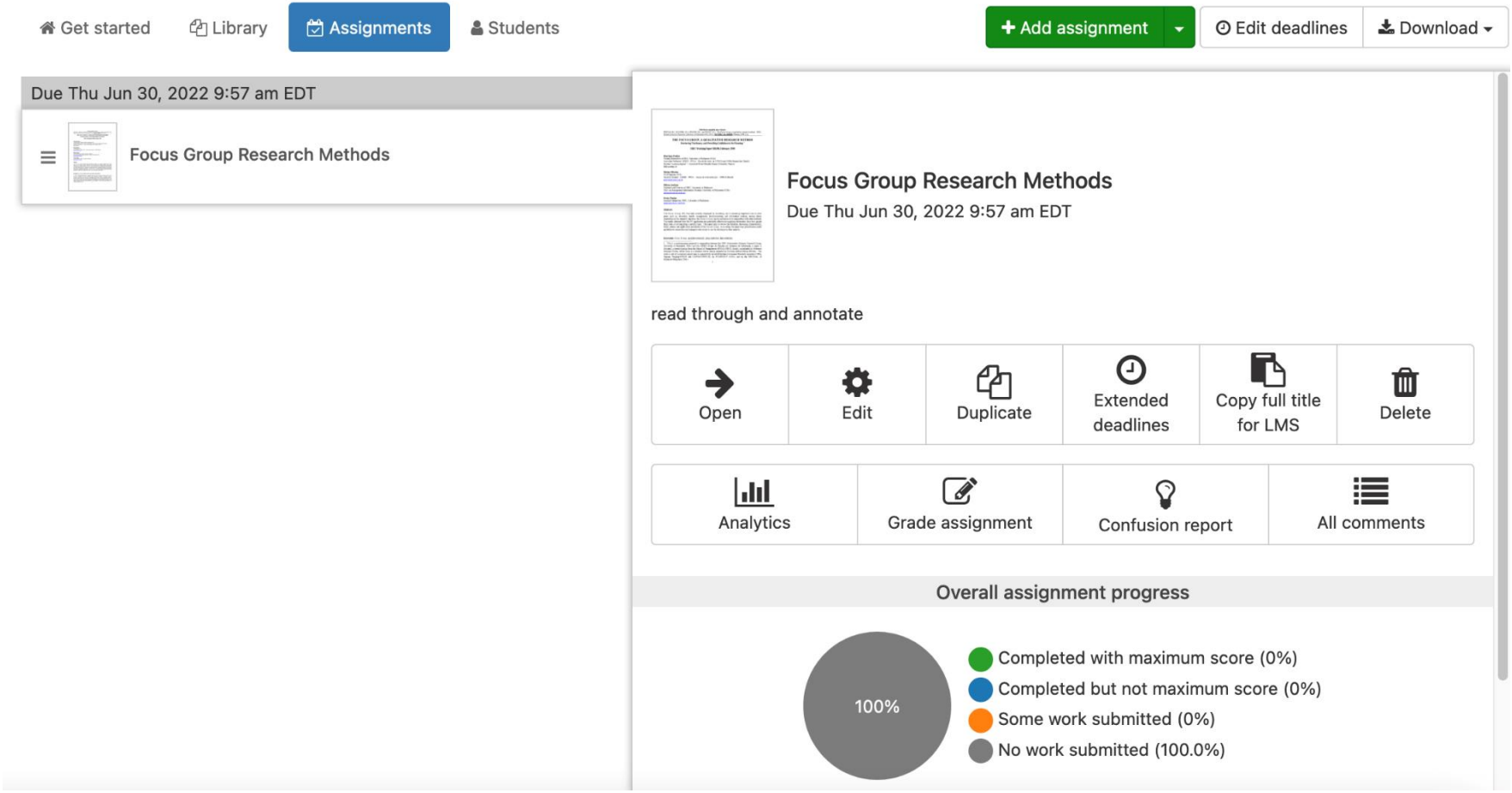
Build a Library



Build a Library



Build an Assignment

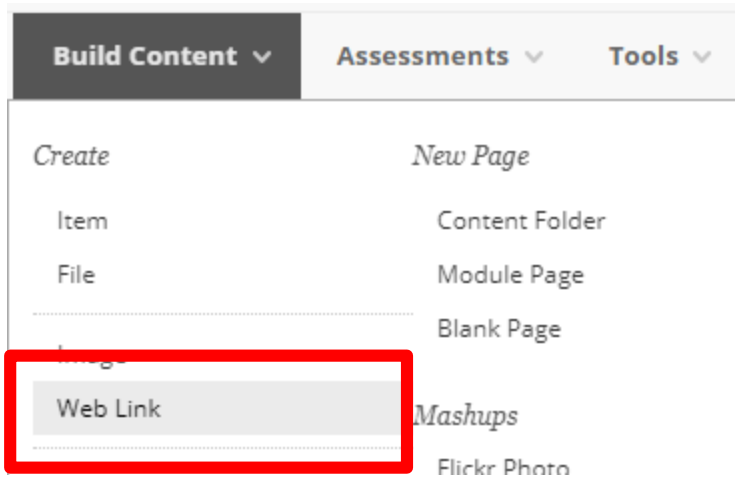


Experience

- Login to Blackboard
- Under Continuous Courses find
  - Perusall Workshop – April 2021
- Click to Enter

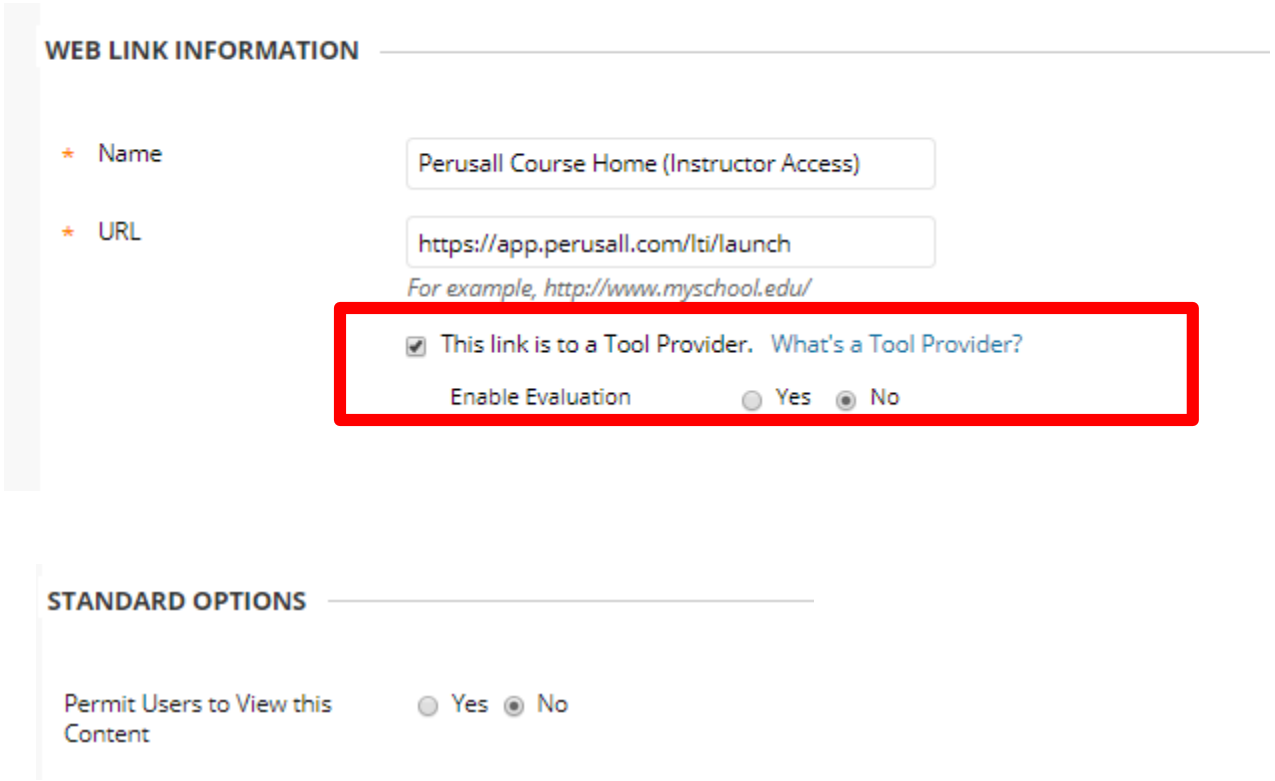
SETTING UP YOUR PERUSALL “COURSE”

Build Content – Web Link

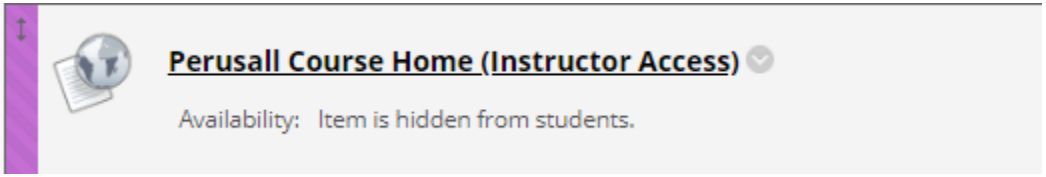


Perusall Instructions: University IT
https://tech.rochester.edu/perusall/

Provide Link Name and URL



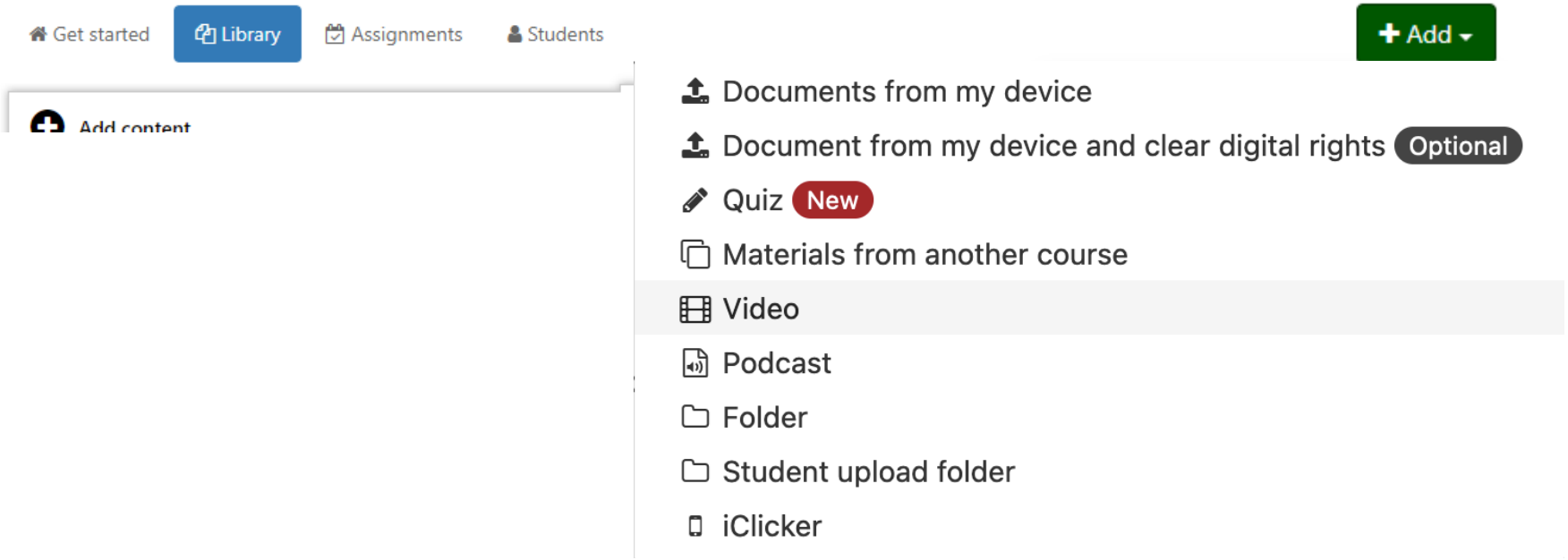
Initialize Course with Perusall



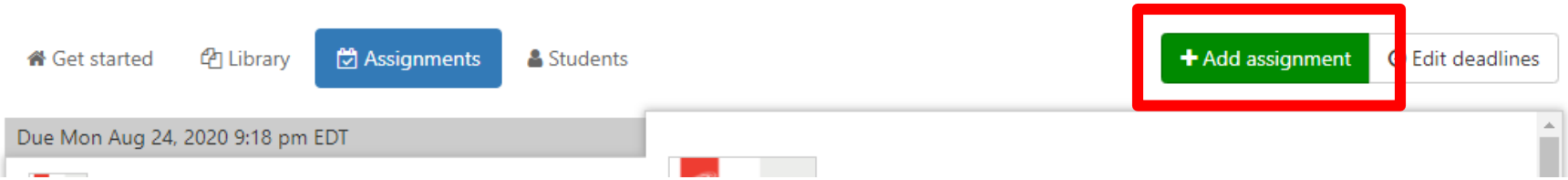
Click the link created
Will create your account
Will create course space

