

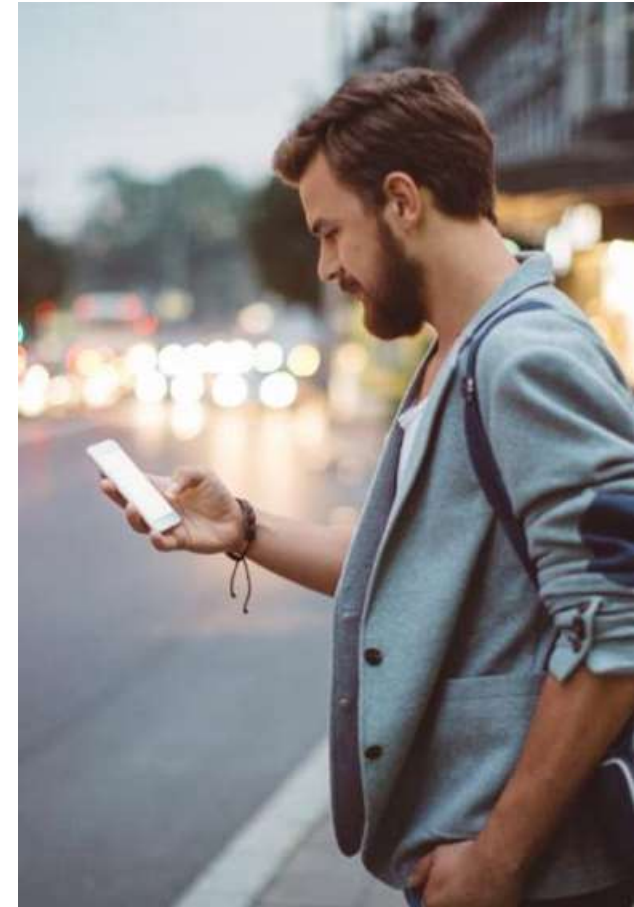
Creating Engaging Course Introductions and Overviews with Multimedia

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Quality Matters
Quality in Action
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Session Objectives

1. Identify relevant course components to include in an overview video.
 2. Discover multimedia tools to create useful course “tours” and overviews.
 3. Create engaging videos for “tour” using Screencast-O-Matic or VoiceThread.
-





General Standard 1 – Course Overview and Introduction: The overall design of the course is made clear to the learner at the beginning of the course.



Overview Statement: The course overview and introduction set the tone for the course, let learners know what to expect, and provide other guidance to help learners succeed from the outset.

QM Higher Education Rubric, Sixth Edition, 2018

Specific Review Standard 1.1 Instructions make clear how to get started and where to find various course components.

Information posted at the beginning of the course provides a general course overview, presents the schedule of activities, guides the learner to explore the course site, and indicates what to do first, in addition to listing detailed navigational instructions for the whole course.

Examples of guidance to help learners get acquainted with the course:

1. Clear statements about how to get started in the course
2. A course “tour”
3. A “scavenger hunt” or “syllabus quiz” assignment that leads learners through an exploration of the different parts of the course.
4. An illustration, table, diagram, visual representation, or mind map that depicts the online and face-to-face portions of a blended course.

