MAXIMIZING CANVAS AS A LEARNING TOOL

Tops tips from Betsy Evans, associate professor in the Department of Linguistics.

1 Maximize Canvas’ ability to integrate with multimedia and other technologies

Evans and her TAs use Canvas to manage homework assignments, peer reviews, discussion boards, testing and grading, as well as the online evaluation system. Evans also shifted homework assignments online, incorporating multiple choice, pull-down menus or open-ended questions. Online assignments can be automatically graded by Canvas.

2 Create and give online tests in Canvas, freeing up class time

This approach allows more effective use of class time for discussion while also providing more opportunity for instructors to evaluate how well test questions are working and make improvements.

3 Self-paced online practice benefits all students—especially English language learners

Evans switched to homework assignments that students have a week to complete, allowing them more flexibility to work at their own pace. For videos, students can pause and re-watch as many times as needed, helping to even the playing field for English language learners.

4 Instructors and TAs can collaborate on grading and lesson planning through Canvas

The flexibility of the Canvas platform allows TAs to develop lesson plans and try new quiz questions. Then Evans and her TAs can review data and evaluate how effective questions were for students. Multiple graders can even leave questions for each other and see the progress of others through Canvas.

Read more about how Betsy Evans uses technology in her classroom in Bringing the ‘real world’ of language to the classroom, part of the Innovators Among Us series at uw.edu/trends/innovators.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Find more tips and advice about integrating Canvas and technology in your classroom at:
> Center for Teaching & Learning:
  washington.edu/teaching

> IT Connect: itconnect.uw.edu/learn/tools/canvas/
  • Easily publish course materials
  • Simplify and speed course management tasks
  • Grade assignments in half the time with SpeedGrader
  • Communicate and collaborate with students