CREATE A NEW ASSIGNMENT

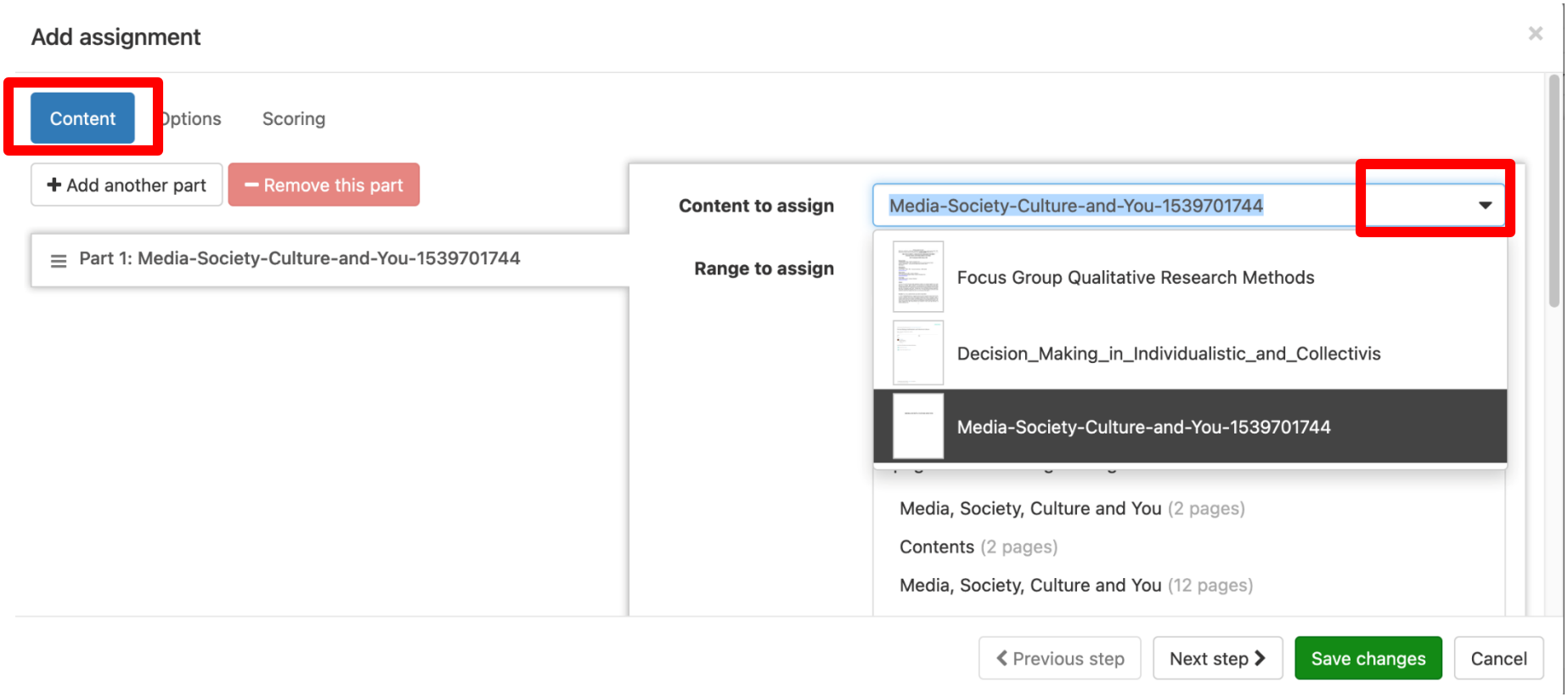
Upload / Add Content



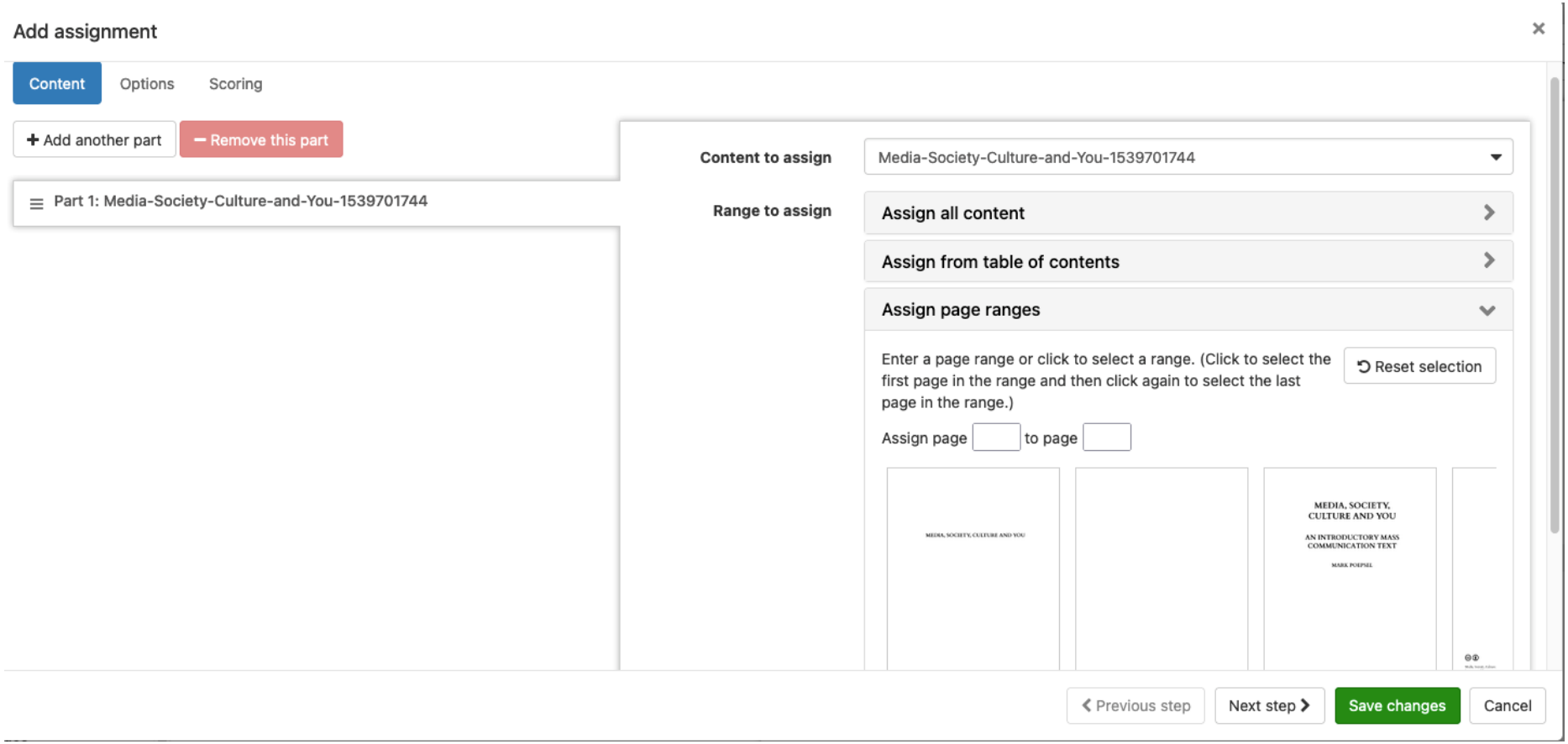
Create an Assignment and Select Content



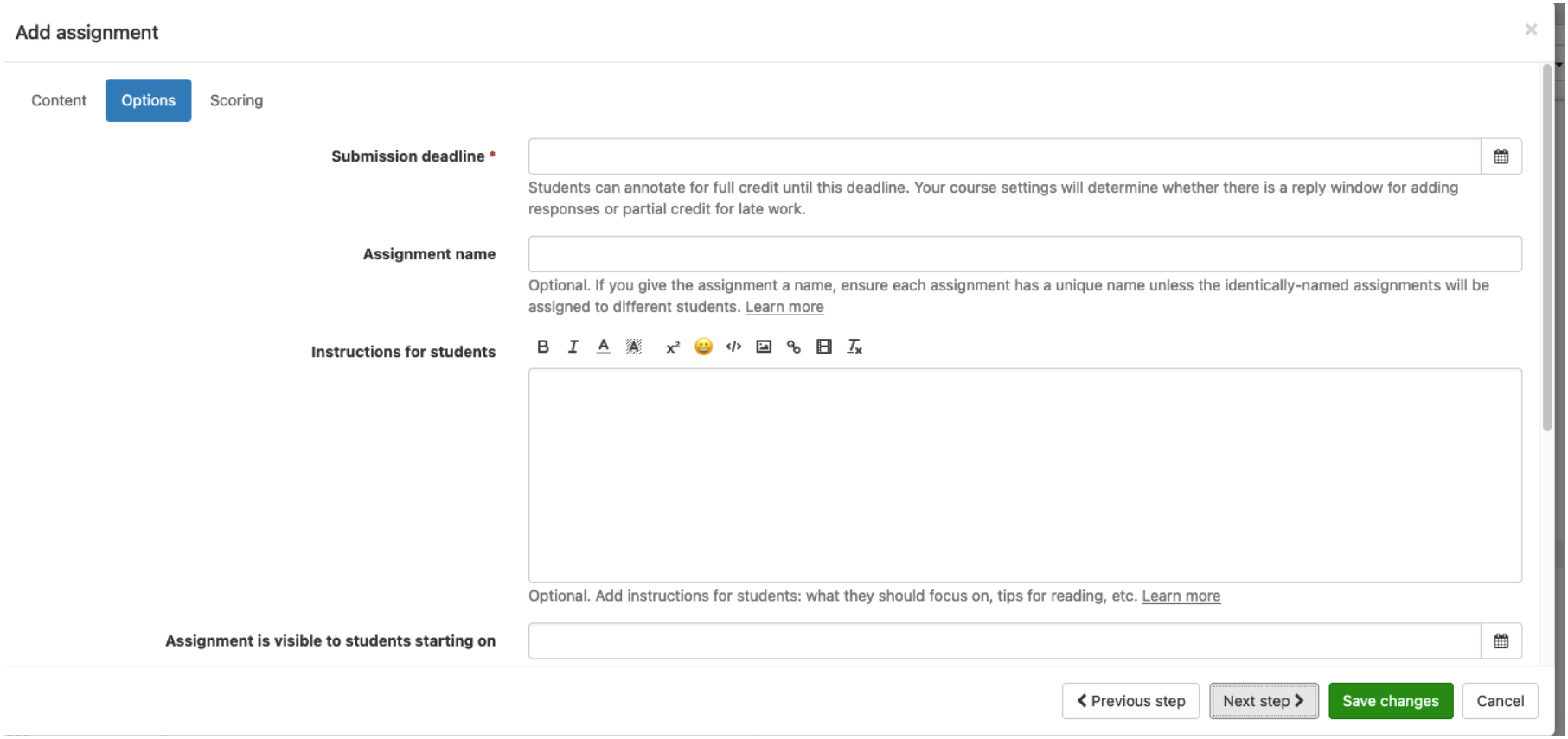
Create an Assignment and Select Content



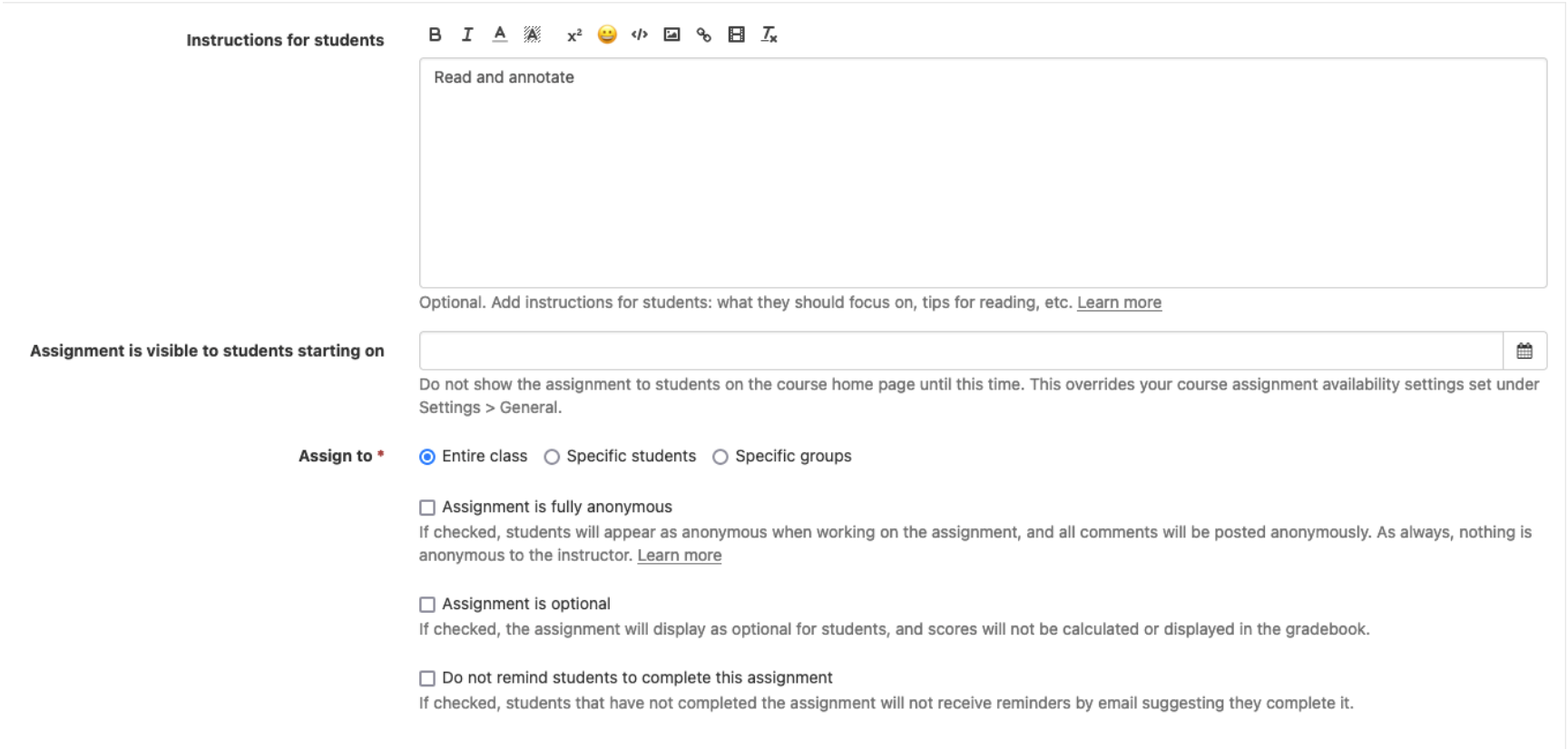
Create an Assignment and Select Content



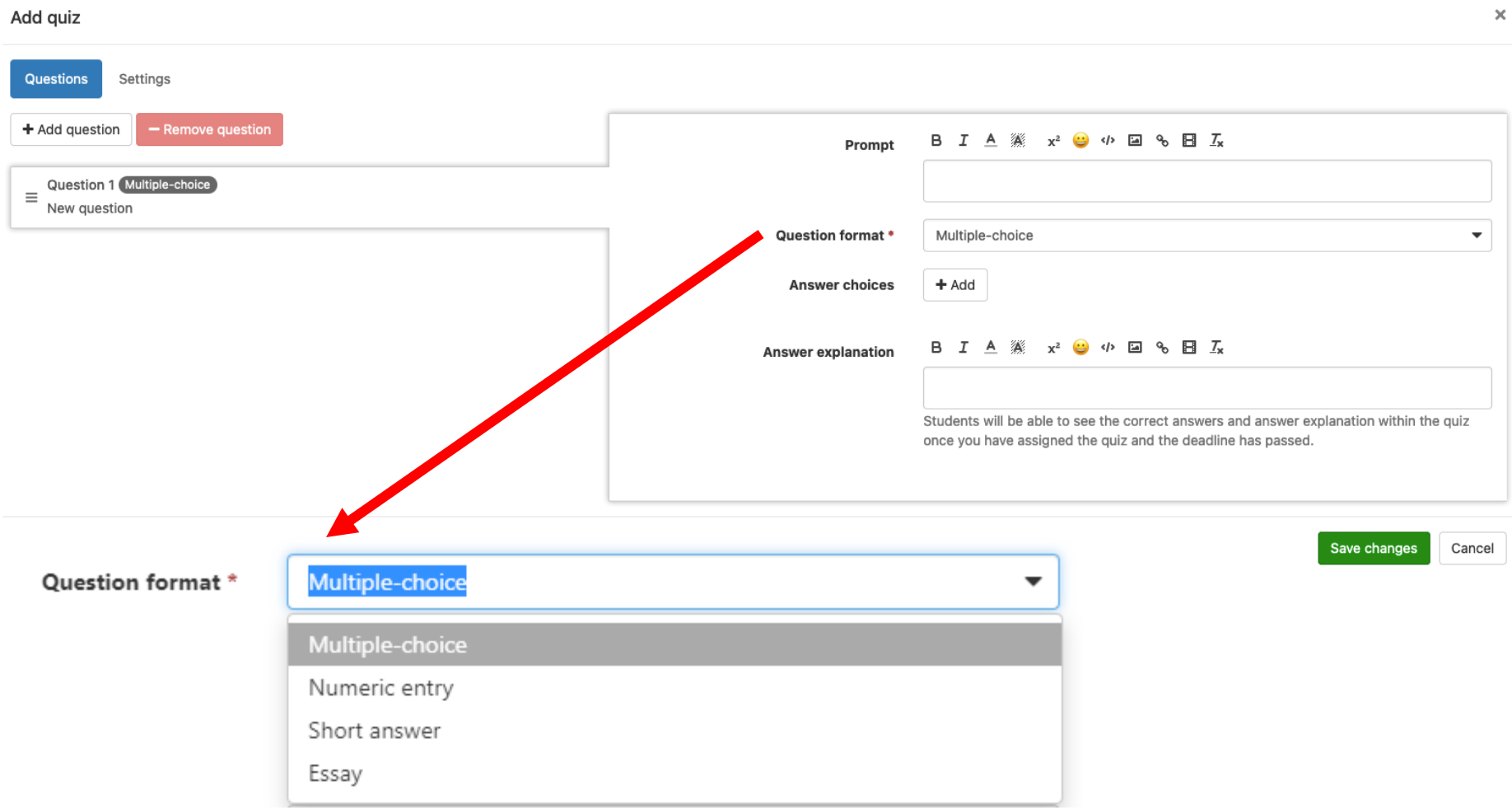
Set Due Date, Assignment Name, and Options



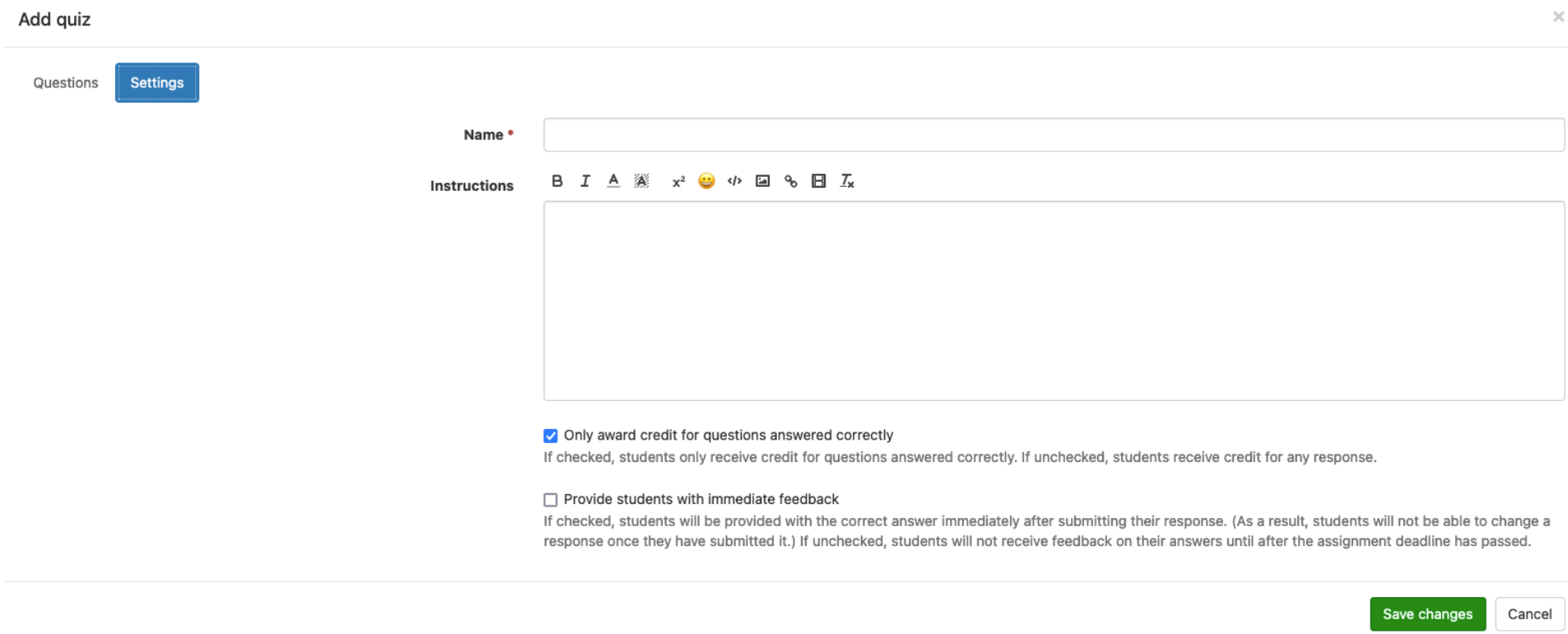
Set Assignment Options



Quiz


Add quiz
Questions
Settings
+ Add question
− Remove question
Question 1 Multiple-choice
New question
Prompt
Question format *
Multiple-choice
Answer choices
+ Add
Answer explanation
Students will be able to see the correct answers and answer explanation within the quiz once you have assigned the quiz and the deadline has passed.
Save changes
Cancel
Question format *
Multiple-choice
Multiple-choice
Numeric entry
Short answer
Essay

