

Ten Bright Ideas to Make your Brightspace Courses More Accessible to Students with Disabilities

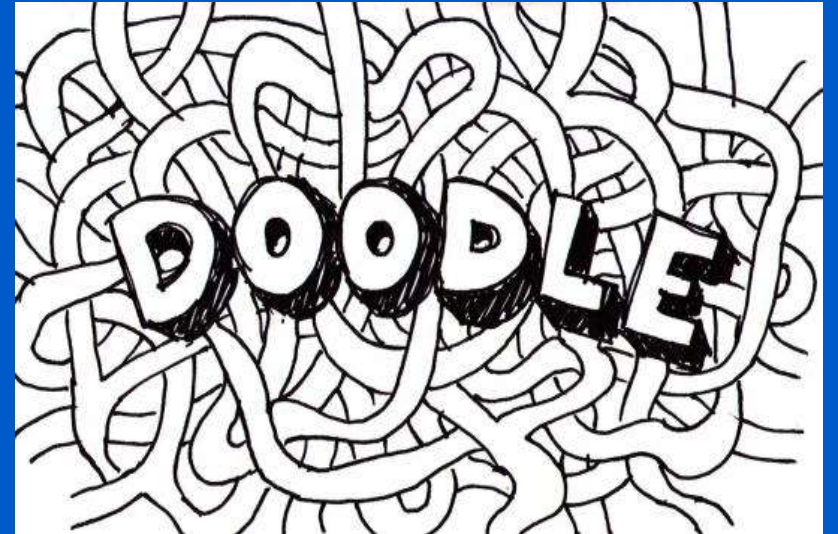
Barry Dahl, Sr. Community Manager

Source of the Ten Bright Ideas

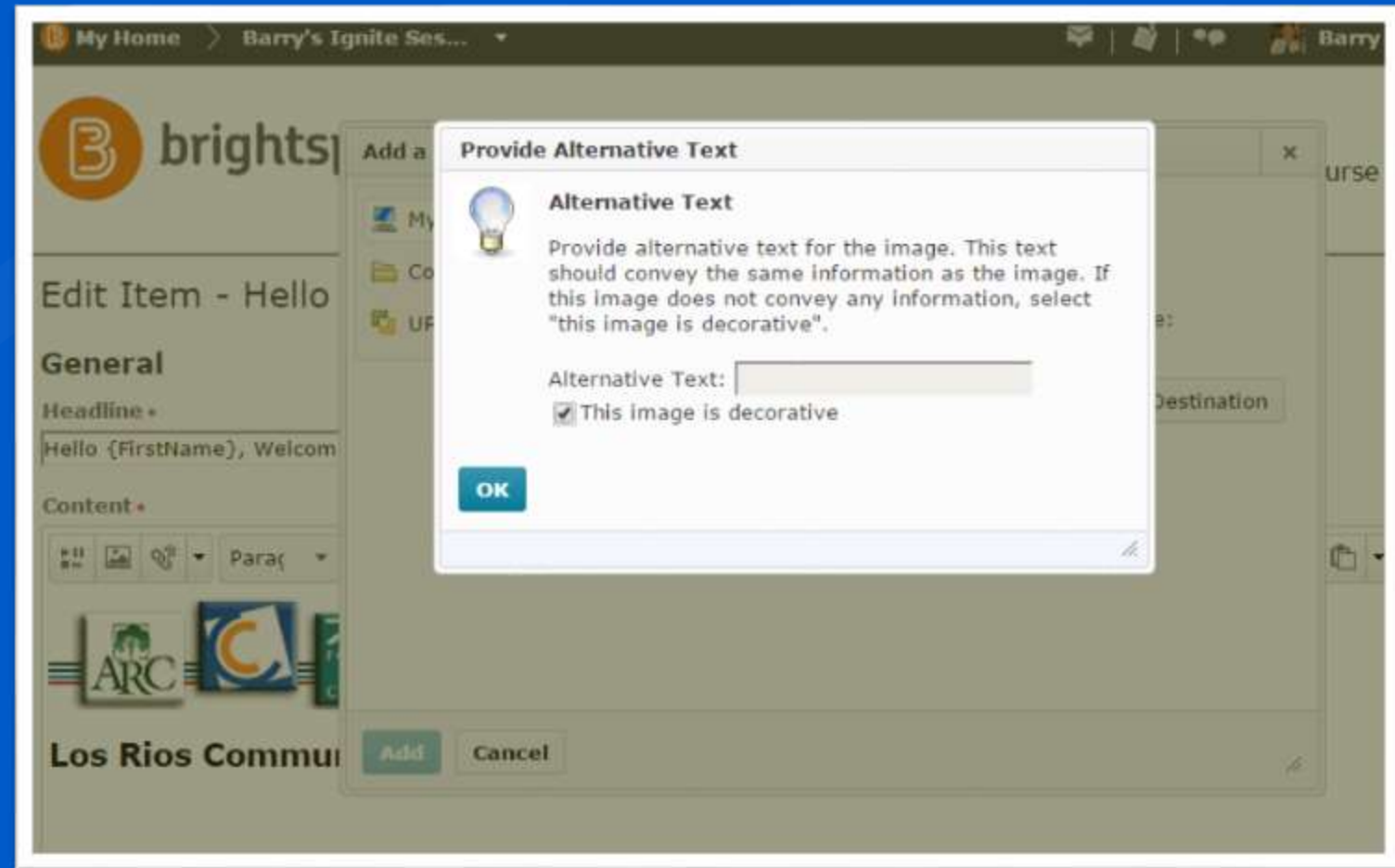