QM Higher Education Rubric, Sixth Edition, 2018

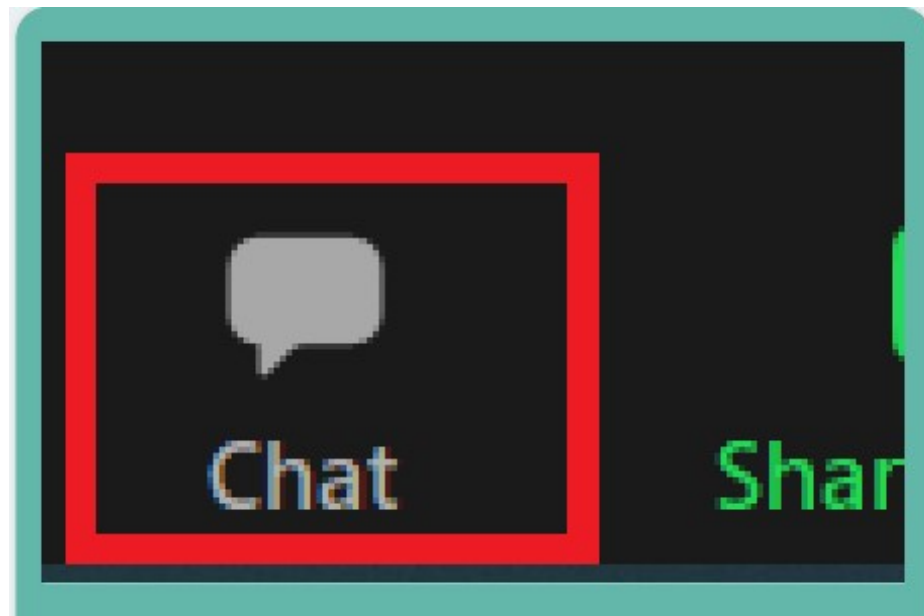


Course Tours



“Course tour videos, usually no longer than five minutes, can lead students to improved success in the online environment.” [Shemberger, M. \(2023\)](#)

In the Chat



What do you currently use to provide an online course overview (directions/instructions or video)?



VoiceThread



VoiceThread

- "Replace text-only discussions, interactive lectures, supports UDL principles, no-schedule office hours, and professional development". <https://voicethread.com/>
- "Five free VoiceThreads, 50 slides per VoiceThread, and 25 MB file size limitations."

Discussions - Analytics - Comment Types



VoiceThread Research

"VoiceThread was able to encourage active learning and learner engagement. The tool also proved to be an effective learning tool which also met QM Higher Education Rubric General Standards and Specific Review Standards (QM, 2014), creating a supportive environment and encouraging more active learning" (Dalat-Ward et al., 2019, p. 35).

VoiceThread Example

The screenshot displays a VoiceThread interface for a course titled "Dr. Russell Cox's Sandbox Course" at NCCentral University. The interface includes a sidebar menu on the left with the following items: Home, Announcements, Modules (highlighted with a red box), Collaborations, Attendance, Chat, New Analytics, Cisco Webex, Item Banks, Office 365, Google Drive, LockDown Browser, Studio, Harmonize, Grades, Zoom, BigBlueButton, and Discussions. The main content area features a "Welcome!" message and a video player showing a circular portrait of a woman. Below the video player, there are tabs for "Details", "Comments", "Insights", and "Captions" (highlighted with a red box). The top right corner of the interface has an "Edit" button and a menu icon. The bottom of the screen shows a video player control bar with a play button, a volume icon, a settings icon, and a share icon. The video progress bar is at 0:07 / 0:09, and the playback speed is set to 1x.

VoiceThread Comment

The image displays a screenshot of a VoiceThread interface. On the left, a comment box titled "Dr. Charlotte Russell Cox" contains the text: "Welcome to my sandbox course. I am Dr. Charlotte Russell Cox. This course provides you with an overview of how to use Canvas." The comment box includes a small profile picture of Dr. Cox and a toolbar with icons for editing, deleting, undo, redo, and text formatting. On the right, a video player shows a circular portrait of Dr. Cox with the text "Welcome!" above it. The video player has a progress bar at 0:00 / 0:32 and a control bar with icons for play, volume, settings, and share. A mobile control bar is overlaid at the bottom, featuring icons for call, microphone, video, and a plus sign, with red boxes highlighting the video and plus icons.

VoiceThread Canvas Example

Link Resource from External Tool



Assignment Builder



Open in full-size tab

Participation requirements

Number of comments students must record on their own VoiceThread

1 Minimum

Number of slides required

5 Minimum

Back

Continue

VoiceThread Canvas Example

Canvas LMS interface showing a VoiceThread activity. The 'Create' button is highlighted in red. The activity details show 'Due No Due Date', 'Points 100', and 'Submitting an external tool'. The main content area displays a 'Sandbox Course Overview' for NCCentral University and a 'EDUC 602-Discussion Board Exa...'. At the bottom, a purple banner indicates 'You are currently logged into Student View' and provides 'Reset Student' and 'Leave Student View' buttons, both highlighted in red.

Course Tour Best Practices



- Overview
- Start With Scripting
- Explore Technology Options
- Decide Where the Video Tour Should Appear in the Course
- Use Learner Activities
- Consider Additional Points

ScreenShare-Free Version

Amazing conversations about media

People add comments whenever they want. There's no scheduling.