Quiz

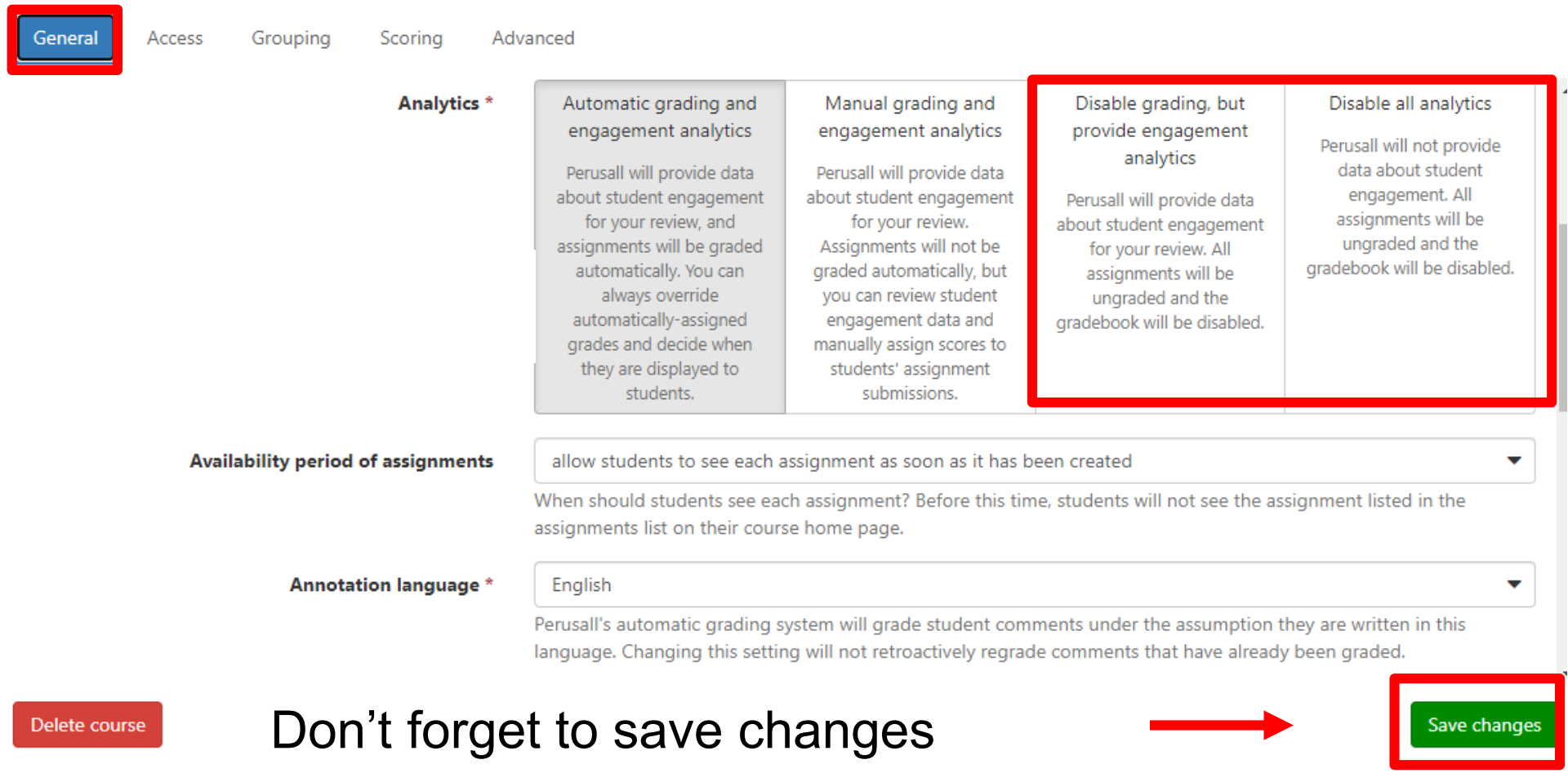

Add quiz
Questions
Settings
Name *
Instructions
Only award credit for questions answered correctly
If checked, students only receive credit for questions answered correctly. If unchecked, students receive credit for any response.
Provide students with immediate feedback
If checked, students will be provided with the correct answer immediately after submitting their response. (As a result, students will not be able to change a response once they have submitted it.) If unchecked, students will not receive feedback on their answers until after the assignment deadline has passed.
Save changes
Cancel

SETTINGS FOR GRADING

Grading Considerations

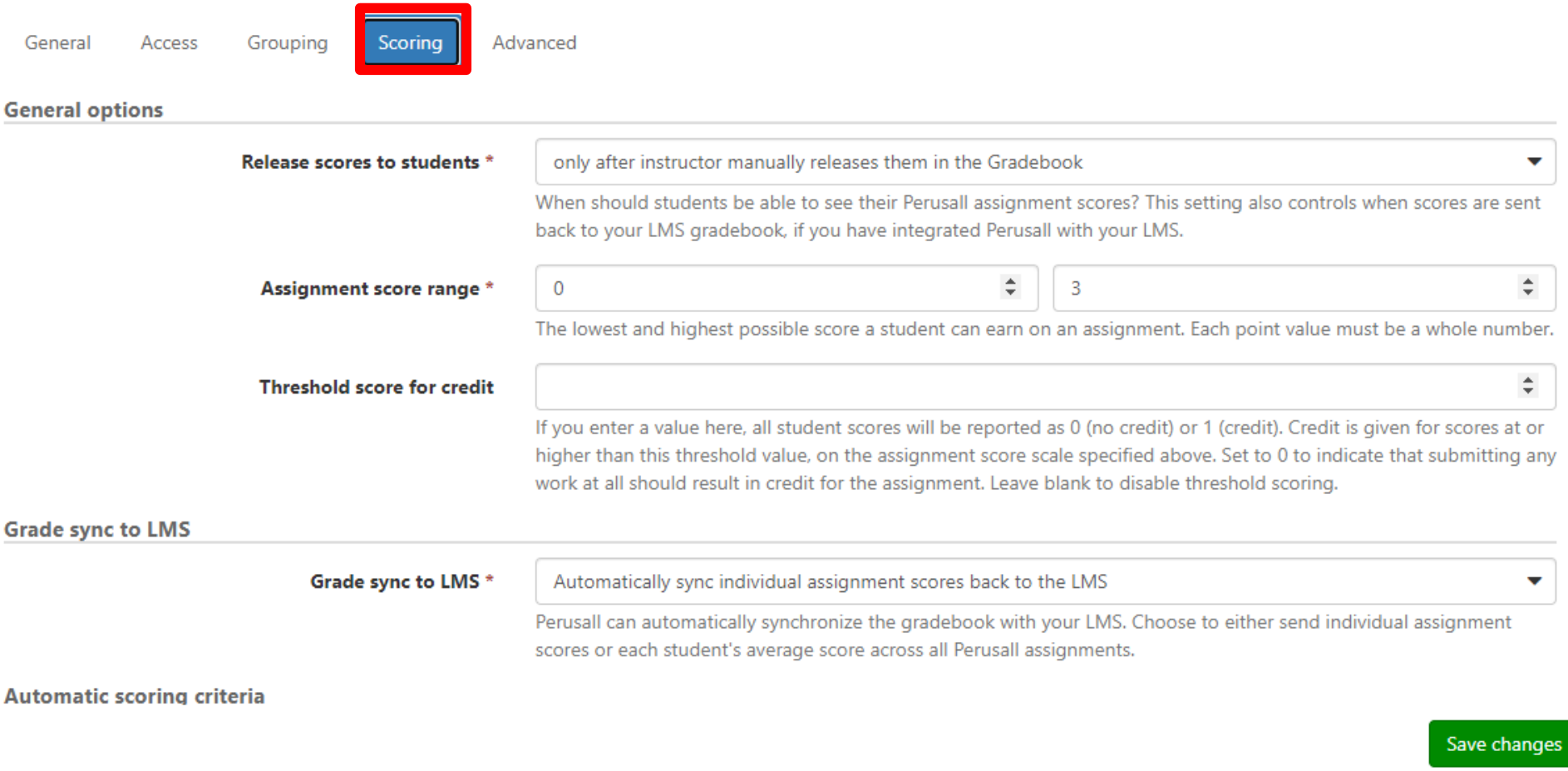
- Many, many setting options
  - Pro: extremely flexible
  - Con: instructor learning curve
- Defaults unlikely to work well, although new presets help
- Significant digital divide penalties for certain settings
- Grade passback to Blackboard once set up
- Manual overrides possible, including for past settings

Turning Off Grading

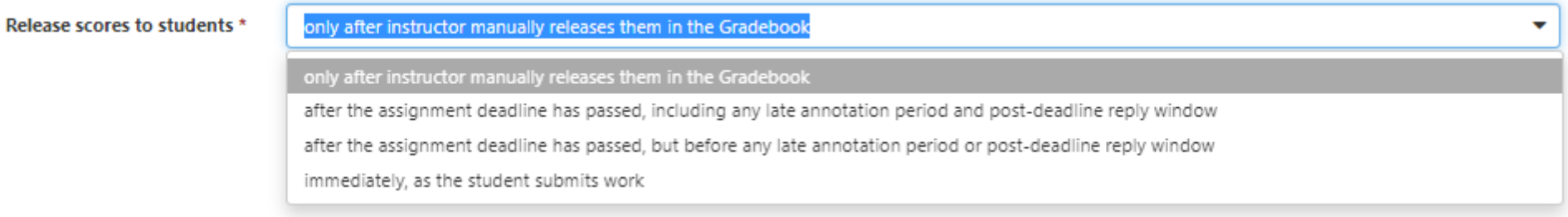


Don’t forget to save changes

Course Scoring
(Can Also Set at Assignment Level)