1. Use Null Alt Text for Decorative Images in HTML Pages.

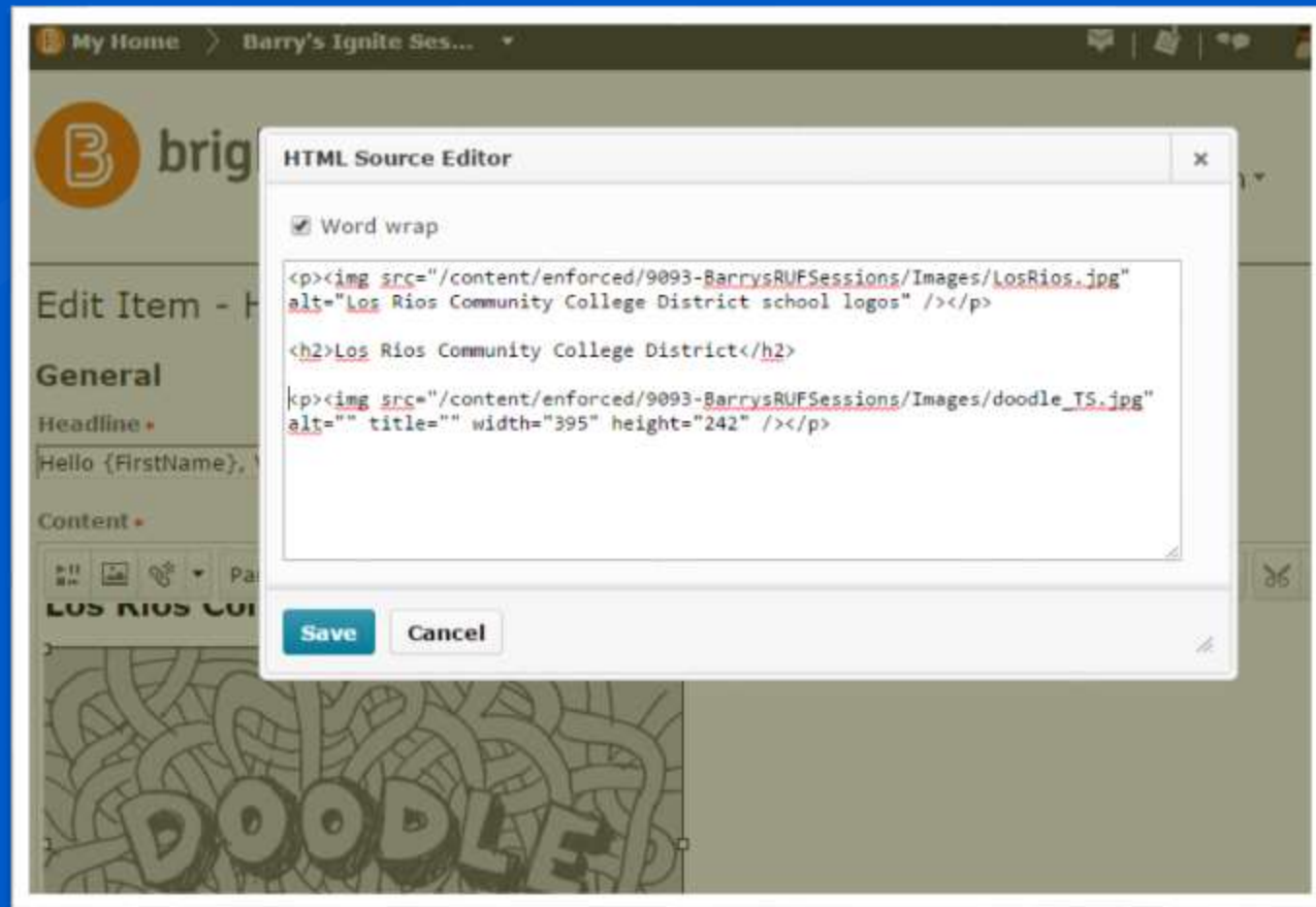
- Alt=""
- Example code:
``
- Assistive Technology will ignore an image with null alt text.
- Note: Having a null alt text attribute is not the same as having no alt text attribute.



