VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

IGNITE CHANGE. GO NOVA.

Engaging Students via VoiceThread:

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Session Outcomes

At the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- Reflect on asynchronous learning activities;
- Discuss pedagogical considerations when using VoiceThread;
- Recognize features and functions of VoiceThread;
- Set up your own VoiceThread for class activities;

Respond at **PollEv.com/vv200**

Text **VV200** to **37607** once to join, then text your message

How do you engage students asynchronously?

Powered by Poll Everywhere

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

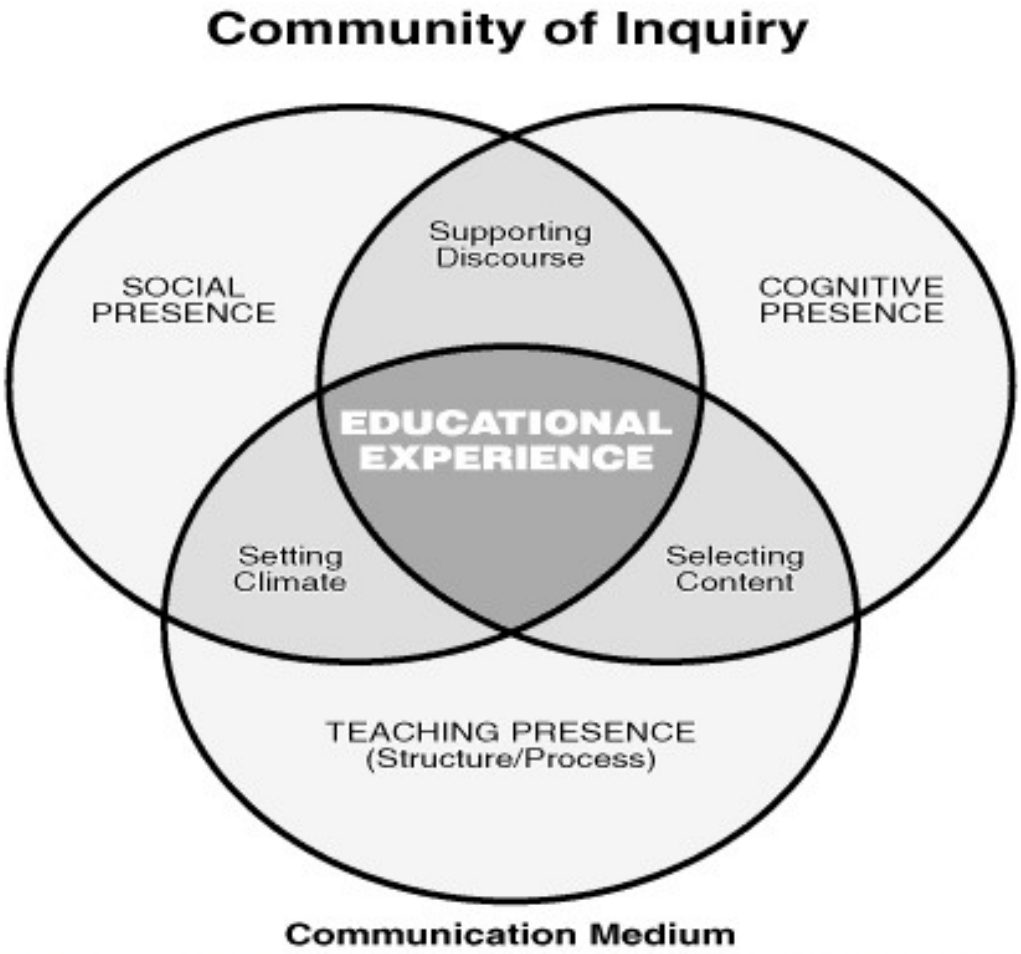

Figure 1. Elements of an educational experience (Garrison, Anderson, & Archer, 2001).

Studies on the Use of VoiceThread

- Promote Student/faculty **sense of emotional commitment and teaching presence** in this course (Merriam & Hobba-Glose, 2021).
- Enable students to **personally embrace complex concepts** through hearing their peers' voices sharing stories, contributing to the **sense of community** (Delmas, 2017).
- Play a **positive role in their relationships** with classmates (Delmas, 2017).
- A lot can be gained from **voice reflection** as opposed to just reading text on a page (Delmas, 2017).
- Increased levels of **emotional connection** as compared with text discussion using Blackboard (Parise ,2015).
- Feel **more connected to my instructor** (Delmas, 2017).
- Students expressed a preference for VoiceThread discussions over a written discussion (Fox, 2017).
- **Bridge on-campus/online learning**, providing opportunities for interaction and engagement (Merriam & Hobba-Glose, 2021).

Self-Introduction (Slide 1 of 1) AC Andy Cui CC

Designing an Online Course

- Quick Self-Introduction
- One strength you bring to teaching online
- One question you bring to teaching online

Please make comments or ask questions by clicking on the "+" icon to leave text, audio, or video comments at the bottom of the slide.

Please find a tutorial on How to Comment at https://voicethread.com/howto/how-to-comment/ (link can be found at the right corner of the slide).