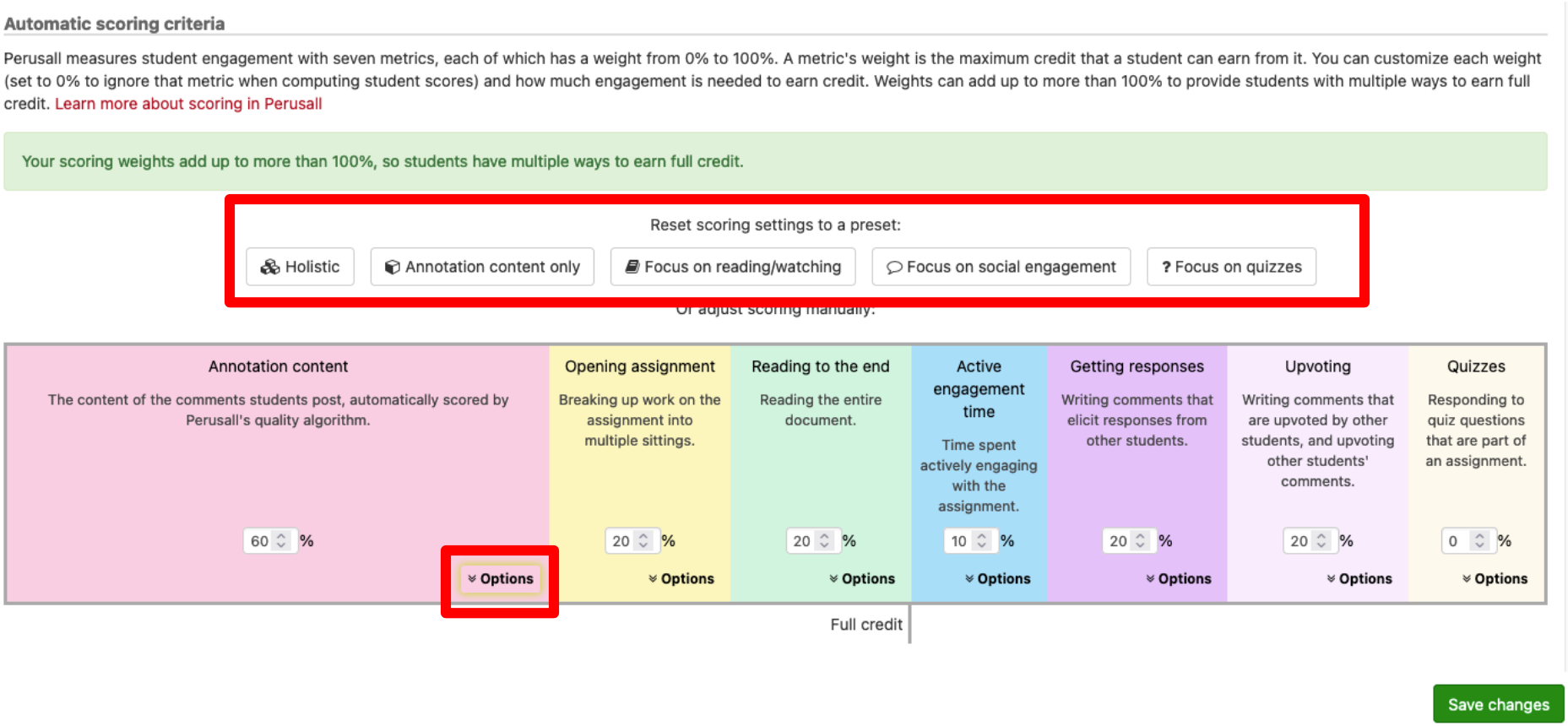


Scoring Timing: Manual vs. Automatic Passback

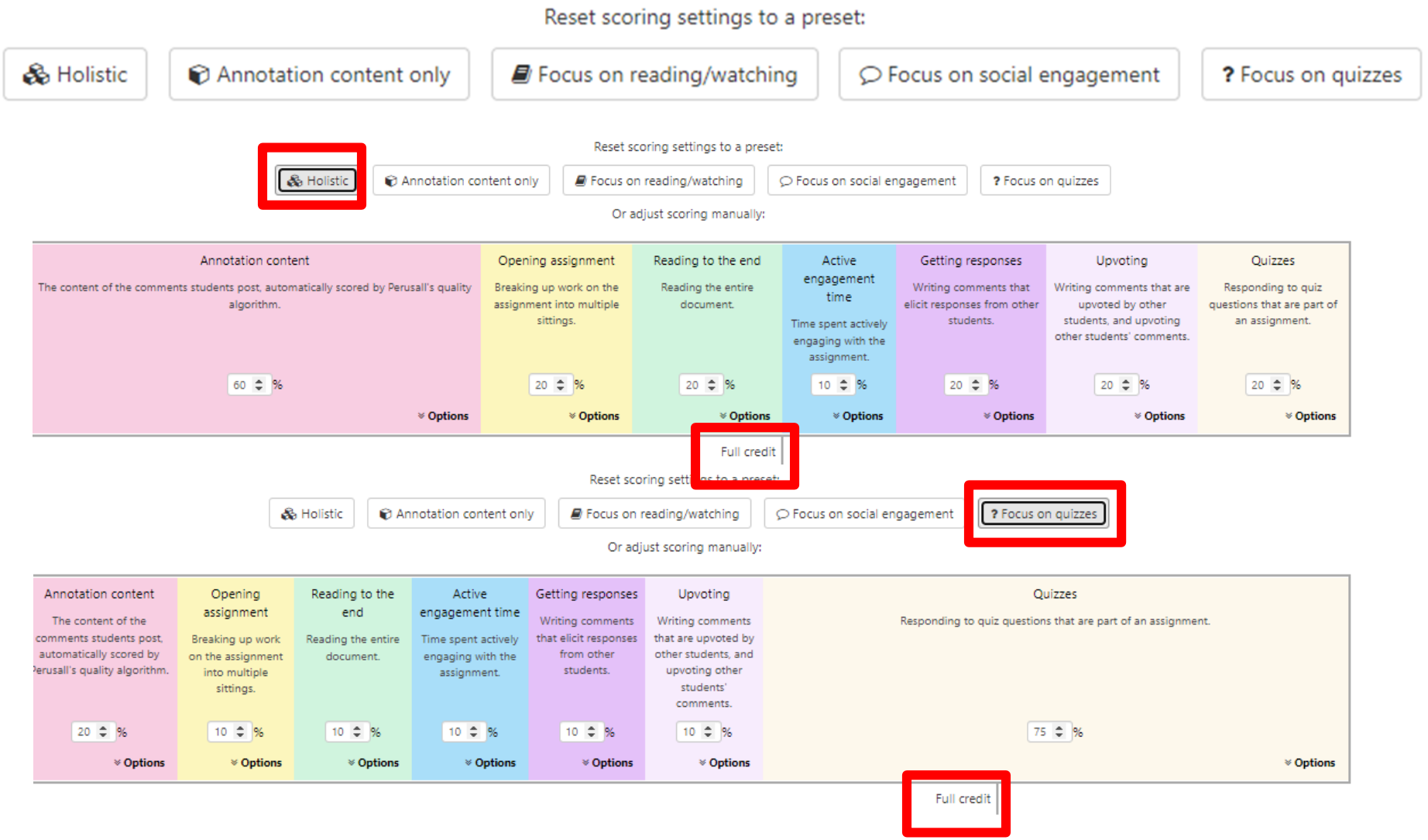


Don’t forget to save changes

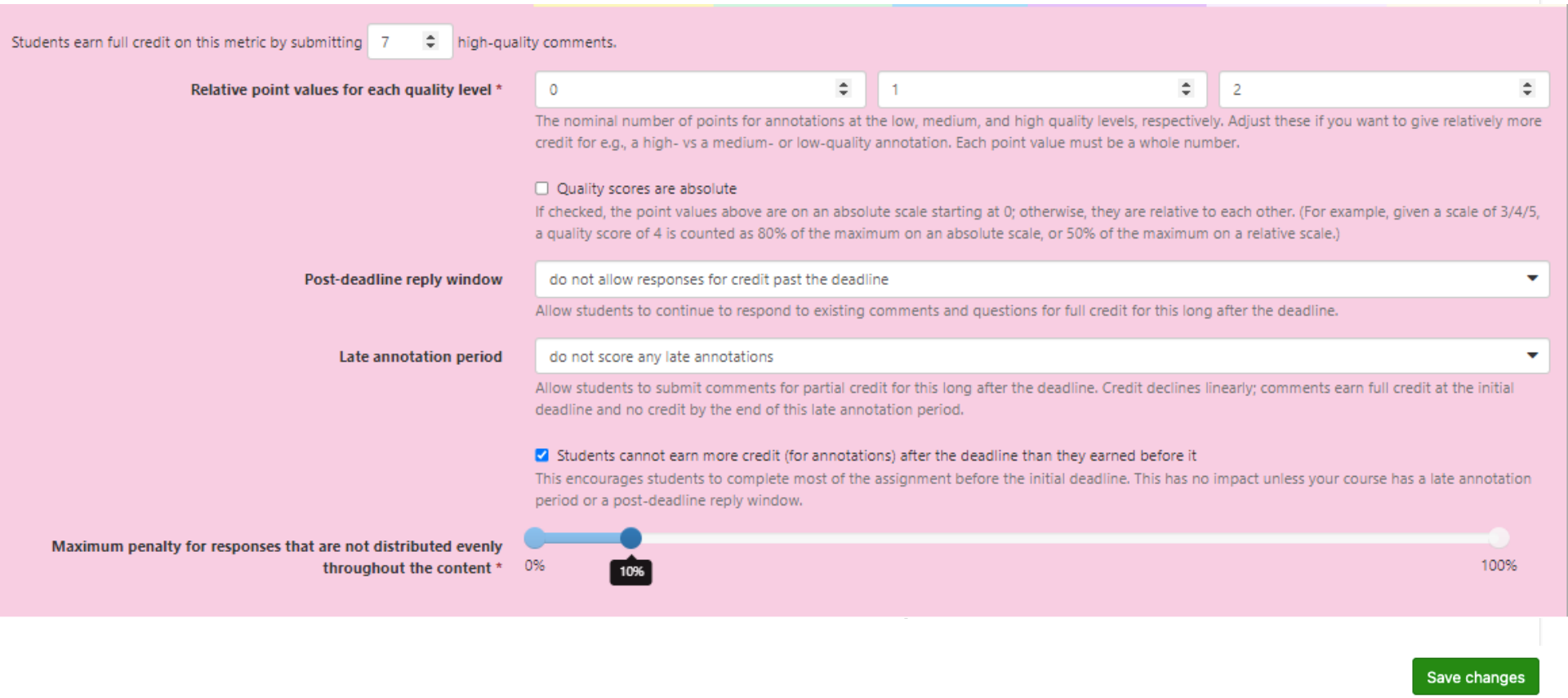
Course Scoring: Automatic



Course Scoring: Presets

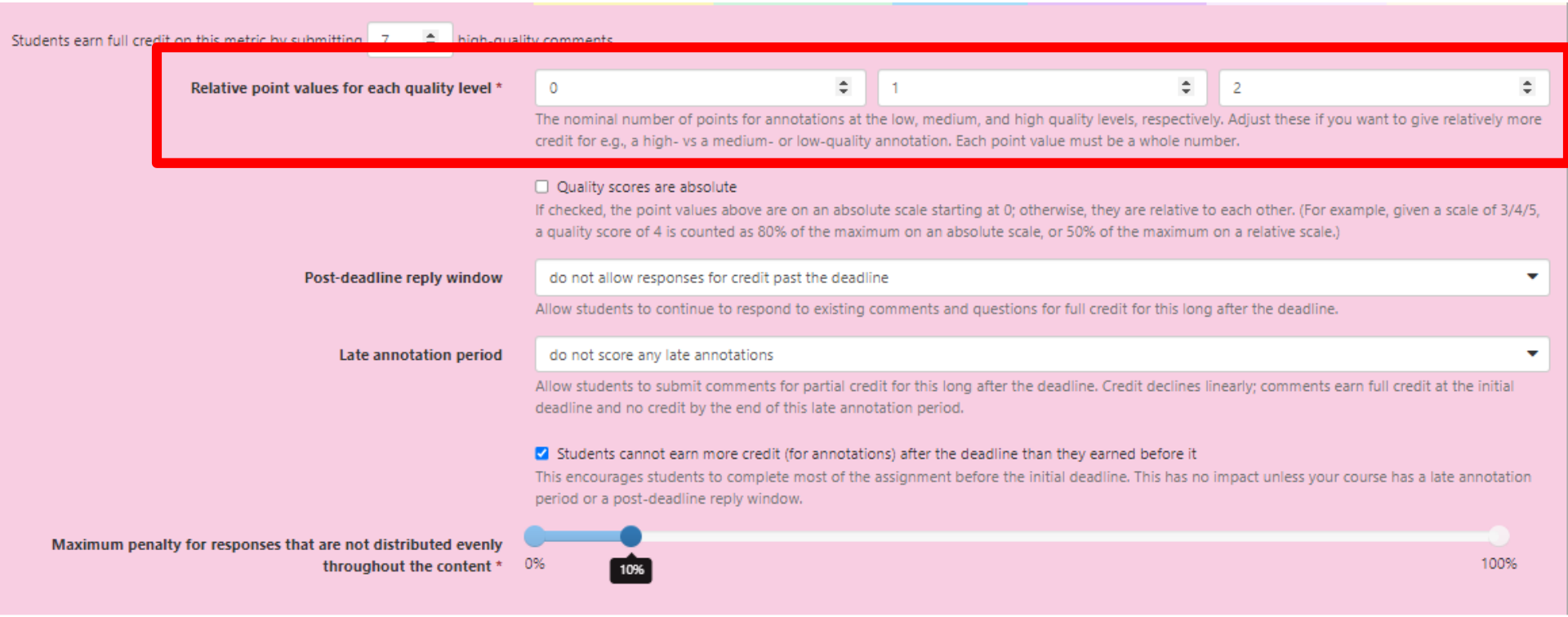


Annotation Scoring

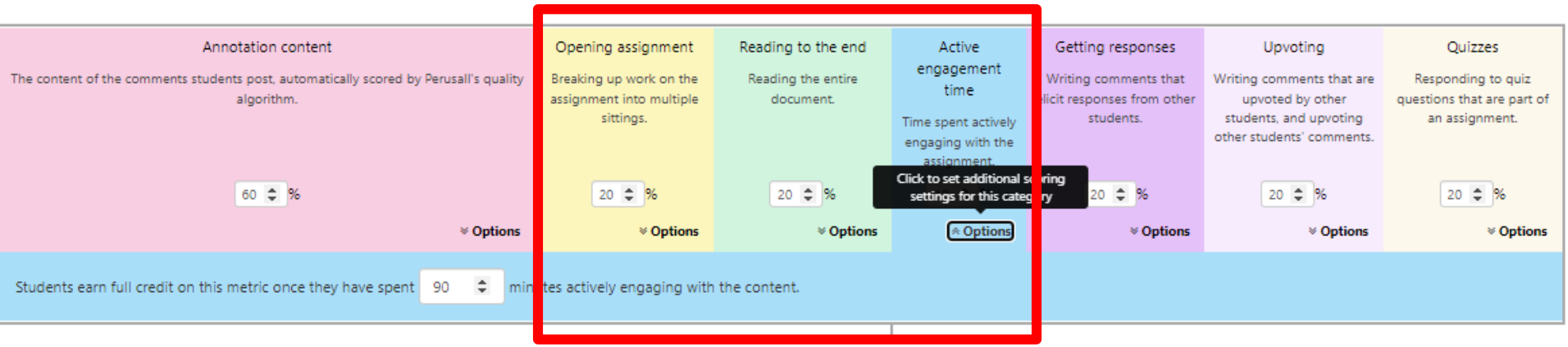


Annotation Scoring

Perusall uses AI grading to rate annotation quality using standards that may not match yours. Particularly bad at rating annotations referring to other course readings.