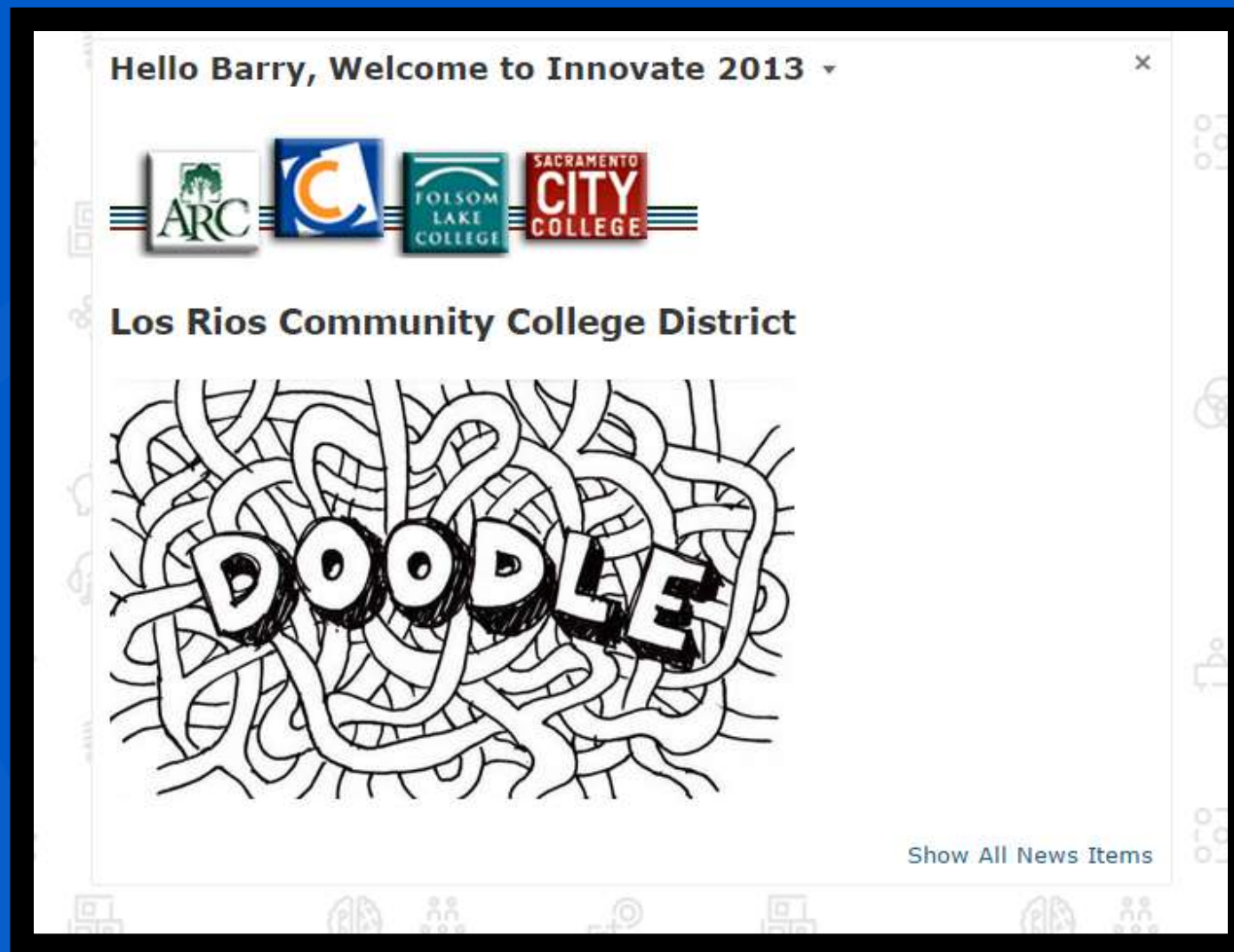
Inserting a decorative image - checkbox



Inserting a decorative image – code with null alt text



Inserting a decorative image in D2L News



2. Examine and Improve Alt Text for Simple Images

- Class: Intro to Business
- Alt text: "The Great Depression."
- Revised: "A long waiting line outside a building offering free coffee and donuts to unemployed people on a cold day during the Great Depression."



