



Year 1, Number 9



What Works - Tips from Instructors

We have collected the following tips from discussions and interactions with some of our faculty who teach online:

- role-playing exercises engage students
- peer review of work provides authentic audience and valuable feedback
- assigned discussion questions focuses the discussion and requires student participation
- frequent quizzes and short answer essays keeps students engaged and reduces procrastination
- success is in the details (provide lots of directions and be very explicit)
- student partners (allow students to guide direction of some course elements)
- control pace (close units after allotted time, make quizzes available/unavailable, require completion of one unit before going on to the next, etc.)

2015 Excellence in Online Teaching Awards



If you've been nominated for an award...

You should have received an email indicating either a student, a peer or a self-nomination was received and you are encouraged to submit the documentation ASAP. No need to wait until the deadline (**October 25**).



Nominations will be evaluated based on the criteria listed for each award.

Please refer to:

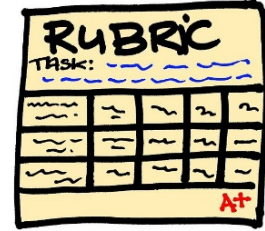
<http://www.untDallas.edu/dlit/awards/criteria>

Remember that the **only required document** to be considered for the award is your reflective statement letter. Supporting documentation is **optional** but strongly encouraged for a competitive submission. Length is not as important as quality –provide specifics as to how your nomination meets the award criteria. Please refer to:

<http://www.untDallas.edu/dlit/awards/guidelines>

NOTE: Nominations that are incomplete and/or that do not submit the required letter documentation will NOT be considered.

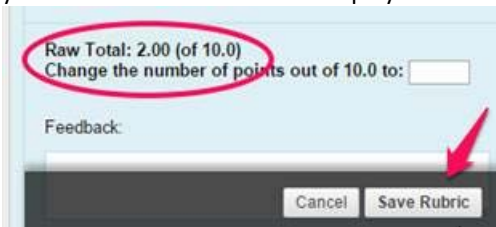
UNT Dallas Online Tip of the Week: Strategic Grading with Blackboard Rubrics



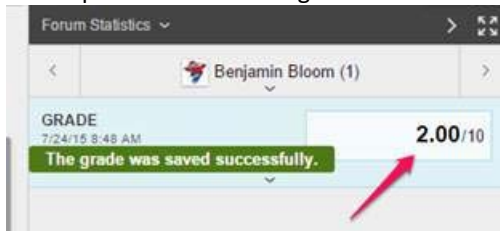
Question: You've got a graded discussion forum where students submit their initial post on Wednesday and their follow-up responses on Saturday. You'll be assessing both activities with a single rubric and want to get a head start on grading the initial posts. Can you grade only part of the rubric, save the score, and resume grading later with the scores intact?

Answer: Yes. With Blackboard rubrics, you can grade only part of the rubric, save and submit the data, and resume grading later on. Your initial scores will be preserved. Here's how:

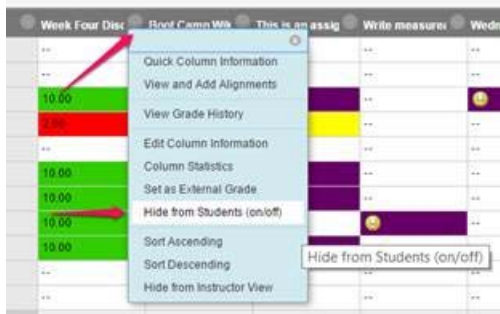
1. Grade as much as the rubric as you'd like. When you're finished, click the Save Rubric button. Above this button, you'll see the raw total score displayed.



2. After you save the rubric, you then need to click the blue Submit button to preserve your scores in the gradebook. After submitting, a confirmation will display that your grade was saved successfully. The raw score will now replace the "0" in the grade box.



3. NOTE: This grade will replace the "needs grading" icon in the Blackboard Gradebook and will be visible to students. If you don't want students to see their score until grades are final, be sure to hide the assignment column from student view. The "Hide column from students" option is an on/off toggle available on the column's contextual menu (grey circle with chevron).



This flexible grading method can be applied to any multi-phase assignment where some components are ready before others but are bundled into a single rubric. The Save feature of Blackboard rubrics allows instructors to maximize grading time without the hassle of a separate system for tracking those partial scores.