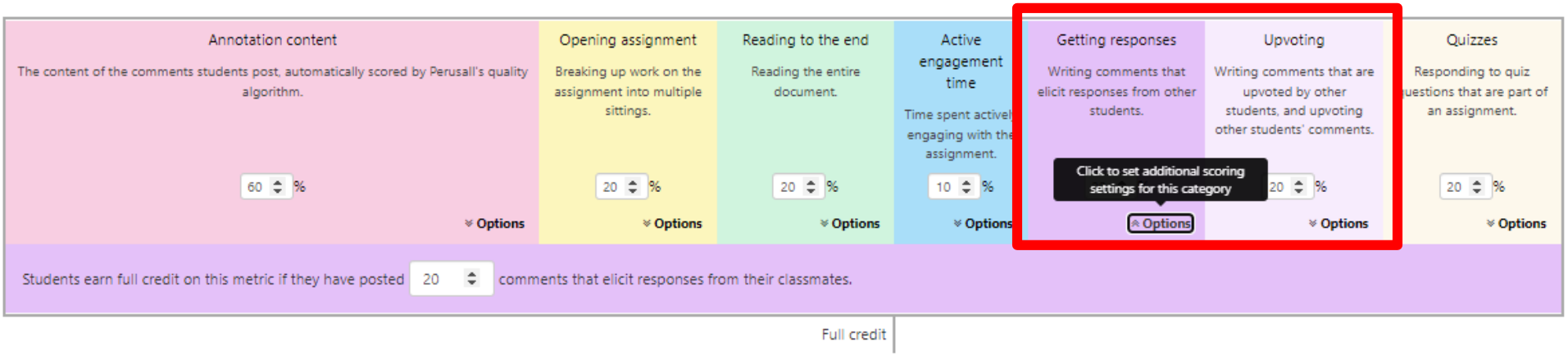
Digital Divide



Students that print and read are disadvantaged by these options:

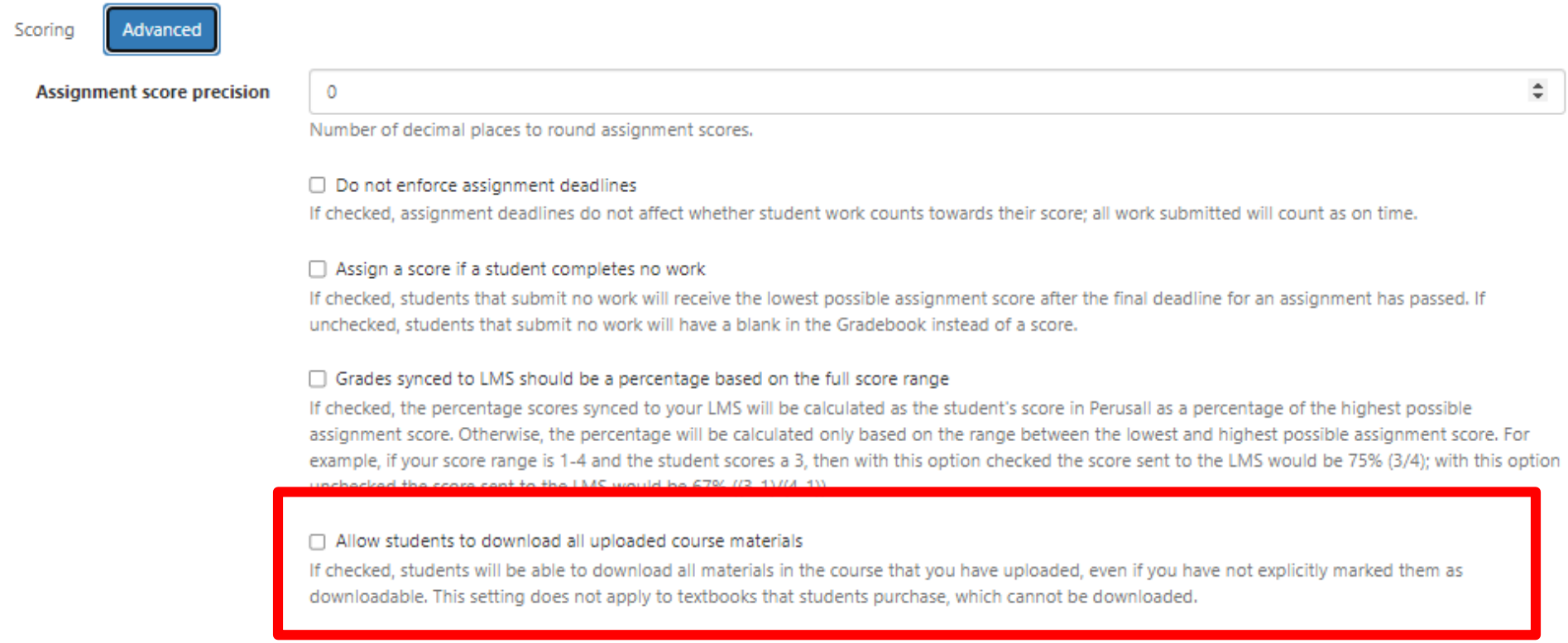
- Opening Assignment
- Reading to the End
- Active Engagement Time

Peer Interaction and Group Size



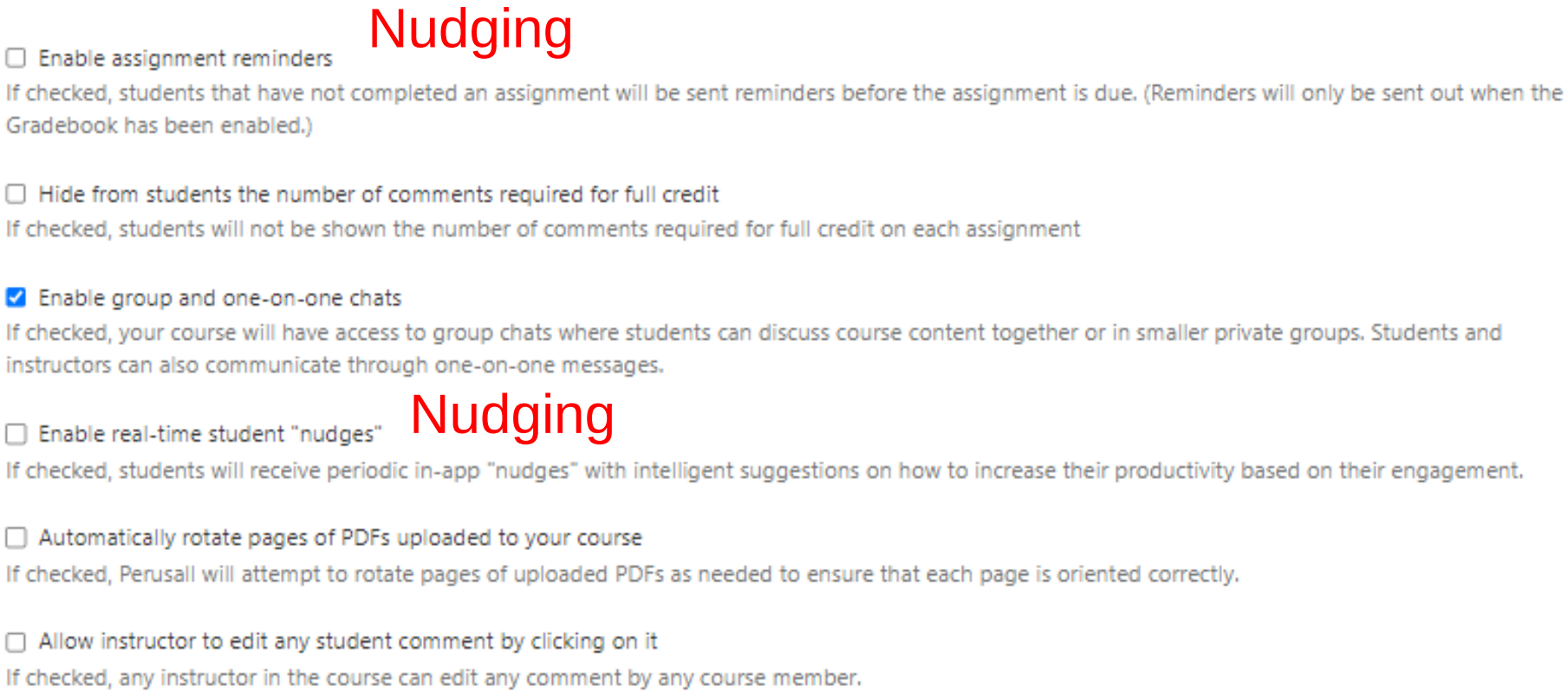
- Consider how many students (overall course or Perusall group) are commenting when setting these

Advanced Settings



Recommended: Enable Downloading for Digital Divide Students

Advanced Settings: Nudging



If you don't want reminders sent, uncheck relevant boxes. This can also be done on individual assignments.

Advanced Settings: Scoring Transparency

☐ Enable assignment reminders

If checked, students that have not completed an assignment will be sent reminders before the assignment is due. (Reminders will only be sent out when the Gradebook has been enabled.)

Uncheck: Make Scoring Criteria Visible

☐ Hide from students the number of comments required for full credit

If checked, students will not be shown the number of comments required for full credit on each assignment

☑ Enable group and one-on-one chats

If checked, your course will have access to group chats where students can discuss course content together or in smaller private groups. Students and instructors can also communicate through one-on-one messages.

☐ Enable real-time student "nudges"

If checked, students will receive periodic in-app "nudges" with intelligent suggestions on how to increase their productivity based on their engagement.