AC KA AC CQ

1x 0:40 / 10:15

Teaching with organizing schemes

If you routinely use organizing schemes throughout your teaching:

- Students will gain a much bigger sense of the whole picture of your discipline and not just have isolated knowledge.
- They will also be able to integrate new learning into these organizing schemes (Ambrose et al., 2010).

Perú Leetal (Slide 2 of 10)
Leetal Weiss
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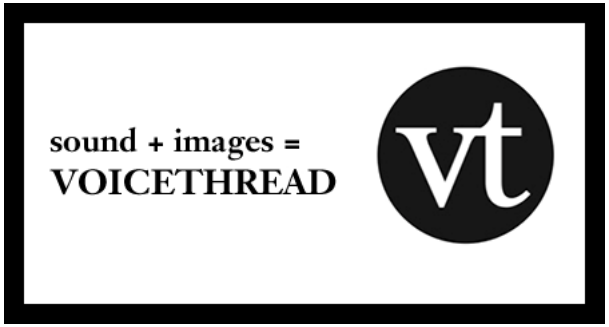
AGENDA



A. Interest in VoiceThread
B. How I incorporated VoiceThread into my CPS courses (with examples from students).
C. Other ideas for using Voice Thread
D. Reflections and potential challenges

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Courses that are predominantly asynchronous present unique challenges. Students may experience a feeling of disengagement due to “physical separation, lack of synchronicity in communication, and text-based nature of the communication” (Akcaoglu and Lee 2).
- My VITAL Minigrant project sought to enhance social presence and student engagement in two online cultural courses.
  - Make asynchronous discussions more interactive and engaging so that students actively support one another in a collaborative learning community.
  - Allow students to establish broader connections between the course material and local and global communities.
  - Make course materials more affordable for students in CPS through OER (Open Educational Resources)

WHAT IS VOICETHREAD?

VoiceThread is an interactive learning tool for enhancing student engagement and online presence. VoiceThread allows instructors and/or students to create, share and comment on PowerPoint presentations, PDFs, images and charts using microphone, webcam and/or text.

VoiceThread is integrated into Blackboard.

IDEAS FOR INCORPORATING VOICETHREAD INTO OUR COURSES

- Integrate VoiceThread as an alternative to the traditional text-based discussion board on Blackboard.
- Ask students to create reflection videos or individual presentations.
- Professors can create videos to introduce the course content each week.
- Professors can create more dynamic and interactive pre-recorded lectures.
- Students can use VoiceThread to prepare for group projects and presentations. They can share their portion of the presentation with the other group members and professor and receive feedback on their work.

REFLECTIONS AND POSSIBLE CHALLENGES

- Limit the number of interactive discussion tool per course.
- Orient students to Voicethread using a low-risk icebreaker.
- Provide clear instructions and expectations. Are students required to use audio, video or text for their videos and comments? What types of materials are students expected to use?
- Participate in the discussion board on VoiceThread by commenting on students' videos using audio/video.
- Provide individual feedback for students using audio/video.
- Begin the following live session by highlighting some of your students' observations and asking them to expand on their ideas.
- Challenges: the use of narrative text versus audio/video comments and the organization of the videos on BB.

VoiceThread Features

DIGITAL MEDIA SUPPORT

- Users can create digital media (via upload & within the tool)
- Supports Video
- Supports audio
- Supports presentation files
- Supports image files
- Supports document files
- Users can share large files, up to 3GB