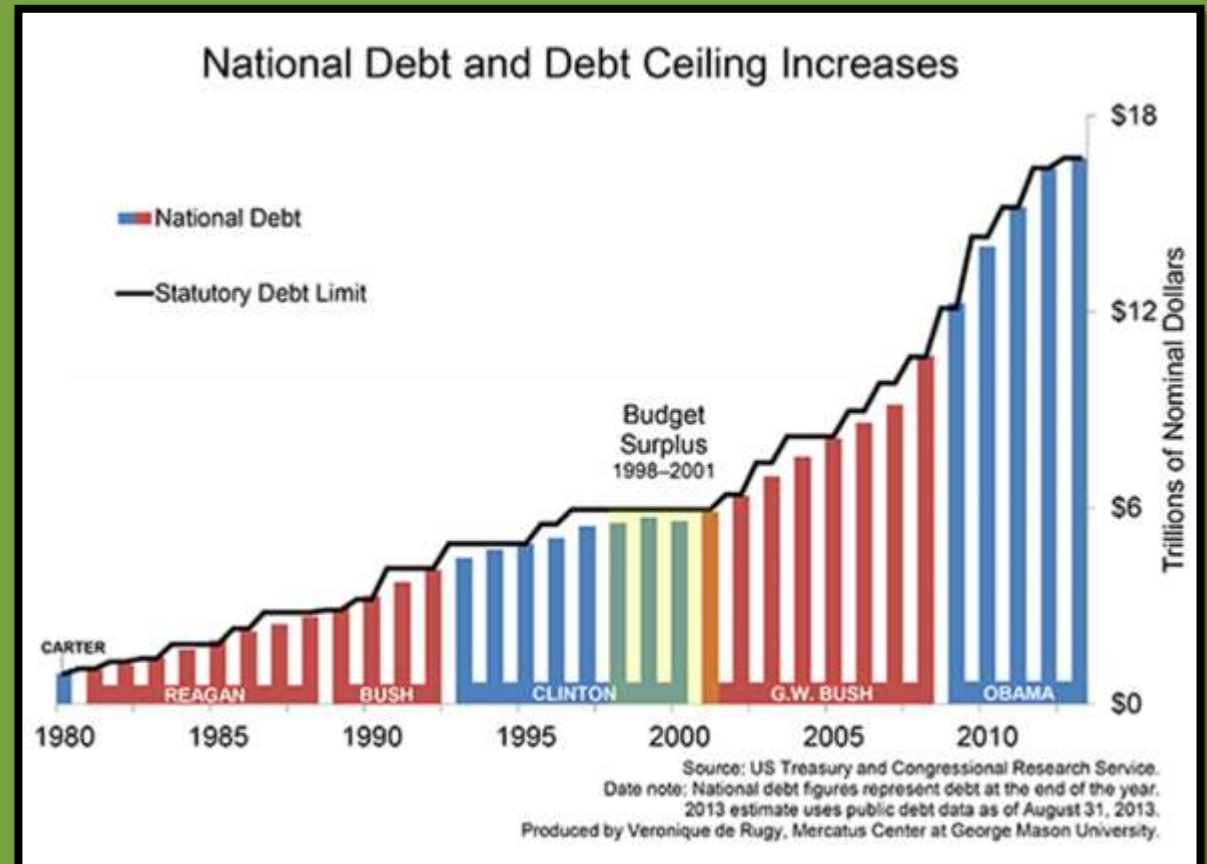
3. Complex Images May Require Complex Alt Text

- Have you ever used a word cloud in an online course, or an infographic, or a flowchart?



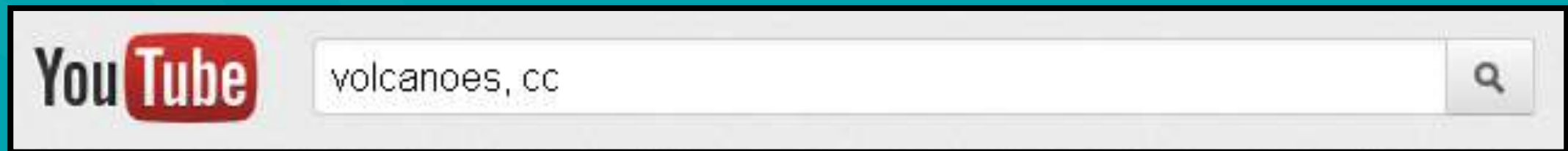
3. What would you do with this one?

