



Academic Technology Newsletter

Spring is here and the semester is “Marching” right along (ugh!). Before we know it, things will be winding down and finals will be here, but before we get that far, there are still a couple of months of the semester left, so let’s not get ahead of ourselves. This month we have a new faculty spotlight, some more tech news, plus a bunch of tips and tricks you may still be able to incorporate into your classes this semester or try out for next year. So, let’s get to them!

Faculty Spotlight



Creating Professional Graphics For Zoom Backgrounds

High-quality background graphics can give your Zoom sessions a professional look. Particularly, if you have guest speakers, it's worth the effort to create custom, branded virtual backgrounds to provide more information about your speakers.

Kevin Commette, Assistant Professor of Experiential Education in the School of Sport Science, has helped organize a series of Zoom webinars as part of the Gull2Gull initiative to connect EC alums representing industry organizations with current Endicott students.

Kevin uses PowerPoint to create a slide for each speaker that includes a company logo and the name and title of the speaker. Each slide is then saved as a JPG (Click File > Save As > JPG, or on Mac File > Export > JPG). The JPG file is then sent to the speaker and they can add it as a virtual background image when the Zoom session starts. It's important to keep the background image under 5MB so it will load.

According to Kevin, "Zoom has been a good delivery system for our programs. It offers a variety of branding options which we have developed to give our speakers a quality appearance."



Custom Zoom backgrounds created using PowerPoint

EdTech News

Transcript

Another AI Tool to Worry About?

According to their [website](#), "**Transcript** is an advanced study tool that integrates into your school's learning platform to simplify and enhance your learning experience. All it takes is a single click to guide you to the solution of a multitude of questions."

Transcript costs \$4.99/month and is the latest technology that has academia somewhat concerned about another AI tool that can make cheating easier for students. We wanted to see how it worked so we splurged on a month's subscription and tested it out. Here's what we found.

If a student logs in to their **Transcript** account in Chrome and takes a multiple choice quiz for example in Canvas, a **Transcript** button will appear next to the question which

they can click on and depending on which settings they choose, it will show a graph of the probabilities of which answer is correct. It can also use AI to look up answers for short answer questions. It states that it does best with multiple-choice, short-form, or widely known answers and doesn't make any guarantees on long-form, image-based, or complex math questions.

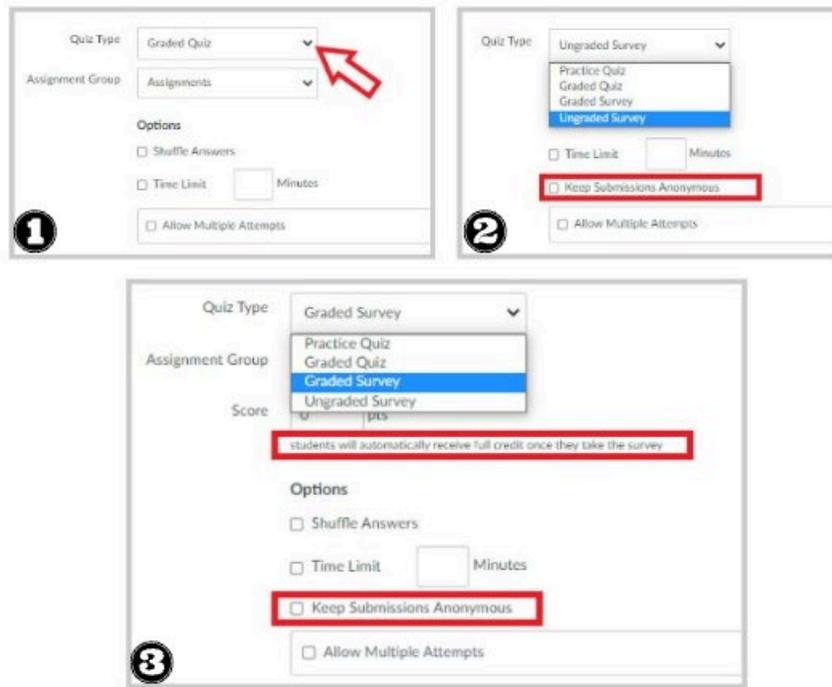
CANVAS TIPS OF THE MONTH



Using Canvas Quizzes to Create an Anonymous Survey

Quizzes are a very popular tool in Canvas. What many people don't know is that they can use quizzes to create anonymous surveys. Canvas presents 'Graded Quiz' by default. However, if you click the gray arrow, a drop-down menu includes the options for a survey (graded or ungraded). Only after selecting one of the surveys, the new option "Keep Submissions Anonymous" appears (*picture 2*). Note, if you choose "Graded Survey", students will automatically receive full credit once they submit the survey.