VoiceThread Features Continued

CONVERSATION TOOLSET

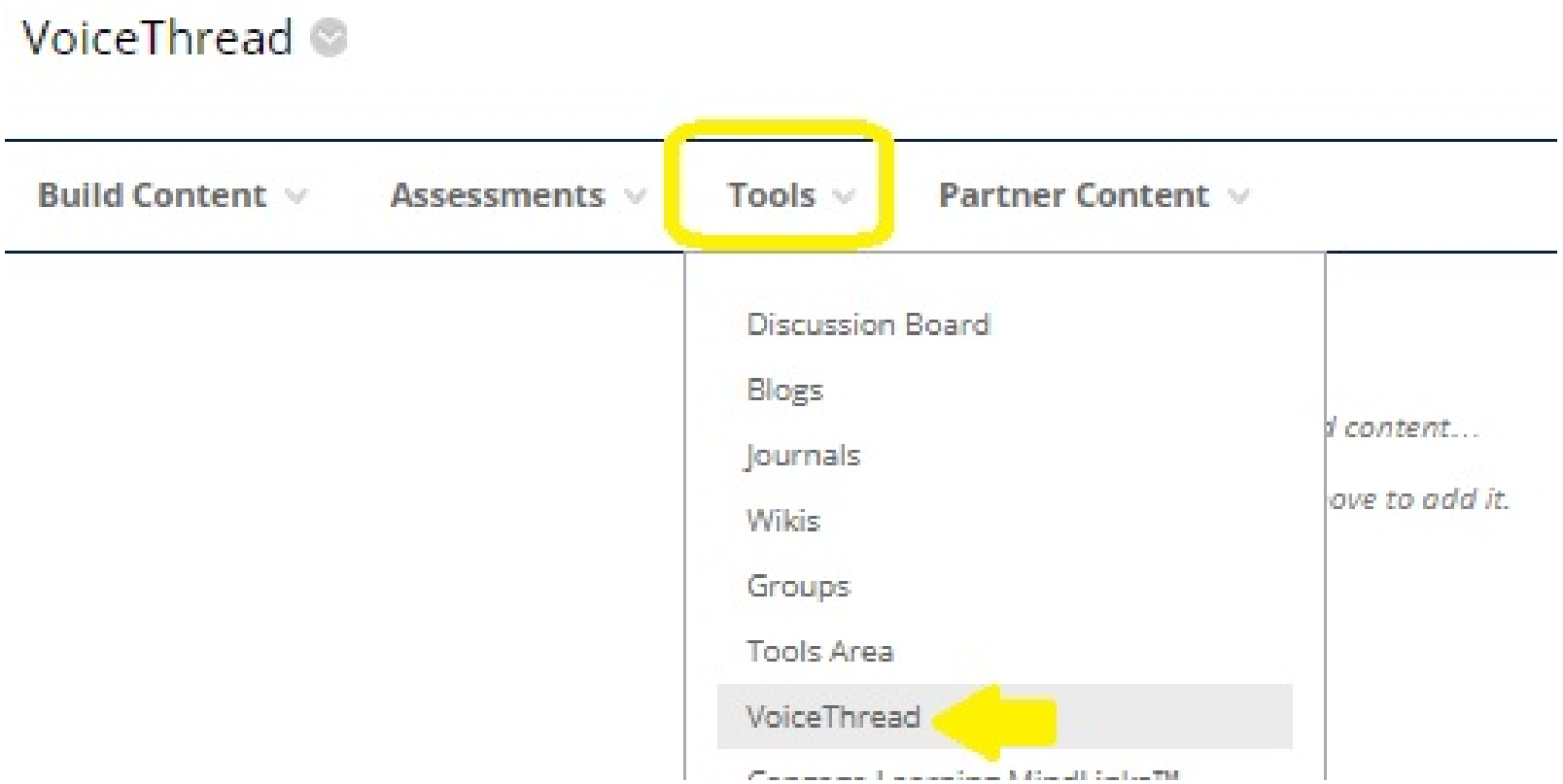
- Audio comments via microphone
- Audio comments via telephone
- Text comments
- Webcam comments
- Comment via file upload (allows archival material to be used)
- Controls for choosing which commenting methods are allowed
- limits etc.