- How do you describe this chart so the low/no vision student is not at a disadvantage?



4a. Searching for captioned videos on YouTube

- *Don't be fooled by YouTube's machine captions.* YouTube uses voice recognition software to automagically create a video transcript and captions for almost every video uploaded to YouTube.
- To find human transcribed captioned videos on YouTube:
 1. Enter your search term in the YouTube search field.
 2. Add a: , CC (that's a comma, CC)
 3. Hit Enter or click the magnifying glass icon.



4b. Searching for captioned videos on Google

Advanced Video Search over the entire Web.

1. Fill out the Advanced Video Search fields that you need.
2. Choose the **subtitles > closed captioned only**
3. Hit Enter or click the Advanced Search button.

4b. Google Search Screenshot

Find Results	with all of the words	<input type="text"/>
	with the exact phrase	<input type="text"/>
	with at least one of the words	volcanoes
	without the words	<input type="text"/>
Language	Return videos in	English ▼
Duration	Return videos within the duration	All durations ▼
Date	Return videos posted within the timeframe	Any time ▼
Quality	Return videos with the quality	Any quality ▼
Domain	<input type="text" value="Only"/> return videos from the site or domain	<input type="text"/>
		e.g. youtube.com
Subtitles	Search only closed captioned videos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sort results by		Relevance ▼
Results per page		20 ▼

5. Properly Use Lists in Content Pages

What is wrong with this list?

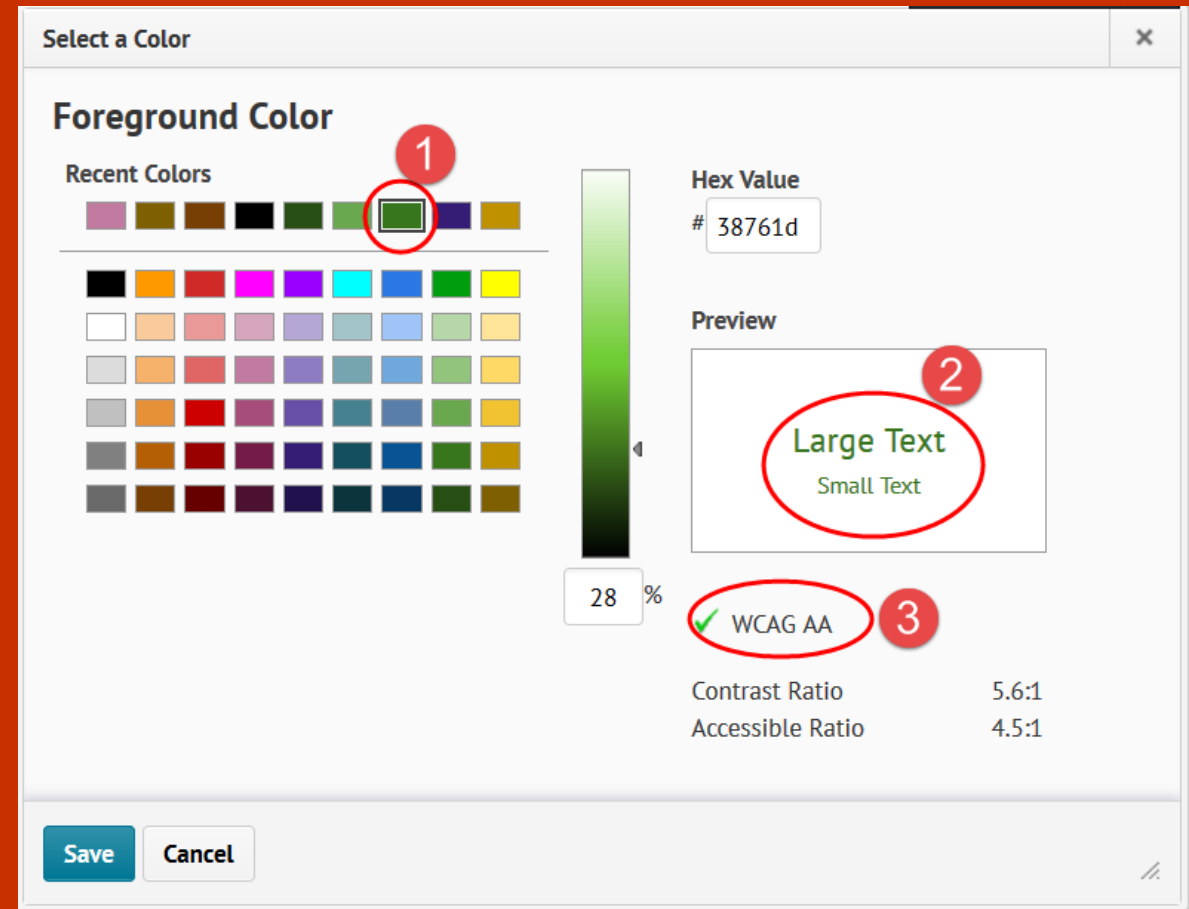
- Plug-in computer
- Push power button
- Open web browser
- Navigate to website