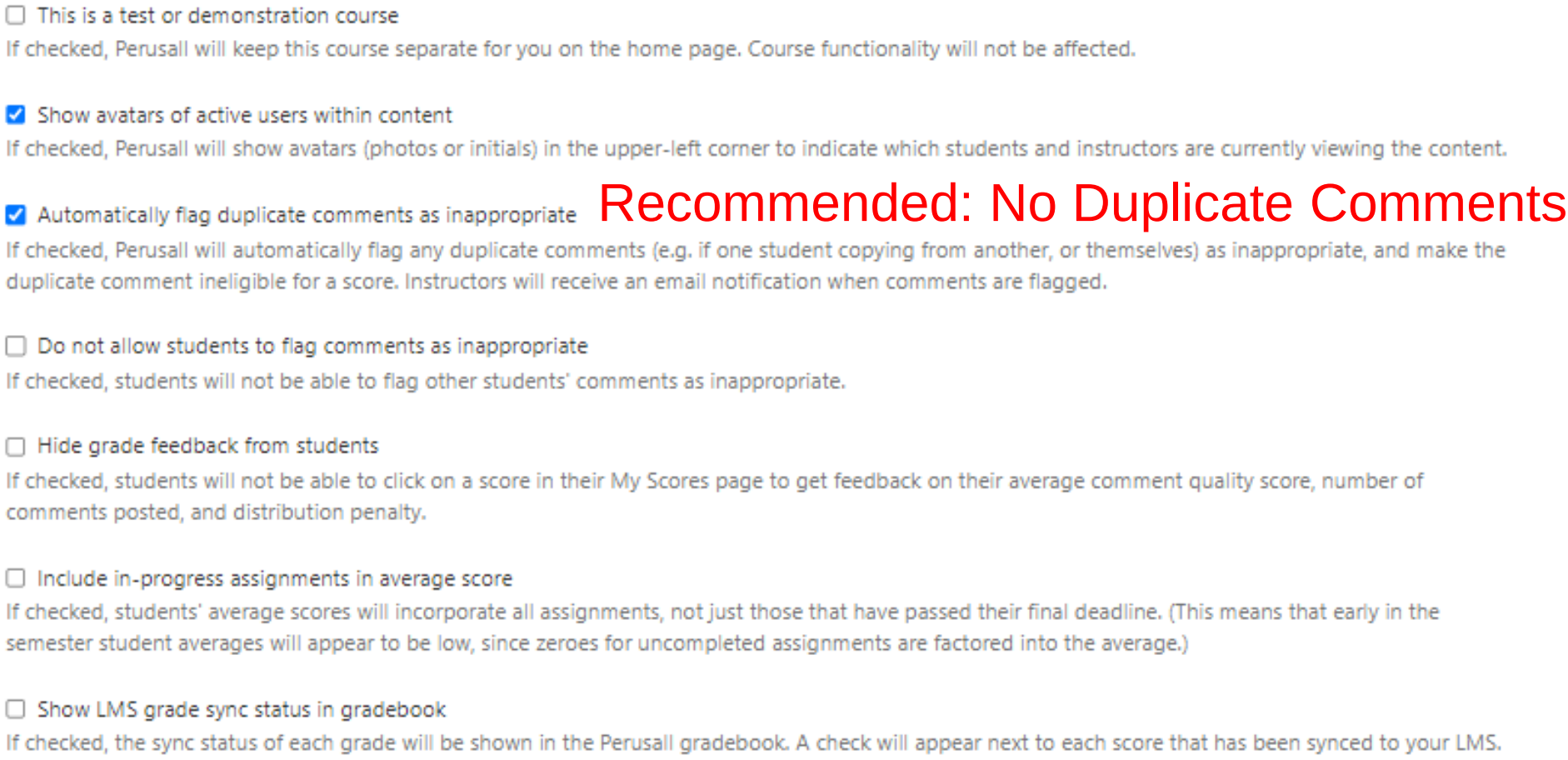
☐ Automatically rotate pages of PDFs uploaded to your course

If checked, Perusall will attempt to rotate pages of uploaded PDFs as needed to ensure that each page is oriented correctly.

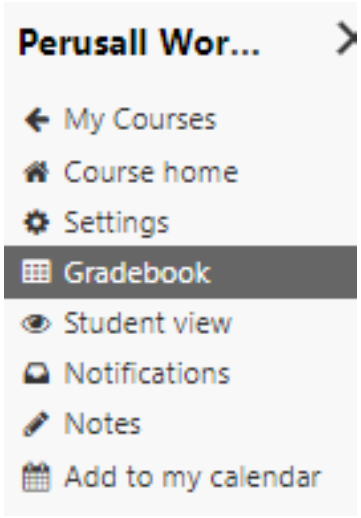
☐ Allow instructor to edit any student comment by clicking on it

If checked, any instructor in the course can edit any comment by any course member.

Advanced Settings: Duplicate Comments



Scoring: Manual Checking



Dell Upton, White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia Due Mon Sep 19, 2022 11:59 pm EDT	John Michael Vlach, "The Shotgun House: An African Architectural Legacy" Due Mon Sep 19, 2022 11:59 pm EDT
9.1	9
10	10
10	8.5
10	8.6
10	7.8
10	10
7	0.1
10	3.3
10	7.2
9.0	7.8

Click on any individual grade to see the grade breakdown and/or override it.

Scoring: Manual Checking

Grade Dell Upton, White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia, due September 19, 2022 11:59 pm EDT

This student's deadline on this assignment was extended to Sep 26 11:59 pm. **Undo**

Engagement metrics

Metric	Details		Score for this metric	
Annotation content	6 comments submitted (6 before deadline, 162 words, average 27.00 words per comment)	Average quality score of best 5 comments posted before the final deadline: 4.80 (on a 2-5 scale)	$\frac{4.80-2}{5-2}\times 100\%$	= **96.0%** out of **100%**
Opening assignment	Opened assignment 5 times			
Reading to the end	Read 100% of content before the final deadline			
Active engagement time	23.00 minutes of active time			
Getting responses	0 comments that elicited a response	1/3 of max possible score for each comment before the final deadline that elicits a response	$0\times\frac{1}{3}\times 30\%$	= **0%** out of **30%**
Upvoting	0 comments that were upvoted 2 upvotes made on others' comments	1/5 of max possible score for each upvote received before the final deadline; 1/10 of max possible score for each upvote given before the final deadline	$(0\times\frac{1}{5}+2\times\frac{1}{10})\times 15\%$	= **3.0%** out of **15%**
Quizzes	0 questions answered correctly			
Total				**99.0%**

Comments submitted

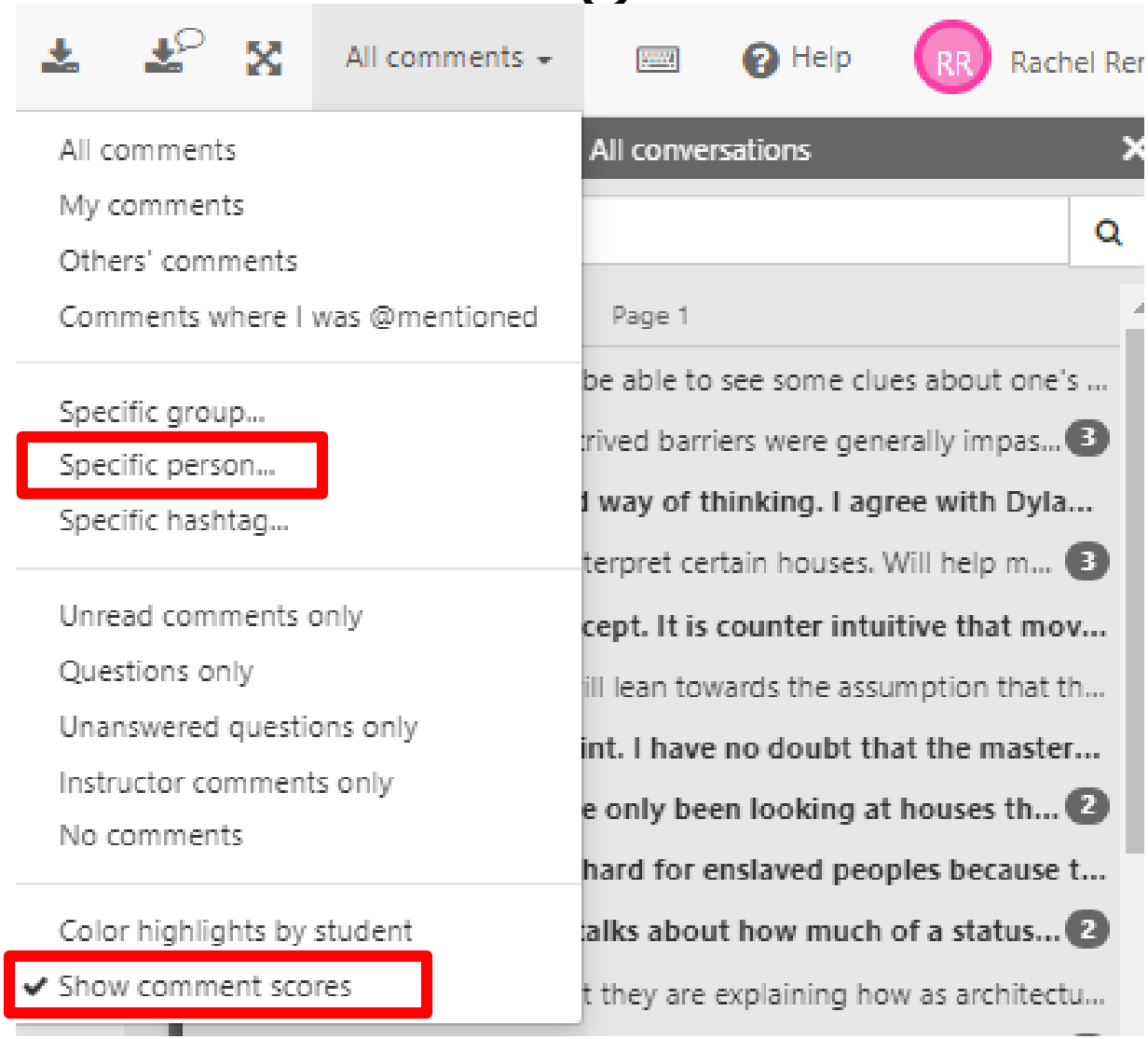
Part: 1

Show 10 entries

Search comment text:

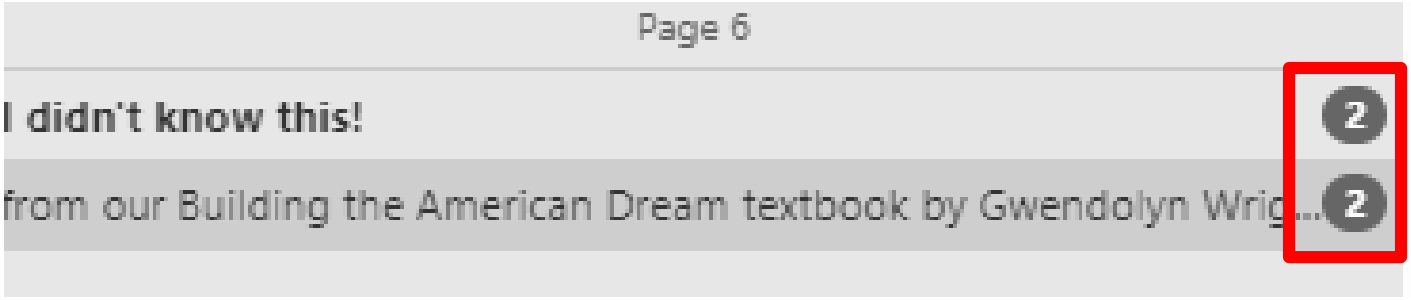
Submission	Words	Page	Score	Upvoters	Replies	Created	Last edited	
Interesting layout and cool to see how the house developed/changed over time.	12	2	4	0	0	Sep 26 9:53 pm	Sep 26 9:53 pm	Mark as read
I agree based on the floor plan you can see the structure was small and simple with the empty room being used to cram as many people.	27	2	4	0	0	Sep 26 9:42 pm	Sep 26 9:42 pm	Mark as read
It is unfortunate that we are not able to preserve their history and only have a few remaining examples. This can make it difficult to fully understand how they truly lived or tell their story.	35	2	5	0	0	Sep 26 9:56 pm	Sep 26 9:56 pm	Mark as read

Scoring: Manual Overrides



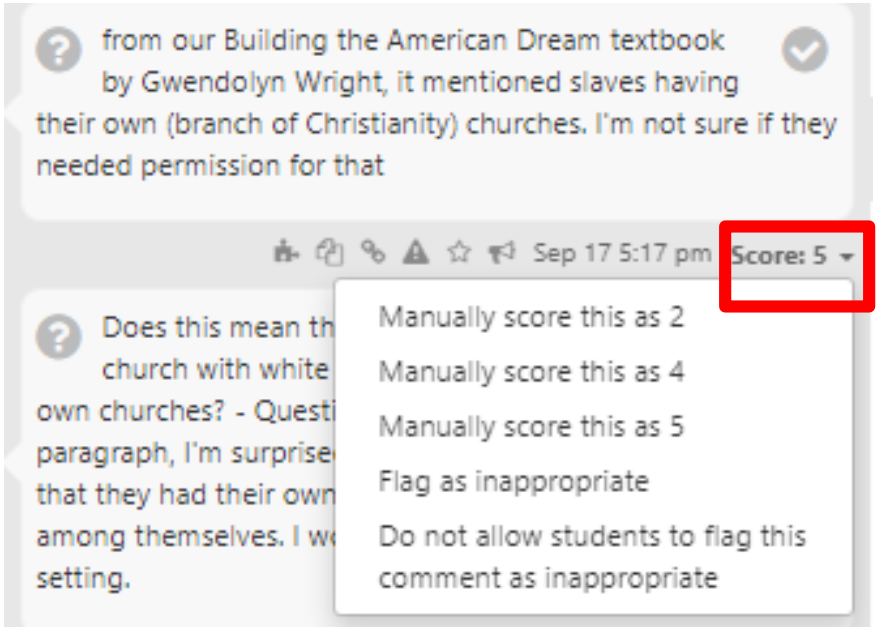
Within an assignment, select All comments and click “Show Comment Scores.” You can then override all scores as you read them. You can also select all comments by “Specific Person” in this menu.