Example of Class Introduction Activity

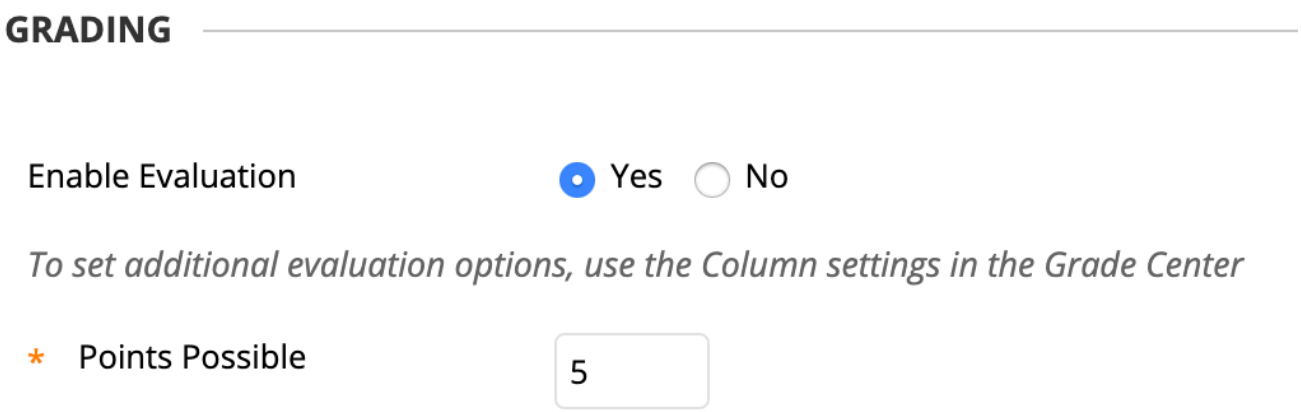
Using VoiceThread to Introduce Yourself

https://voicethread.com/myvoice/thread/3946192

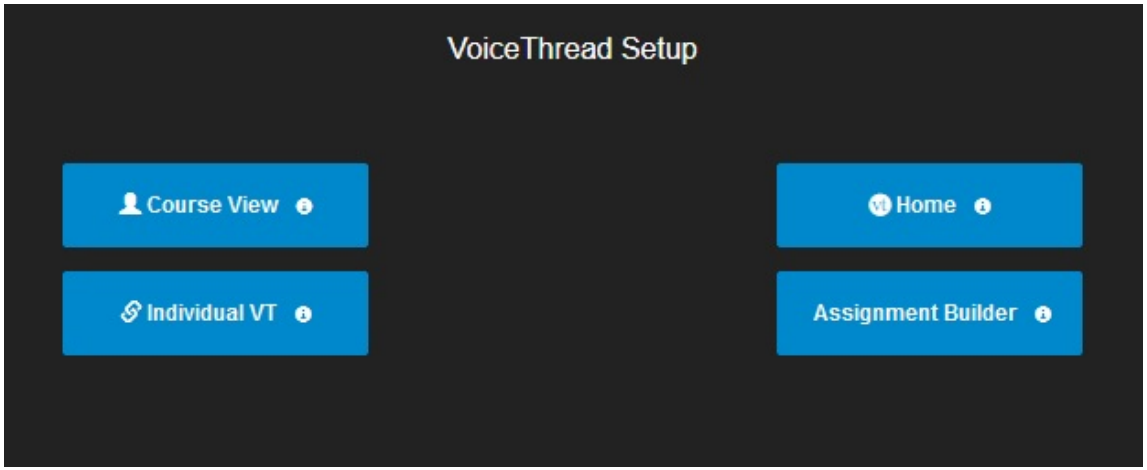
Adding VoiceThread to Blackboard



Grading Options

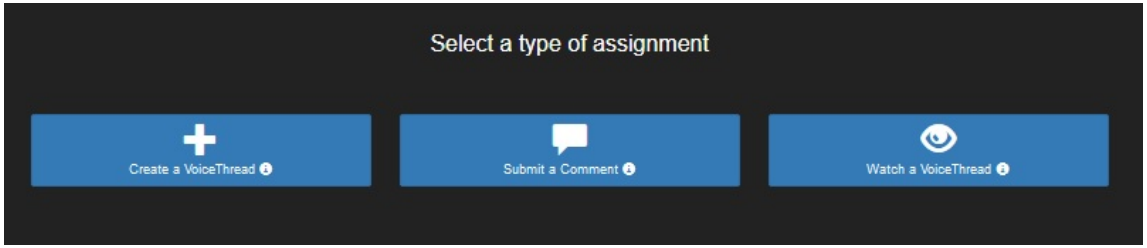


Selecting the Type of VoiceThread



- **Course View** – Displays all VoiceThreads Shared with this Course.
- **Home** – Display all VoiceThreads and all courses that a student is enrolled in.
- **Individual VT** – Displays a single VoiceThread
- **Assignment Builder** (see next slide)