VoiceThread Help Tutorials

Support Categories

- [Web Application](#)
- [Mobile App](#)
- [Universal](#)
- [VT in your Learning Management System](#)
- [Managing a K-12 License](#)
- [Managing a Higher Education License](#)
- [Managing a Business License](#)
- [Billing and Purchases](#)
- [System Integration](#)
- [Troubleshooting](#)
- [Privacy and Security](#)



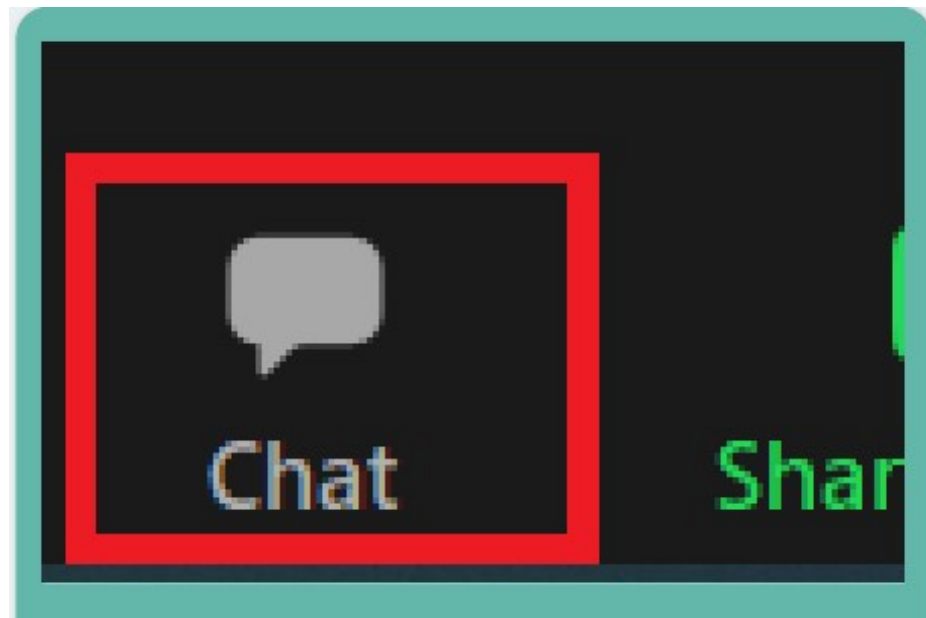
[VoiceThread Docs](#) / [Web Application](#)

Web Application

- [Customizing your VT Home page](#)
- [Managing your account](#)
- [Viewing](#)
- [Creating](#)
- [Editing](#)
- [Settings](#)
- [Commenting](#)
- [Doodling](#)
- [Identities](#)
- [Sharing](#)
- [Groups and Contacts](#)
- [Exports](#)
- [Activity Feed](#)
- [Notifications](#)
- [ThreadBox](#)
- [Browse](#)
- [Accessibility](#)

[Web Application – VoiceThread](#)

In the Chat



What benefits do you see creating a “course tour” using VoiceThread?



Screencast-O-Matic

Screencast-O-Matic/ScreenPal

Capture, create, share

Our screen capture tools help you easily create, edit and communicate with videos and images. Simple and intuitive tools to share your ideas.

[Record for free](#)

[Edit for free](#)

