Strategies for successful teaching using NU Online Blackboard SP11

This is the first in a series of updates that promote successful teaching and learning using NU Online Blackboard. Through regular updates and through our comprehensive NU Online Instructor Resource Center, NU Online presents numerous strategies/approaches to help you and your students to get the most out of the latest features from NU Online Blackboard.

Here are three new features and three things to be aware of in NU Online Blackboard release 9.1.11.

Three New Features

Video Everywhere

Video Everywhere is an easy way to incorporate video into your course. Record video using a webcam from the new content editor or upload an existing video into your own private YouTube channel. Use Video Everywhere to personalize video feedback to students within many areas of your course, including the discussion board and the Grade Center.

Video Everywhere has numerous advantages for both you and your students. Both faculty and students can:

- Record a video on the fly using a webcam and have it seamlessly embedded in course materials, interactions, and feedback wherever the content editor appears.
- Reuse previously recorded videos within their personal YouTube account.
Ready to use Video Everywhere? Click the links to view an overview and guide: About Video Everywhere

How to record and share video using the Content Editor

**Post First Option for Discussion Forums**

Would you like to encourage critical thinking within your course discussions? Instructors can help foster originality and critical thinking skills in students by requiring students to post their thoughts before seeing posts from other students. When you enable the new Post First option in a discussion forum, students see a message asking them to create a post before they can read posts from other users. They are able to see questions posted by instructors in the forum description.

![Forum Settings](image)

Please note: If you want to use the Post First option, be sure to post your prompt in the forum, not in a thread. This will ensure that students can see the prompt you want them to respond to.

Ready to use this option? Click the link for a video showing how to enable the Post First setting.

**Inline Grading**

Inline grading offers an easy approach to grading online assignments. Instead of downloading assignments from Blackboard to grade, you can view, comment, and grade student assignments directly in the browser window. Now, when you view an assignment submission, the document is displayed on the Grade Assignment page with formatting and embedded images preserved. You can annotate student work, type feedback, and grade the assignment in one place, to save time while grading.
Review and comment directly in the document.

From the inline viewer toolbar you can zoom the contents of the document in or out, open the annotation tools menu to comment in the document, download the document and move from page to page.

Grade the submission from the inline grading sidebar, assignment details, grading rubric, and each attempt. You can type an overall grade for each attempt and provide feedback to your students without leaving the page.

Ready to use inline grading? Click the link for more information: Inline Grading for Assignments

Three Things to be Aware of

The improved content editor allows you to format text, attach files, embed multimedia, and insert equations, hyperlinks, and tables. The content editor appears throughout the system in areas such as learning modules, folders, items, announcements, and test questions. While working with faculty, we identified three areas to be aware of when using the content editor. Please pay attention to these tips regarding embedded video, copy/paste, and spell check.
Embedded Videos

Embedded videos may not be visible to students using the latest version of Firefox (version 23). Other browsers may be unaffected. For this reason, we recommend posting links to the videos embedded in your course directly below the embedded video itself.

More information about using embedded videos can be found here: http://www.screencast.com/t/otycVvVEy2M.

Figure 3

Copy/Paste

Some browsers have intermittent functionality when copying and pasting text into the Blackboard content editor. If you experience difficulty copying or pasting into the editor, try copying from an external source like Notepad, Text Edit, or Microsoft Word and then pasting into the content editor.

This table shows current browsers that allow copy/paste within the content editor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Buttons</th>
<th>Keyboard</th>
<th>Right-Click</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mac 10.6.8 (Snow Leopard)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Safari 5.1.9 (Copy from anywhere) Firefox 22 and Chrome 27 (Can't copy from the browser)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mac 10.8.4 (Mountain Lion)</td>
<td>Firefox 22+ and Chrome 27 (Can't copy from the browser)</td>
<td>Safari 6.0.5 (Copy from anywhere) Firefox 22 and Chrome 27 (Can't copy from the browser)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win 7 (64 bit)</td>
<td>IE9 (Copy from anywhere) Firefox 22+ (Can't copy from the browser)</td>
<td>IE9 (Copy from anywhere) Chrome 27 or Firefox 22 (Can't copy from the browser)</td>
<td>IE9 (Copy from anywhere)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Win 8 (64 bit)</td>
<td>IE10 (Copy from anywhere)</td>
<td>IE10 and Chrome 28 (Copy from anywhere) Firefox 23 and (Can't copy from the browser)</td>
<td>IE10 (Copy from anywhere)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1
We are working with Blackboard to resolve this issue and will send a notice when
the issue is resolved.

**Spell Check**

Spell check is fully integrated into the new content editor. However, you must
toggle it on and off. Click the spell checker icon (spell checker icon) to turn the automatic spell
check function on or off.

![Figure 4](image)

Click the down arrow to select a different language's dictionary. You will see wavy,
red underlining for words detected as potentially misspelled or not found in the
loaded dictionary. If you resume typing text, the spell checker function switches off.

Right-click (Windows) or Control-click (Mac) an underlined word to view a menu,
allowing you to:

- See a list of suggested corrections.
- Ignore the single instance.
- Ignore all occurrences of the indicated word.

![Figure 5](image)
More information about spell check can be found here:
https://help.blackboard.com/en-
us/Learn/9.1_SP_10_and_SP_11/Student/040_Tools/Content_Editor#Using_the_Spe-
ll_Checker.

If you have any comments, feedback, or suggestions for features to showcase, email
nuonlineid@neu.edu or contact your instructional designer.