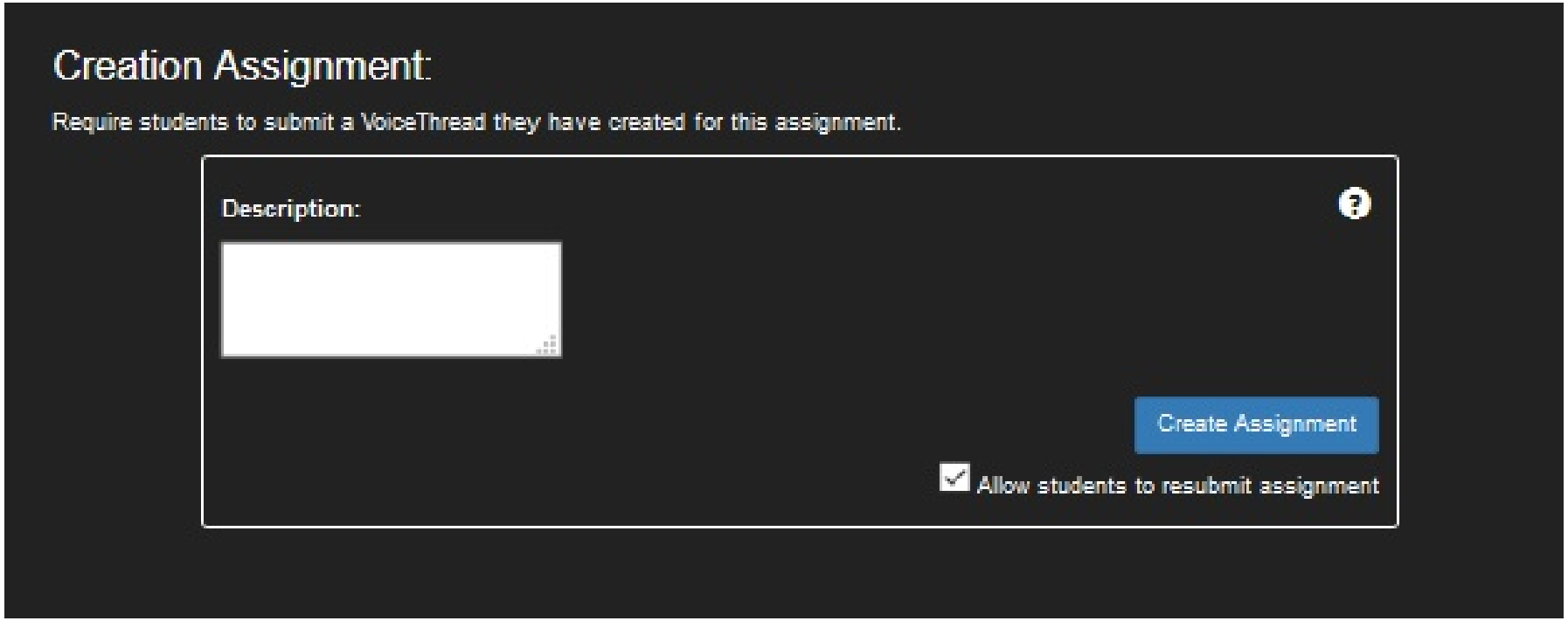
VoiceThread Intro



- **Create a VoiceThread**– Require students to create and submit a VoiceThread of their own.
- **Submit a Comment** – Require students to comment on a VoiceThread you created.
- **Watch a VoiceThread**– Requires students to watch an entire VoiceThread from start to finish.