Windows, Mac / iOS, Android, and Chromebook | No account required



What's New



Tutorials

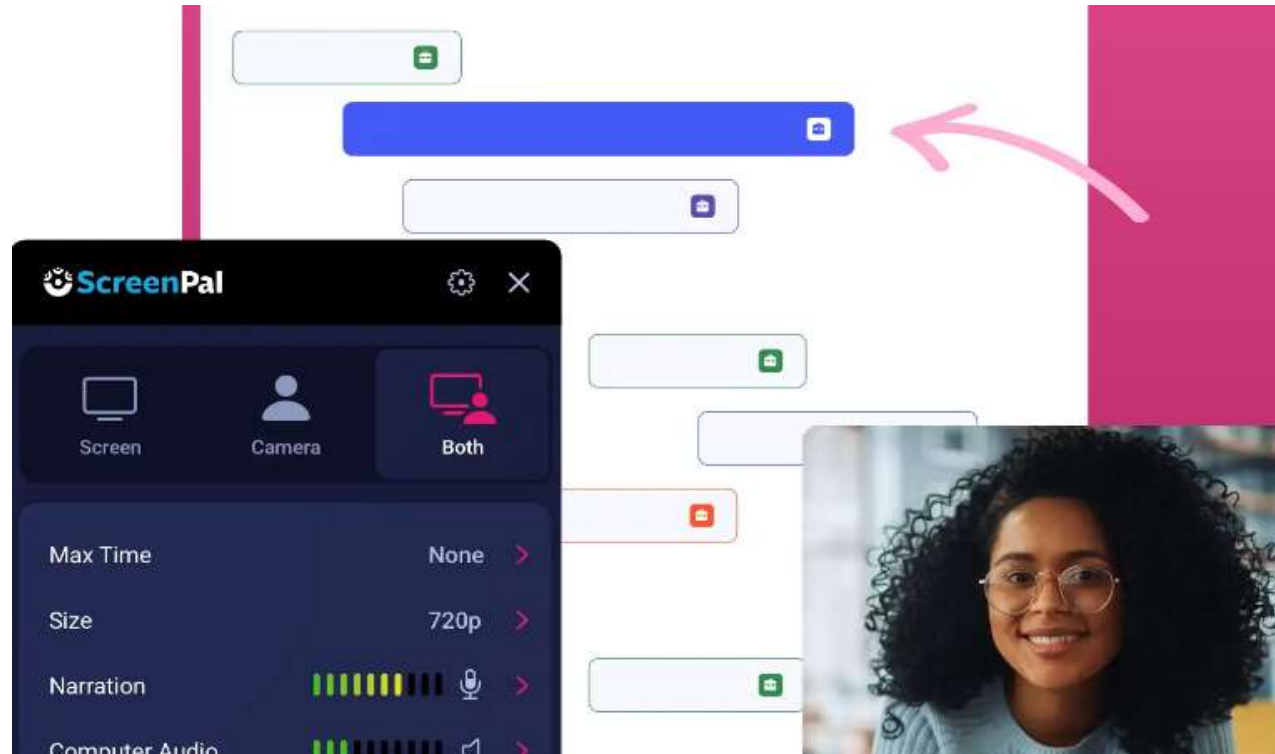


Blog

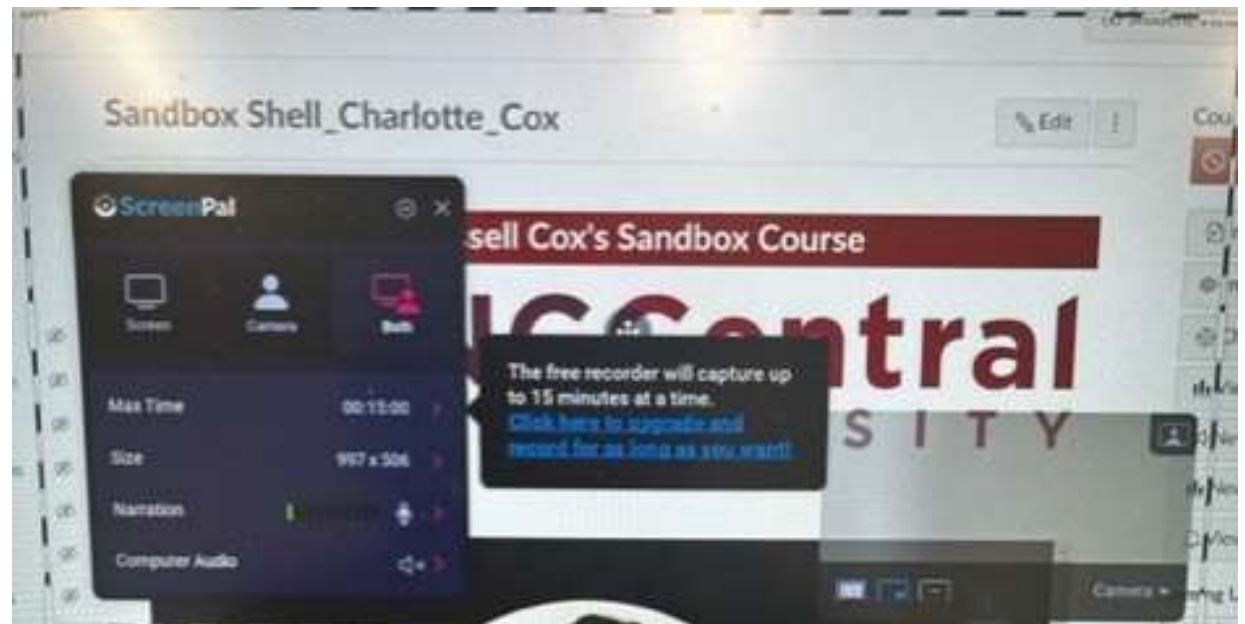


Support

ScreenCast-O-Matic-Free Version



Screencast-O-Matic Example



Fresh **new look!**

[Download ScreenPal](#)

