

GO INTERACTIVE!
WITH YOUR SYLLABUS

Angela Lanier, Ed.D.
Instructional Designer



OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the session, you will be able to:

- ❖ evaluate your syllabus for interactivity
- ❖ identify benefits and challenges of using different interactive elements
- ❖ integrate at least one interactive element into your syllabus

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY INTERACTIVE?



“...a learner-manipulated environment in which concepts are presented in different ways and at different times, resulting in multiple and adaptive interpretations necessary for knowledge acquisition.”

~Sylvie Richards (2003)

SOME INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS



- ❖ Color (or shades of a color)
- ❖ Themes
- ❖ Chunked information
- ❖ Complementary visuals
- ❖ Graphic representation of text or numbers
- ❖ Narrative or conversational tone
- ❖ Hyperlinks, [QR codes](#))
- ❖ Table of contents

INTERACTIVE SYLLABUS AS A PEDAGOGICAL SHIFT



“...the interactive syllabus is more about rethinking the design and delivery of student assignments than about fulfilling all of the traditional syllabus functions...understanding the interactive syllabus as a new type of assignment schedule is essential to the tool's effectiveness...”

~Scott Windham (2008)

MORE INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS



- ❖ Teaser/promotion for upcoming topic or assignment
- ❖ Resources (glossary, map) to which students can refer to complete tasks
- ❖ Learning guides to support students through assignments
- ❖ Space or tools for notes, reflection, self-assessment, tracking progress

WHY GO INTERACTIVE?



- ❖ Engage Audience of Learners in the Discipline
- ❖ Promote Student Ownership of the Learning
- ❖ Make Resources Accessible for Independent Learning



GALLERY WALK

Explore the samples around the room and take notes on what you notice, like or have questions about.

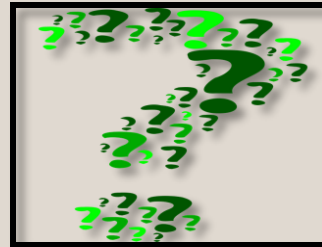
GALLERY WALK DEBRIEF



What did you notice?



What did you like?



What do you wonder?

A WORD ON ACCESSIBILITY



- ❖ Color choices appropriate for color-blindness
- ❖ Placement and order of objects for screen reader
- ❖ Labels, alt tags, or text descriptions for visuals
- ❖ Captions for hearing impaired

Contact [Disability Support Services](#) for specific questions: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/secondary5.aspx?urlid=52>

**USE YOUR HANDOUT TO DRAFT A PAGE OF YOUR
SYLLABUS USING AT LEAST ONE INTERACTIVE
ELEMENT**

TOOLS & RESOURCES



Some tools used to create interactive syllabus:

- ❖ Learn how to make an infographic syllabus using piktochart.com:
<https://piktochart.com/blog/create-infographic-syllabus-piktochart/>
- ❖ Microsoft Office Programs (PPT or Word)
- ❖ See this example using [Blackboard](#)
- ❖ See this example of a history syllabus made in [Weebly.com](#)
- ❖ See this article for 5 free cartoon creation programs:
<https://elearningindustry.com/the-5-best-free-cartoon-making-tools-for-teachers>

Online Syllabus Samples from Gallery Walk:

- ❖ Hangen, Tona. Worchester State University, US History II Syllabus, <http://www.tonahangen.com/courses/syllabi/>
- ❖ Mason, Madara. University of Alaska Fairbanks, <https://northernlit.community.uaf.edu/files/2011/05/350-Fall-13-Syllabus1.pdf>

Articles used to inform this presentation:

- ❖ Richards, Sylvie L. F. "The Interactive Syllabus: A Resource-Based, Constructivist Approach to Learning." Educause 2001.
<https://net.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/EDU01108.pdf>
- ❖ Windham, Scott. 2008, The interactive Syllabus: Modifications and New Insights. Innovate: Journal of Online Education.
<http://nsuworks.nova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1042&context=innovate>

Multi Media resources:

- ❖ DeMeo, Rachele. Creating an Interactive Syllabus.
<http://www.slideshare.net/rdemeo/creating-an-interactive-syllabus>
- ❖ Online interactive syllabus
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yp6t8O2eLBM>
- ❖ QR code generators: <https://www.the-qr-code-generator.com/>, <http://www.qr-code-generator.com/>
- ❖ Windham, Scott. Using an interactive syllabus to improve teaching and learning.
<http://slideplayer.com/slide/5739150/>