Scoring: Manual Overrides



Number of comments in thread

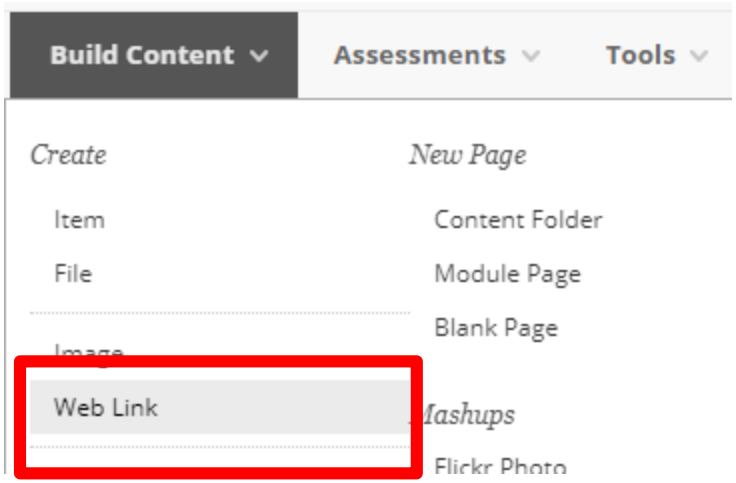
Reminder: Perusall's AI grading has limitations.



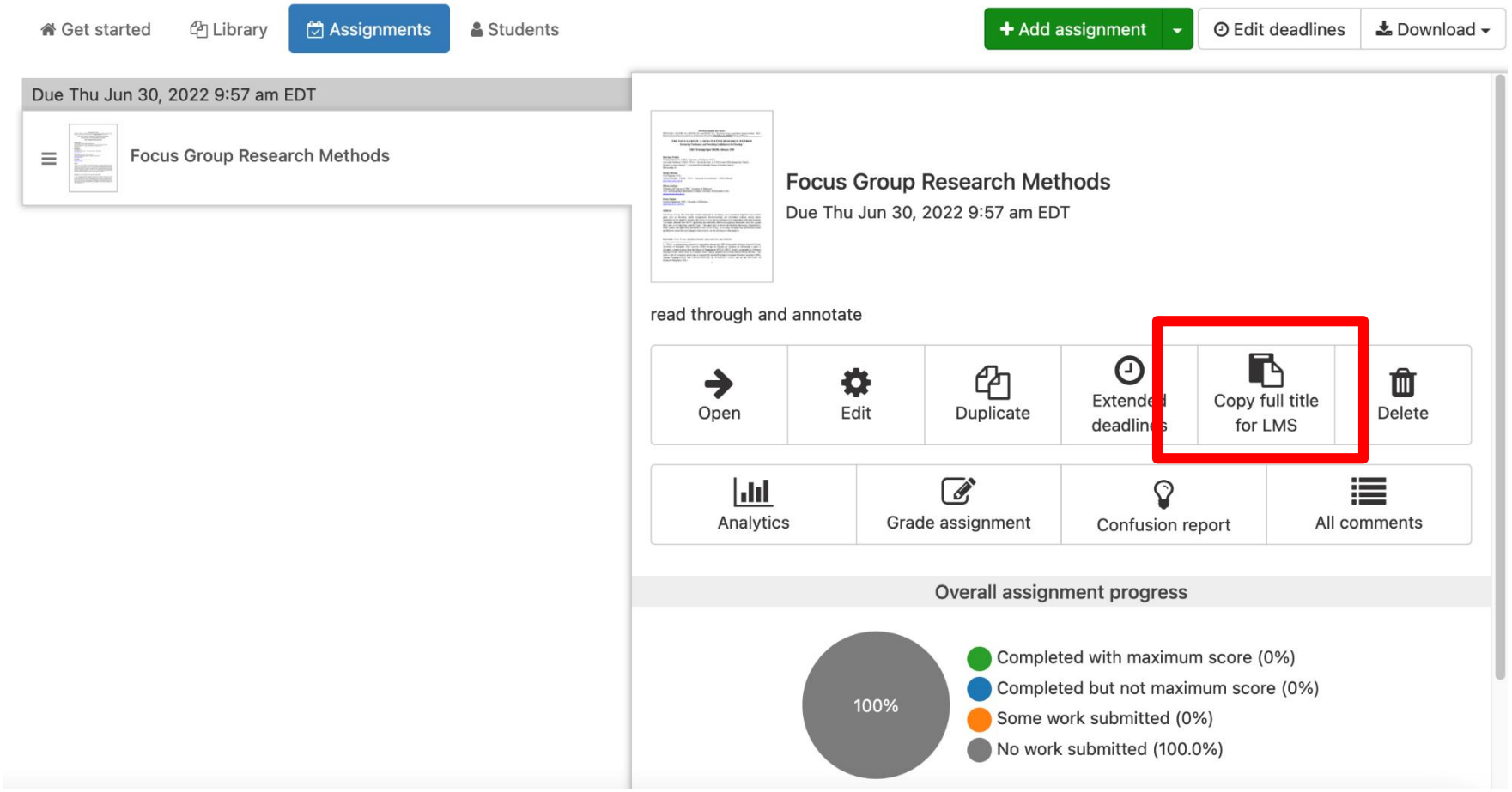
Click on the score under the individual comment to override it.

ADDING AN ASSIGNMENT TO BLACKBOARD

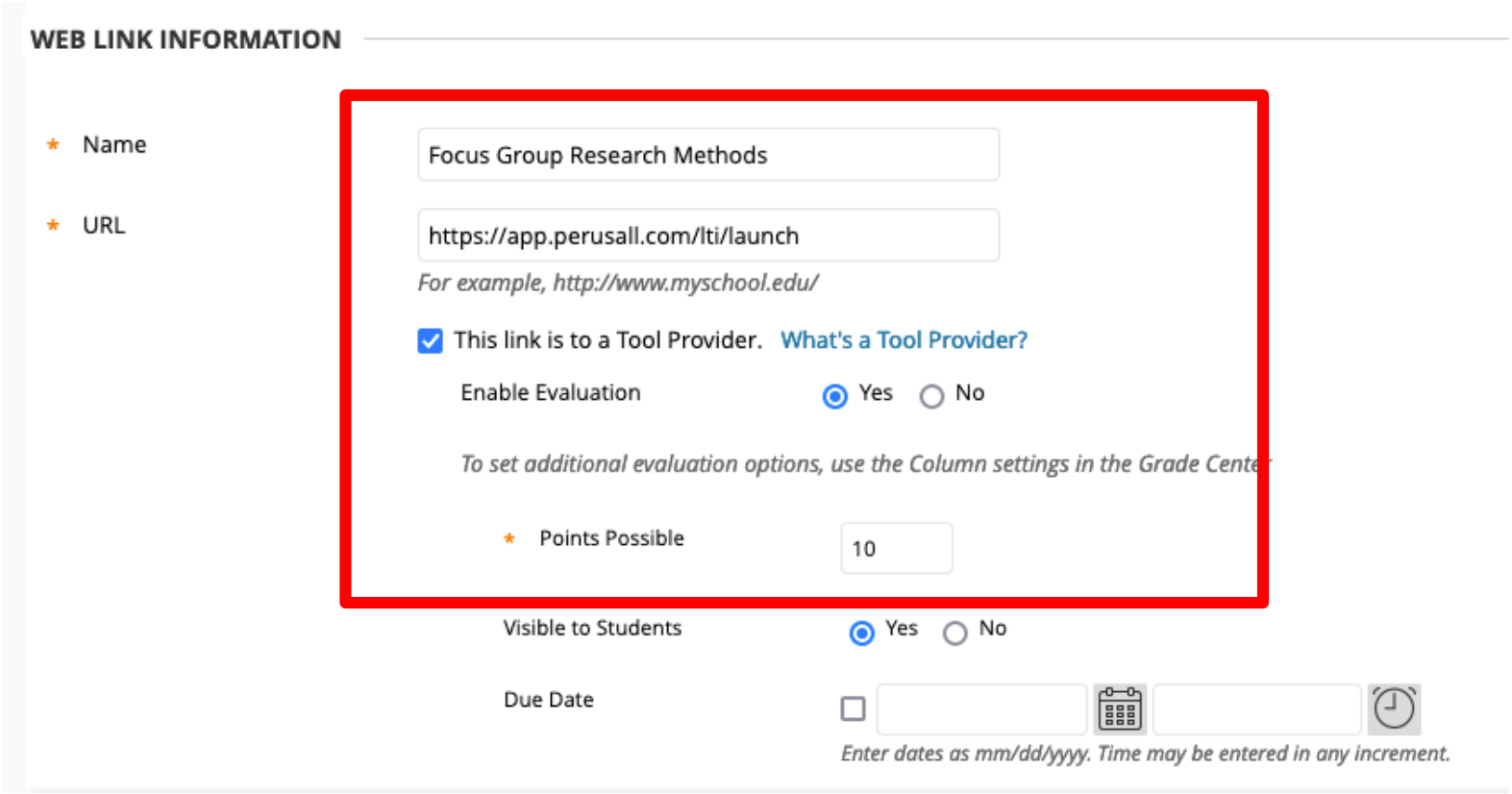
Connecting your Assignment in Blackboard
Build Content – Web Link



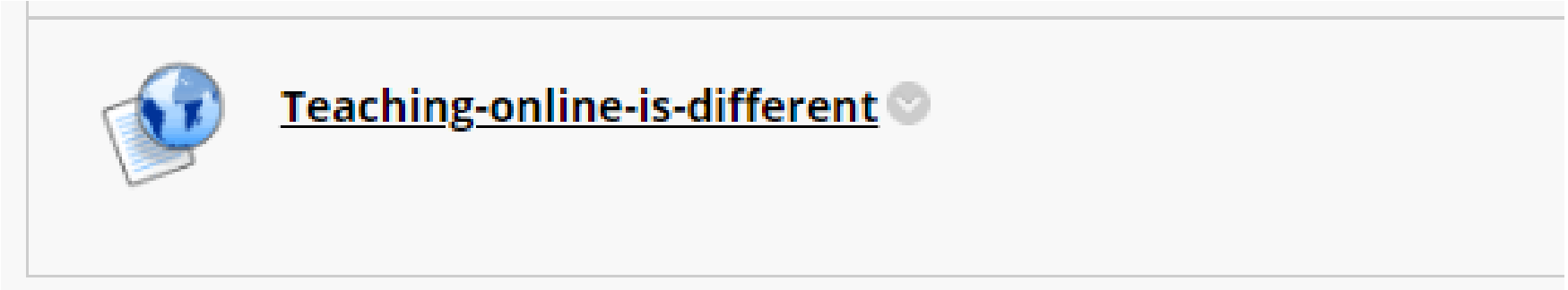
Note this Menu Option



Provide Copied Link Name and URL



Pass-through authentication for you and your students into Perusall



Click the link created
Will create accounts when needed
Passes into specific assignment

Strengths of Perusall

- Promotes collaboration
- Builds community
- Encourages close reading of text/media
- Accepts variety of media types
- Blackboard integration
- Instructor control
  - Huge number of settings for maximum flexibility
  - Effective manual overrides

Limitations to Perusall

- Instructor learning curve on grading and settings, especially since defaults are unlikely to be desirable, although new presets help
- Beware OCR documents as text distinction may not be as good
- Digital textbooks access issues for students who rely on library and support office copies

THANK YOU
QUESTIONS?