VoiceThread Intro

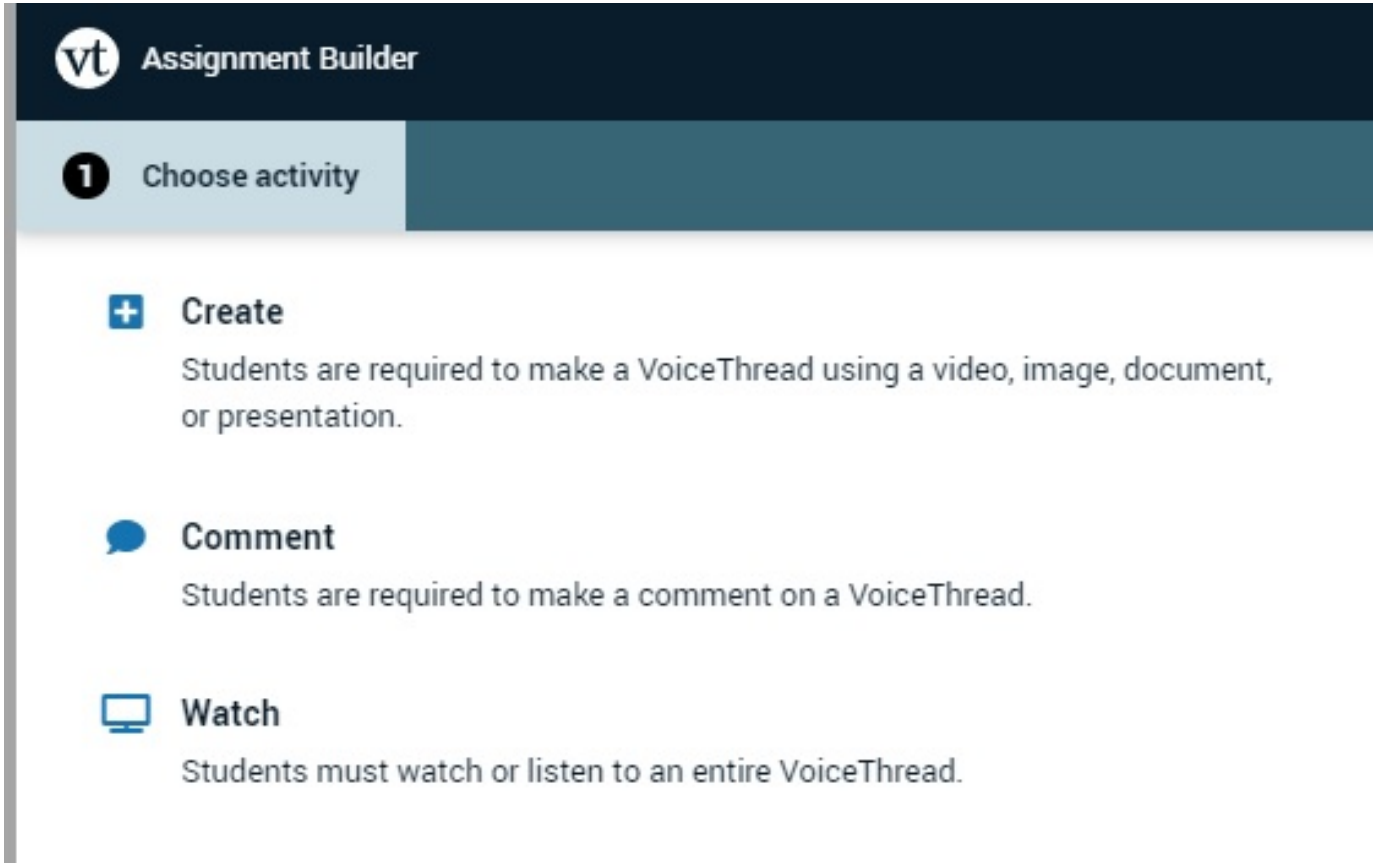
Current VoiceThread Assignment



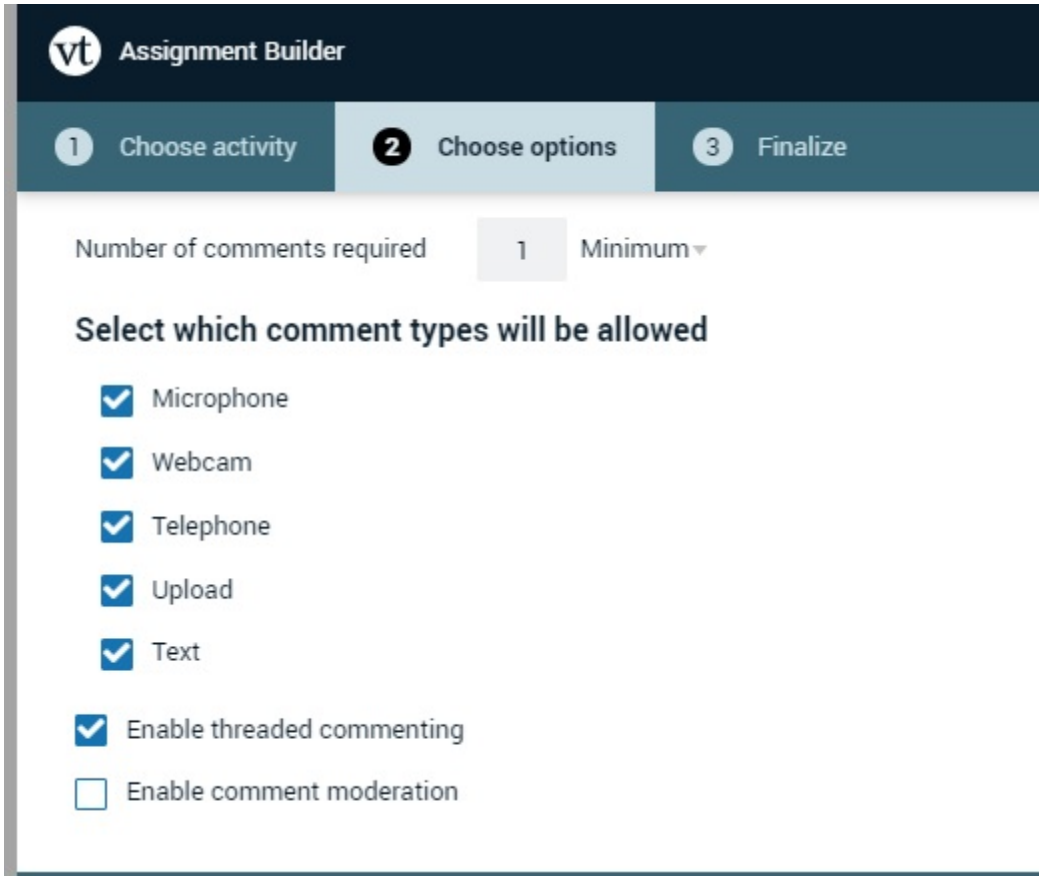
The Big Announcement

Coming June 30, 2021, the new VoiceThread Assignment Tool

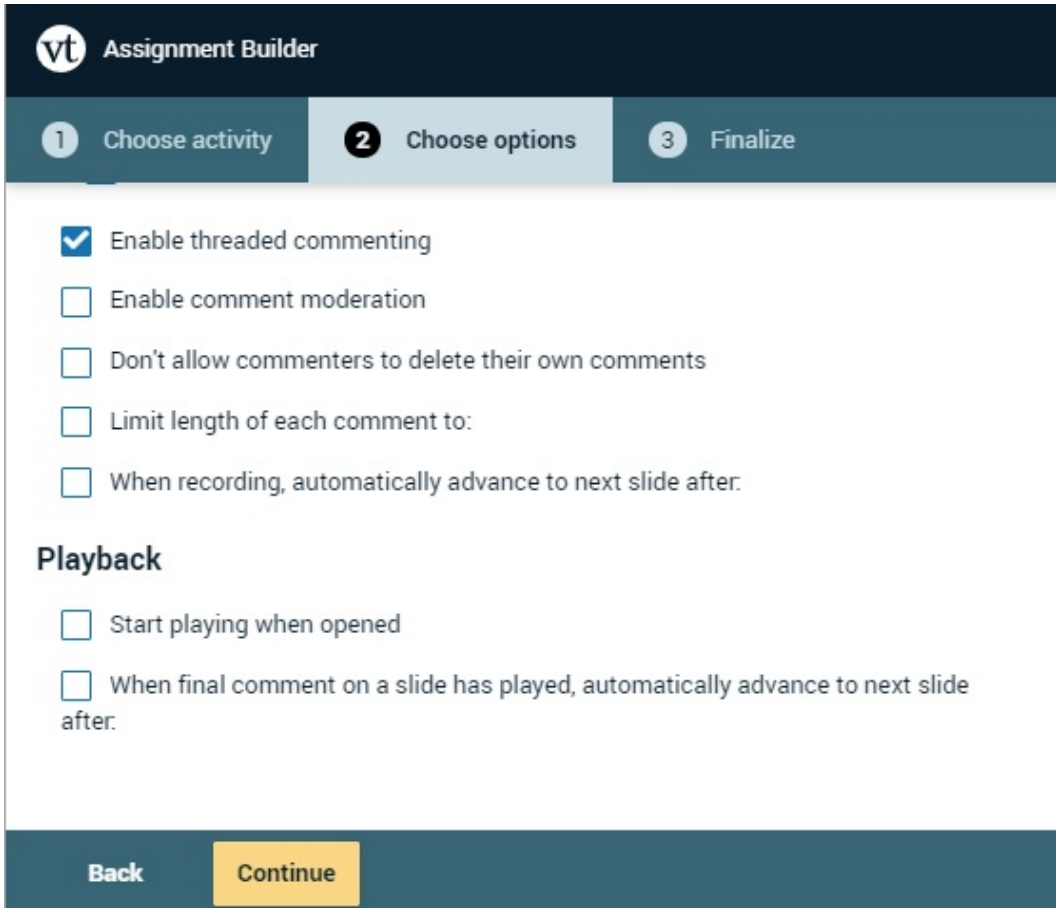
The New Assignment Builder



