

# Tips for Leveraging Canvas in Teaching and Learning

## Multimedia Content

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Canvas' Module page allows you to incorporate course materials in different format to explain a topic. Here are some principles to deliver multimedia content effectively based on research in cognitive psychology in instructional design.

- **Multimedia Principle:** People learn better from words and pictures together than from words alone. Incorporate images, diagrams, or videos can enhance comprehension.
- **Modality Principle:** Presenting information in both visual and auditory formats is more effective. For instance, adding voiceover to a powerpoint slide.
- **Coherence Principle:** Irrelevant materials should be avoided in multimedia presentation.
- **Signaling Principle:** Using cues or signals to highlight essential information can enhance comprehension. For instance, adding an arrow in a diagram or highlighting keywords in a powerpoint slide.
- **Segmenting Principle:** It is advisable to break down complex information into smaller, manageable segments. For example, break down a lecture video into several 10-minute ones.
- **Personalization Principle:** Using conversational and informal language, as well as personal stories or examples, can enhance learning. For instance, include a case study in a module.

Canvas pages support various external tools, including Alexander Street Video, Film in Demand, OER Commons, and YouTube. Videos and other materials provided by these tools can be embedded in module pages.

## Analytics and Reports

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In “New Analytics” feature, you can view statistics regarding students’ online activities and performances, enabling you to effectively monitor their progress and take necessary actions. You can view analytics of the course such as average course grades, weekly online activities, and page views. You can also access detailed reports on individual students.

For grading management, Canvas allows you to download report in Excel format. These reports include assignments, class rosters, and course activities.

## Participation and Collaboration

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There are several ways to encourage participation and collaboration among students. In addition to the discussion forum, the assignment function facilitates students to submit group assignment and engage in peer reviews. In addition, the integration with web-based tools such as Google Docs and Office 365 offers students the opportunity to collaborate on tasks like group papers or note-taking.