

umTECH NEWSLETTER

ITS SERVICE DESK
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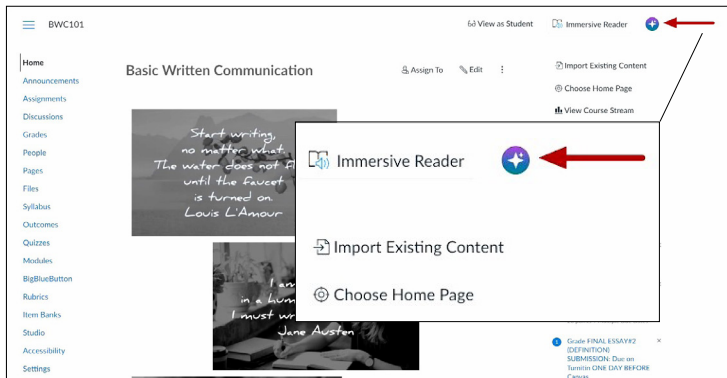


MARCH 2026 REVIEW



IGNITE AGENT RELOCATION

The Ignite agent in Canvas, previously located in the bottom right corner and often obstructing the view, has now been moved to a top icon for teachers, improving usability when editing course content. This update keeps the Agent accessible without blocking teacher workflows, supporting seamless classroom use.



SURVEY VISIBILITY AND EXPORT

The new survey visibility features allow instructors to see anonymous responses as 'student one, student two,' and the ability to export survey responses as CSV files, which include respondent names for non-anonymous surveys and anonymize data for anonymous surveys.

In New Quizzes Survey Reports, instructors can click the response count to view a list of students who selected a specific answer. For anonymous surveys, student identities are masked as Student 1, Student 2, and so on to ensure privacy.

This update enhances visibility into student engagement and feedback patterns, improving clarity when reviewing survey results and supporting fair assessment practices. In the Reports tab, instructors can click the response link to view individual student responses. In anonymous surveys, participant names display as Student followed by a number.

EXPORT SURVEY RESPONSES

Instructors can export survey responses to a CSV file. Graded surveys in Canvas can be made anonymous, enabling faculty to issue points while maintaining student privacy, and demonstrated where to find this option in the survey setup.

Included Data:

The file includes respondent name for non-anonymous surveys, submission timestamp, question text, and all answers for every question type.

Anonymity Handling:

For anonymous surveys, student name and ID are excluded or marked as Anonymous to protect privacy. This update makes it easier for instructors to analyze survey results, maintain records, and securely share information while respecting student anonymity. To download a CSV file of a survey's results, click the Generate CSV link [1], then click the Export button [2].

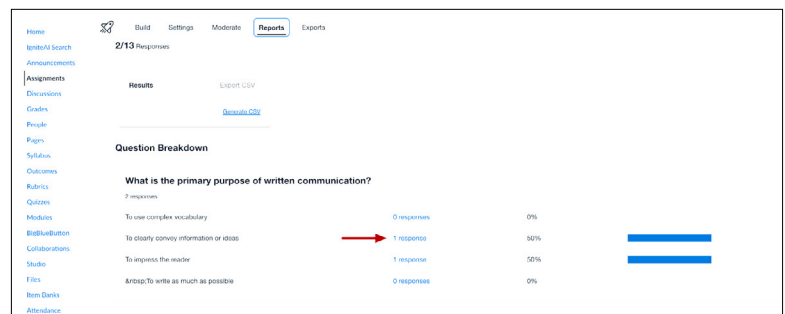


Figure 1: Downloadable link generated

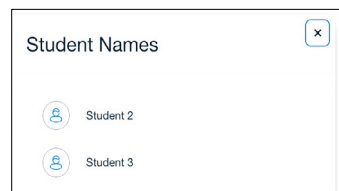


Figure 2: Export button

NEW QUIZZES - NATIVE CANVAS INTEGRATION PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT AVAILABILITY (ALL USERS)

Most updates discussed pertain to reporting features in new quizzes, including anonymous survey response visibility and CSV export, which were released at the beginning of the year and are now fully available. The New Quizzes experience is moved out of its isolation layer (iframe) to run natively within the main Canvas page in production environments.

New Quizzes remains a secure external LTI tool. The change only affects the presentation in the browser (iframe removed). There are no other interface changes. LTI protocol continues to handle secure communication, grade pass back, and authentication. Existing LTI limitations still apply.

This architectural change improves accessibility, enhances compatibility with assistive technologies, and lays the foundation for additional feature support in New Quizzes.

DESIGNING A CLEAR AND EFFECTIVE COURSE SYLLABUS

A syllabus is more than a set of rules—it is one of the most important teaching tools in a course. A clear, well-organized syllabus helps students understand expectations, manage their time, and engage more confidently with course material. When information is easy to find and written plainly, students spend less time guessing and more time learning.

Effective syllabi begin with clear learning outcomes, are organized for quick scanning, and make expectations explicit around participation, assignments, and communication. Using a supportive, human tone and revising the syllabus each semester based on student questions can further strengthen its impact. A thoughtfully designed syllabus sets the tone for the course and supports student success from the first day.

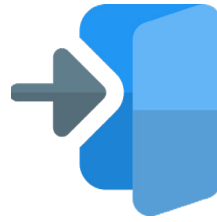
Syllabus Design Checklist for Faculty

Before sharing your syllabus, check that:

- Learning outcomes, assignments, and grading criteria are clear and aligned
- The syllabus is easy to scan with clear headings and concise sections
- Expectations for participation, workload, and communication are explicit
- Tone is professional, supportive, and includes references to student support resources

CREATING ACCESSIBLE WORD AND PDF DOCUMENTS

Accessibility helps everyone read, navigate, and use your content. This quick guide covers the essentials for formatting an accessible Word document and exporting a tagged PDF that works well with screen readers.



Text and Formatting:

Use 12-pt+ Sans Serif text, high contrast, and avoid excessive italics, underlining, or ALL CAPS.

Structure and Headings:

Use built-in Heading styles and lists; use simple data tables with a header row.

Images and Alt Text:

Add clear alt text to meaningful images; mark decorative images as decorative.

Hyperlinks:

Use descriptive link text (not “click here” or a raw URL).

Accessibility Checker in Word:

Review → Check Accessibility.

Converting Word to an Accessible PDF (Correct Method):

File → Save As → PDF → Options: check “Document structure tags for accessibility.”

Converting Word to an Accessible PDF (Avoid): Don't Print to PDF (Ctrl+P).

Checking Accessibility in Adobe Acrobat:

Acrobat Pro: Tools → Accessibility → Full Check.

Reminders:

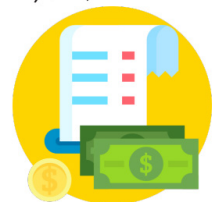
Make it accessible in Word, then export tagged PDF and re-check.

SOFTWARE RENEWALS

The following software contracts renewed in March 2026:

OpenLM, ENT, \$4,000

Digication, SPH, \$2,800



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