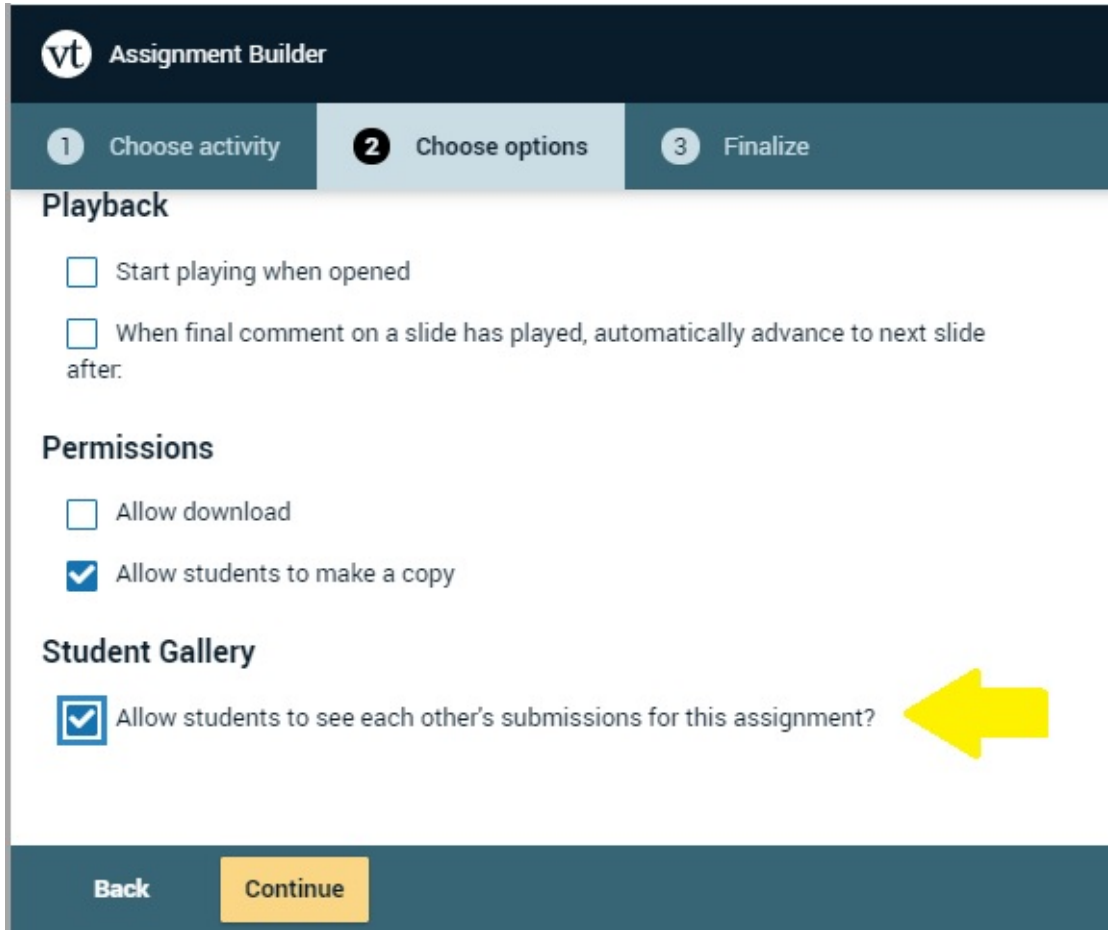
Decide which Comment Types to Allow



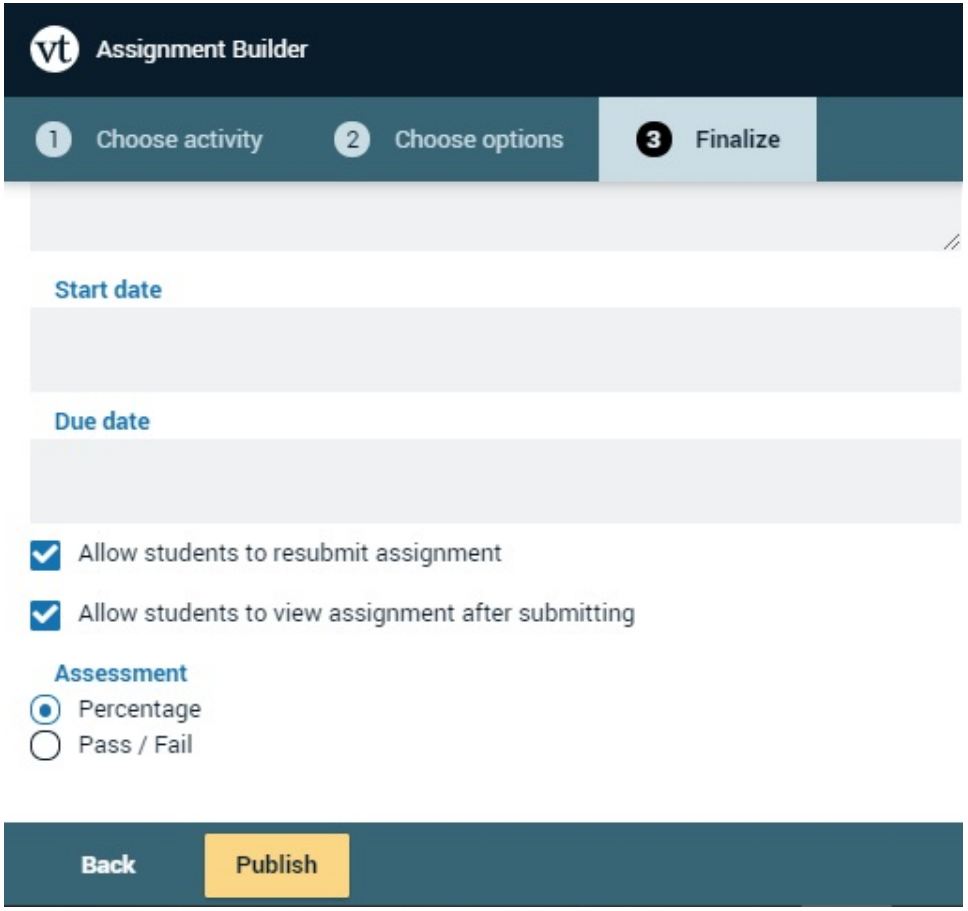
Comment Settings



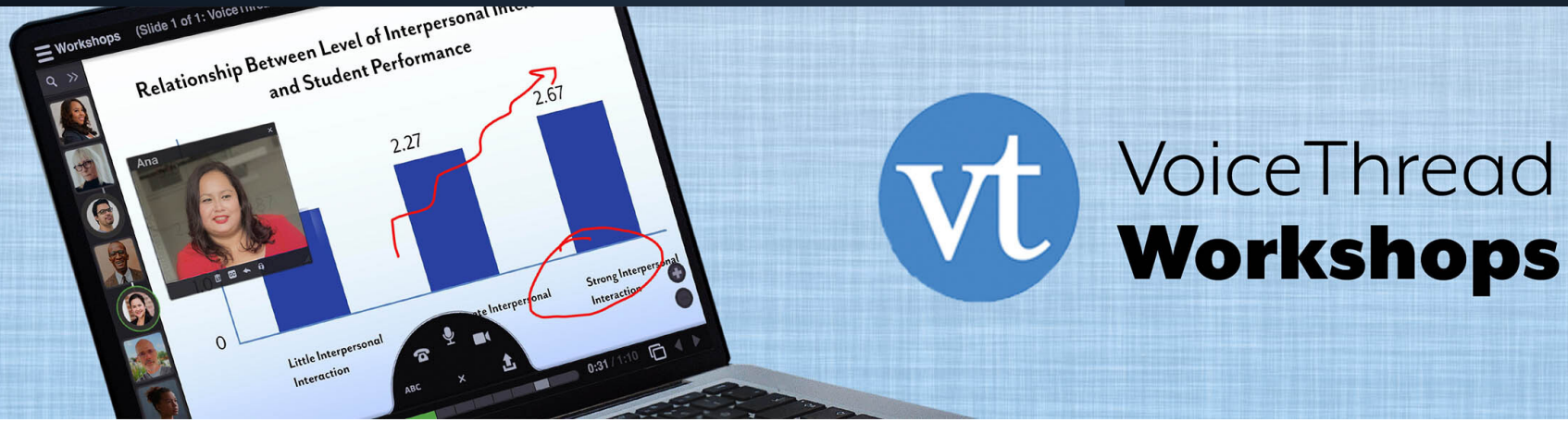
One Step Access to the Student Gallery



Start/Due Dates and Grading Options



Learn More



VoiceThread Workshops
https://voicethread.com/workshops

Recording of the New Assignment Features Workshop (57:27 minutes)
https://voicethread.com/myvoice/thread/16924589/106567941

Sample VoiceThread for Class Introductions
https://voicethread.com/myvoice/thread/3946192