Anonymous surveys can be useful to collect pre, during, and post-course information from students. The pre-course survey could be a demographic survey or knowledge survey; the during-course could be a mid-semester evaluation, and the post-course survey can be a course feedback vehicle. Learn more about it in [this short video](#).



How to Restore Deleted Content in Canvas

If you mistakenly delete content or an assessment in Canvas, don't panic! You can usually restore your items using the "undelete" function. Here's how:

1. Go to your course.
2. Add "/undelete" to the end of the URL in the address bar (without quotes)
3. Hit the Enter key.
4. You can now see a list of items that can be restored. Note: Not all deleted items can be fully restored.
5. Click **Restore**.
6. Click OK.

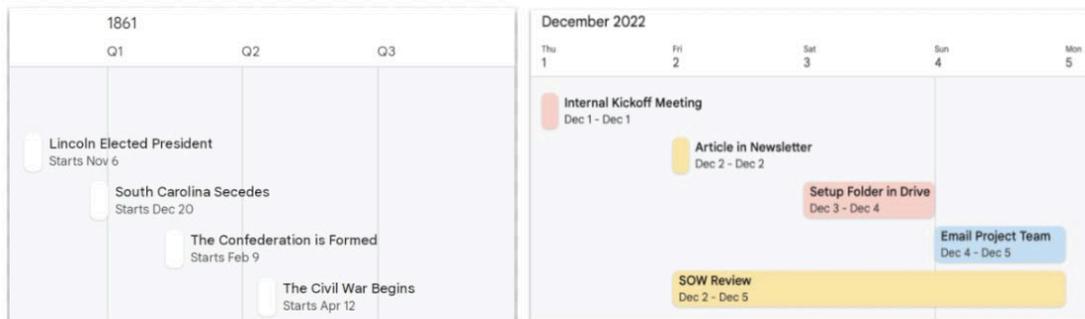
If /undelete cannot restore your items, then please create a [Freshservice ticket](#), and Academic Technology can often use other tools to retrieve the lost content.

FEBRUARY'S TIPS AND TRICKS

New Google Sheets Timeline Creator

Timelines can be used across the curriculum to help students visualize information such as historical events, stages in a scientific process, or project management tasks.

Google recently added a timeline feature to Google Sheets. Simply add columns with dates and event information and go to the **Insert** menu and select **Timeline**. Watch this [short video](#) to learn how to make a timeline in Google Sheets. We also recommend exploring some other free timeline-creating tools such as [Timeline JS](#), [Flippity Timeline Creator](#), and [Sutori](#).



History timeline created with Google Sheets

Project timeline created with Google Sheets

iPhone Text Entry Time-Saving Tip

On the iPhone, you can create a shortcut that automatically expands into your email address (or any other long string of text).

Go to Settings → General → Keyboard → Text Replacement and tap the +. Enter your email as the phrase and a shortcut like “@@” (make it easy to type). From now on, whenever you type your created shortcut @@ and hit the spacebar, your email address will be typed automatically!

Read EPUB Books On a Computer

EPUB is the popular file format for ebooks, which are typically read on devices like iPads and Kindles, but you can also read EPUB files on your computer.

1. On Chrome, go to the [Chrome Web Store](#)
2. Search for “EPUB Reader for Google Chrome”
3. Add it as an extension

To use it, click the Extension icon in Chrome, and choose EPUB Reader for Chrome. Then in the EPUB Reader, select **Upload from Device** and select an EPUB File.

Bonus Tip: Hundreds of FREE books in EPUB format are available at Project Gutenberg, at [gutenberg.org](#)

AT Members in the Community

Hedrick Ellis, Coordinator of Instructional Technology and Immersive Learning, presented a workshop at the NERCOMP (Northeast Regional Computing) Annual Conference in Providence, RI on March 28. The session was titled “*Promoting Immersive Learning with Common Devices*” and focus on how to access immersive learning experiences in virtual and augmented reality using common devices such as cell phones and iPads.

1:1 Course Design Consultation with AT

Please use the [Academic Technology Course Consultation Request Form](#) to request a consultation with one of our AT staff members. We can help you design your course in Canvas as well as answer any questions re: the various applications and technologies that are available to you.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP

Using Canvas Tools to Promote Student Self-Regulation

By how class activities and assignments are designed, Instructors can induce students to practice self-regulated learning. In this workshop, you will learn about some easy-to-use tools in Canvas that help you achieve this goal. You will leave with at least one activity designed in your Canvas course.

Facilitator: Ana Emlinger, Instructional Technologist and Online Instructor

Tuesday, April 4, 11 a.m.- Noon

LIB 119 or via Zoom

Click [here](#) to register.

For more academic technology information, news, and support, please visit the [Academic Technology Resources and Support](#) website.