[Launch Screencast-O-Matic](#)

Screencast-O-Matic Help Tutorials

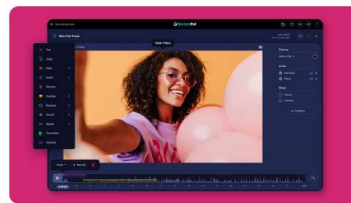


Some tutorials still reference Screencast-O-Matic – we will be updating them shortly.

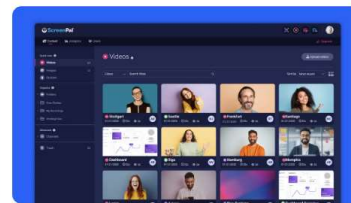
Get started for free



Screen Recorder



Video Editor



Content Hosting

[How To Tutorials | Screen Recorder, Video Editor & Screen Capture \(screenpal.com\)](https://screenpal.com)

Screencast-O-Matic Best Practices

- “The video tour was also used to indicate what kind of format a video lecture will take, introduce the main lecturer on the course, and offer a taster of what a student can expect to see when they click on a vodcast.”
- “The video is kept short at under 13 minutes long, as online lectures are usually less than 20 minutes long throughout the course and shorter videos have been found to be more engaging in a study by Guo et al (2014).”
- “A range of effects are possible with Screencast-o-Matic.”
- “Using a voiceover is encouraged when making video presentations as this has been found to stimulate interest more than videos without narration (Eastman & Swift, 2001).”

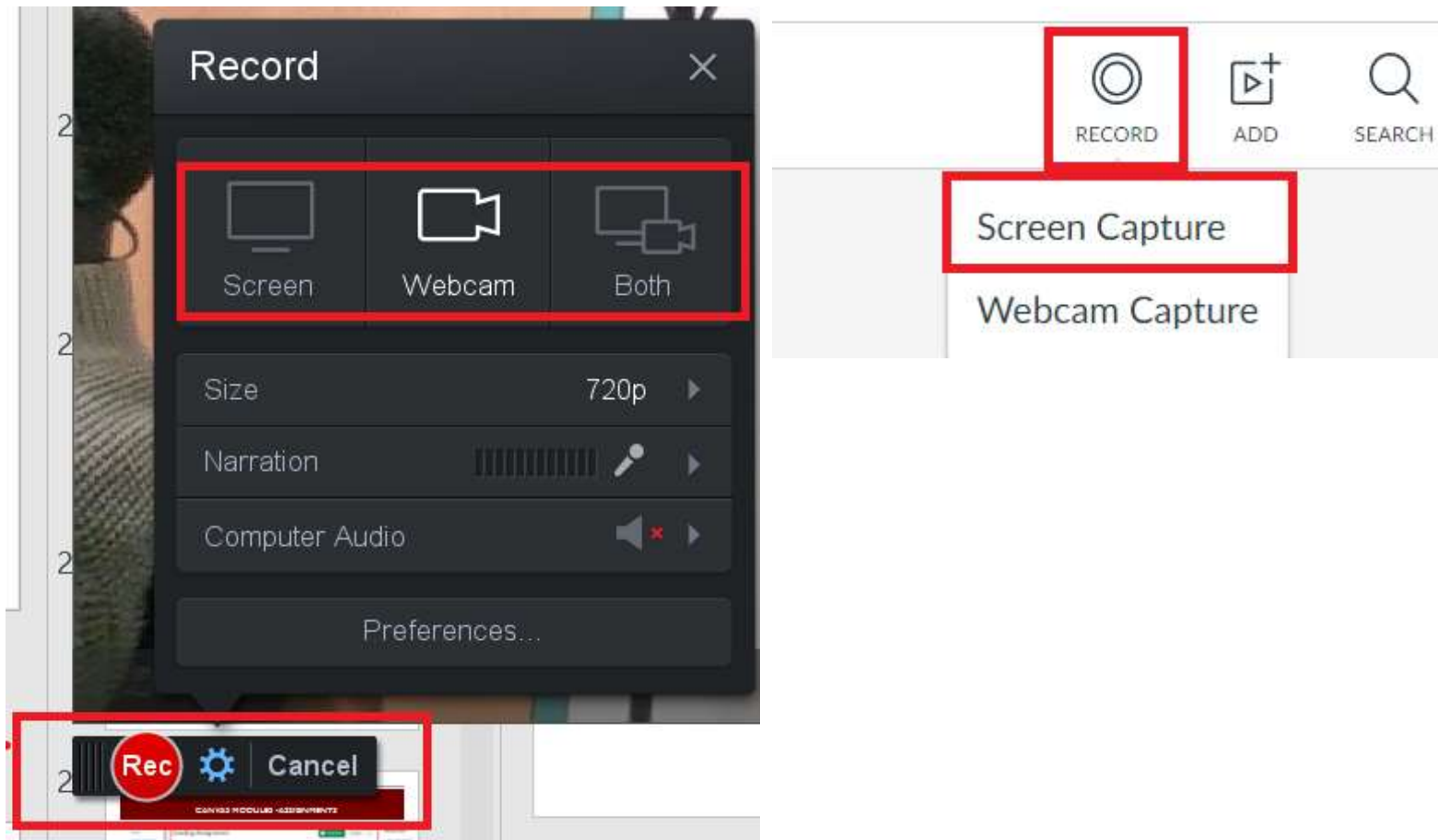
Fitton, T. (2018)