As always, please feel free to contact the Distance Learning Office if you would like more information about this!

TED Talk: Adora Svitek: What Adults Can Learn From Kids.

Adora Svitek, a spirited child prodigy, explores the idea of child-like thinking, and how adult learners could benefit from dreaming big and sparking their creativity. In this short 8-minute talk, she makes the point that kids' wild ideas deserve respect and that adults should be willing and ready to learn from the younger generation. It is a refreshing talk from a unique perspective that every eLearning pro should watch, particularly those who are searching for new ways to engage and emotionally connect with learners.



https://www.ted.com/talks/adora_svitek?language=en



ADEIL 2015, Annual Conference of the Association for Distance Education and Independent Learning



Experiential learning: Overcoming barriers and elevating the online learning experience

This week, Ms. Cynthia Johnson, our instructional design coordinator, will be presenting a conference session in the 2015 Annual Conference of the Association for Distance Education and Independent Learning that will take place this year in the University of South Carolina.

In this presentation, Cynthia will discuss how to implement summative assessments for experiential learning experiences in the online environment, and candidly present some of the challenges students and instructors face with the learning process. We wish you the best of luck with your presentation!

Charleston, South Carolina on October 20-22, 2015



Tech Tips: Videos for Teaching & Learning at UNT Dallas Showcase

Videos have incredible potential to engage students in teaching and learning. Join us in this session where Daisy and Leslie, our Digital Media specialists, will showcase the different types of videos DLIT can assist you with. Faculty will get the opportunity to see all the different options and techniques available for them to incorporate video to their courses, whether it's for the use in the traditional classroom, hybrid, or online. This is an excellent opportunity to see how video can create a social presence in an online classroom setting and

how faculty can engage their students.

Oct 20 (1:00-2:00 PM), Founders Hall, Rm 127

Click to [register](#) for this event!

Blackboard Open Lab

Whether you're just starting work on your spring course or putting on those finishing touches in your fall courses, visit our Blackboard Open Labs for advice, assistance, or simply a collegial place to work. We will have worksheets, information and ideas on constructing assignments. Staff from the Office of DLIT will be available to discuss online/hybrid/traditional course design and help with Blackboard or other instructional technology. Please note, there is no formal program and there's no need to make an appointment. This is a drop-in-whenever-you-can event.
Oct 21 (2:30 PM – 5:00 PM), Dal1 Rm 336
Click to [register](#) for this event!



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[5 Tools To Help You Create Innovative eLearning That Keeps Learners Engaged](#)

Are you looking for ways to create innovative eLearning? In this article, I will take you through five tools that can help you create innovative eLearning that engages and delights your learners.



[Is Bite Sized Learning The Future Of eLearning?](#)

Rapid proliferation of mobile devices, shrinking training budgets, and time constraints have changed the way eLearning is designed, developed, and delivered. Traditional methods have given way to the development of new bite sized learning modules. Is this going to be the future?

More



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|---------------|--|------------------|---|
| OCT 28 | Blackboard Open Lab
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336 | NOV 05 | Using Technology to Foster Collaboration in Education: How New Thinking is Shaping How we Teach the Next Generation of Learners
12:00 PM—1:00 PM
Founders Hall, Rm 127 |
| OCT 29 | DLAC—Advisory Committee Meeting
10:00 AM—12:00 PM
Founders Hall, Rm 127 | NOV | USDLA: 2015 National Distance Learning Week
<i>More info to come.</i> |
| NOV 03 | Meetup 3 – Let's share something!
3:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Founders Hall, Rooftop Garden | NOV 09-13 | |
| NOV 04 | BITS #4 - Best Practices in Creating a Welcoming Course Environment
2:30 PM – 5:00 PM
Dal 1, Rm 336 | NOV 10 | UNTD Distance Learning Showcase
12:00 PM
TBA |



Contact Us!

The **Office of Distance Learning and Instructional Technologies** invites faculty and staff to join and participate in our development programs. These events provide an opportunity to network with faculty from other departments, learn new instructional strategies and tools, and become aware of best practices in online teaching and learning. Hope to see you there, and don't forget to register for our workshops and sessions! Please contact us with ideas and suggestions for future events:

Web: <http://www.untdallas.edu/dlit>

Phone: 972-338-5580

Email: UNTDDistance@unt.edu

To **unsubscribe**: If you would like to be removed from this list please [click here](#).

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