Screencast-O-Matic Example

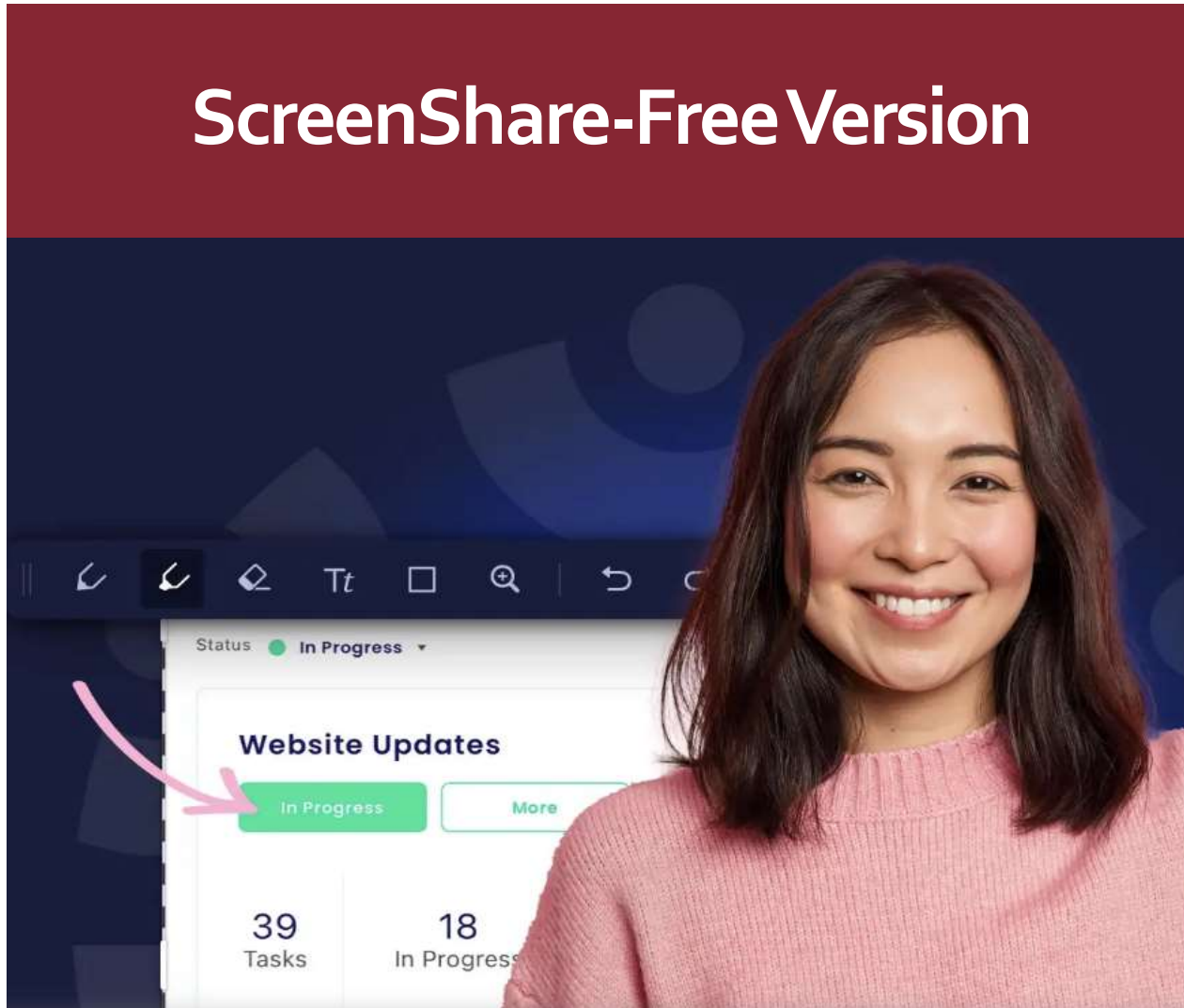
The screenshot shows a Canvas LMS course page for 'Sandbox Shell_Charlotte_Cox'. The page includes a navigation menu on the left with items like Home, Announcements, Modules, Studio, Grades, Discussions, BigBlueButton, Syllabus, Collaborations, Rubrics, People, Assignments, Quizzes, Files, Pages, and Outcomes. The main content area features a header for 'Dr. Russell Cox's Sandbox Course' and the NC Central University logo. A video player is visible at the bottom, showing a woman's face. A ScreenPal overlay is present on the right side, displaying a menu with options: Loop, Copy Video Link, Copy Video URL at Current Time, Copy Embed Code, Share, Download, and About ScreenPal. The course status is 'Unpublished' and 'Publish' is selected. The 'Coming Up' section shows 'Nothing for the next week'.

Course Tour Example

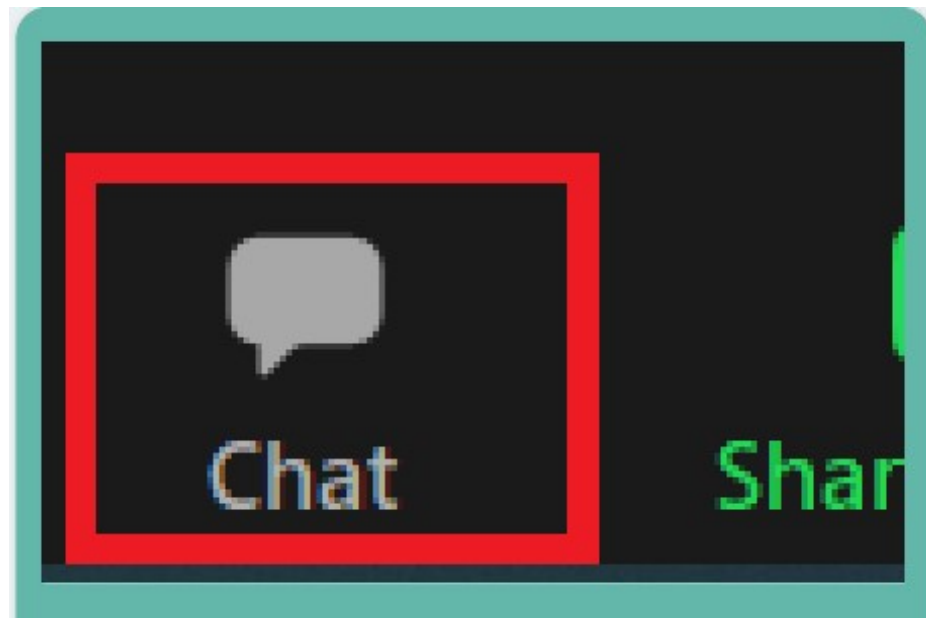
Screencast-O-Matic Canvas Example



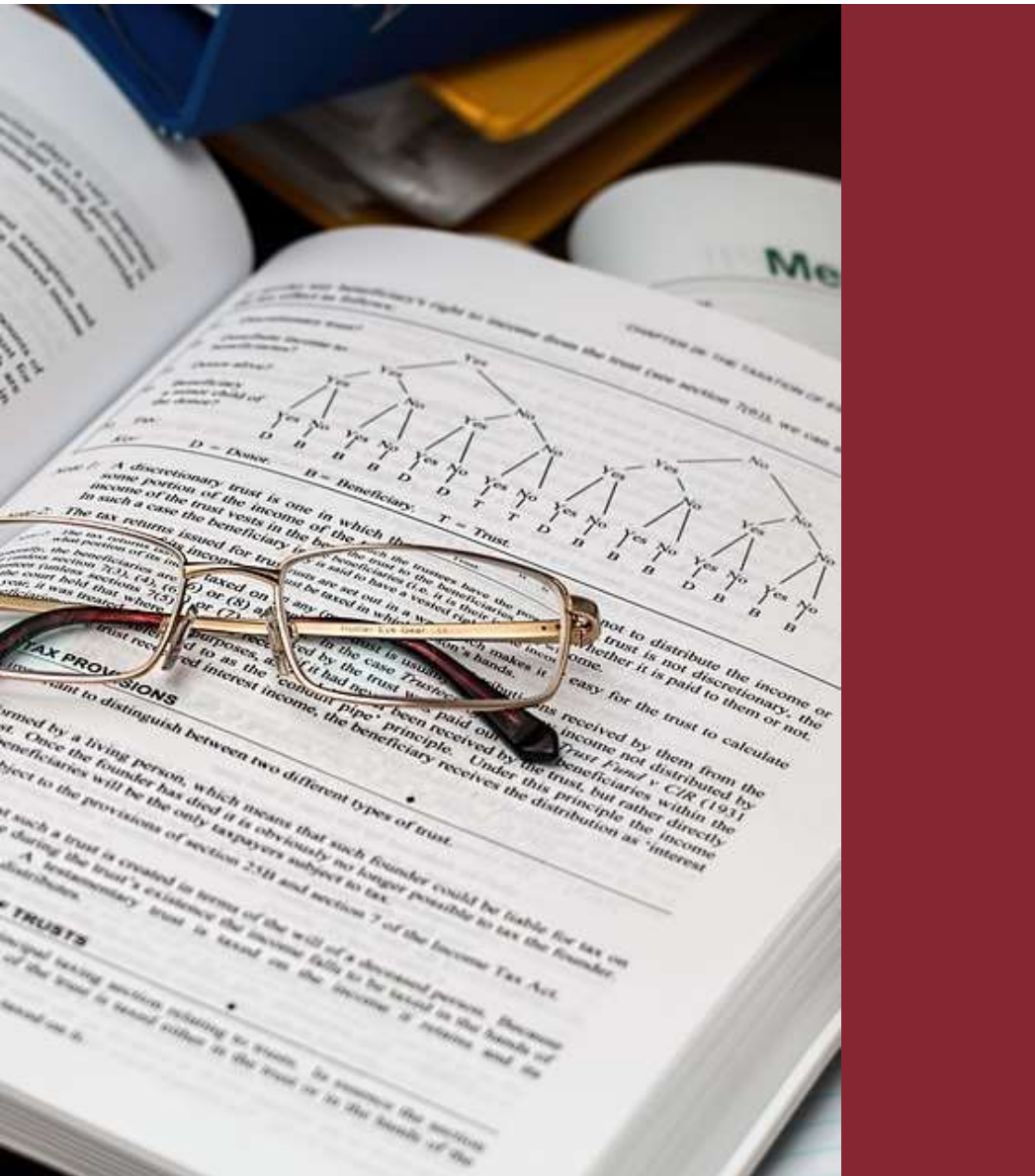
ScreenShare-Free Version



In the Chat



What benefits do you see creating a “course tour” using Screencast-O-Matic?



References

Dalat-Ward, Y., Ward, J., Lester, L. J. Y., & Tao, M. E. (2019). A Preliminary Study: The Use of VoiceThread in Online Business Courses. *Information Systems Education Journal*, 17(3), 29.

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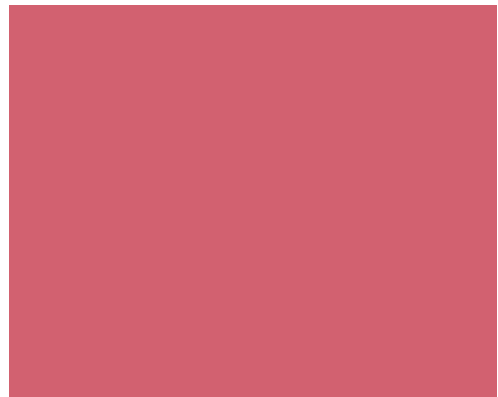
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Questions



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