What is wrong with this list?

1. The sky today is grey
2. Koolaid tastes great
3. My hair is curly
4. You should know this


6. Use Brightspace to Check for Color Contrast

1. Go to a tool in D2L
2. Select text to analyze
3. Click Drop-down menu next to Color icon
4. Select a color
5. Look for the green checkmark for WCAG AA in the Select a Color window.



7. Use free, automated testing tools for HTML pages



- Consider installing the WAVE toolbar from WebAIM, for Firefox or Chrome.
- For a D2L Content page:
 1. Open the page in its own window by clicking on the Open in a new window icon. 
 2. Right-click on opened content page and choose “Errors, Features, and Alerts” on the Quick Menu.

8. Create text links instead of unreadable URLs

What does screen reading software say when it comes to this?

<http://brightspace.com/tlc>

What does screen reading software say when it comes to this?

[Teaching & Learning Community](#)

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15h9tFqmdsrYUSqEYata1Uir7EvjIRIQBoOS5StxXd0/edit#gid=0>

[Guest Authors Spreadsheet](#)

9. For Office Documents, use Built-in A11Y Checker

- Go to the **File** tab (Windows only)
- Select **Info** from the sidebar menu.
- Click on the **Check for Issues** button.
- Select **Check Accessibility** from the drop-down list.
- The accessibility checker only checks .docx and .pptx files



10. Consider the A11Y Features of External Tools

- Using external (usually web-based) tools is popular in education.
- Is the tool built to allow users with disabilities to create content?
- Is the output created by the tool web accessible?
- Do you have alternatives or work-arounds in place for students who cannot participate?

Two sites for a11y information on external tools

www.web2access.org.uk/product

centerononlinelearning.org/resources/vpat

Web²Access

ATbar

Home Activities Disabilities Tests Review FAQ's

Search: This Site Products Search

Results for Animoto

1 test for this product is not yet complete. This may cause inaccuracies in the summary.

Web 2.0 Service Test Average: 44% Reviewed 24 August 2009

Description

This tool analyses an uploaded set of images and creates a "professional" music video with a title and description. Very easy to create presentations with pictures that work with music in a fun way. Videos can be saved to DVD or uploaded and shared on a website as well as being exported to YouTube.

Accessibility Testing Results

Creating a video from 10 images is relatively easy but the editor is not keyboard accessible and there is much opening and closing of areas around the editor with very small text and poor contrast levels. However it does zoom well. The video player is not keyboard accessible in all browsers.

#	Test	Score	Summary
1	Login, Signup and Other Forms Accessible		The login form is missing one label that impacts on being able to join as a screen reader user but the text is clear and joining is easy.
2	Image ALT Attributes		Critical images on this site do not have text alternatives. This may cause screenreader users to have a different understanding of the content.
3	Link Target Definitions		This site features ambiguous links which cannot be identified or distinguished by a screenreader.

Center on Online Learning and Students with Disabilities

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Access for All Students

Purposeful Sampling of Technologies Employed in K-12 Online Education

The Center reviewed an array of software products and digital materials currently used to develop or distribute elementary and secondary instructional materials. The purpose of the review was to identify the extent to which product developers or publishers offered readily discernible and publicly available information about product accessibility. Using the Section 508 standards for physical and sensory access as a benchmark, the Center has color coded products green, yellow, or red.

- Green** - A Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) was available on the product's website.
- Yellow** - Product accessibility information was available but no VPAT information was listed.
- Red** - No product accessibility information was listed.

We contacted or attempted to contact a representative of each product reviewed in order to verify that the product's designation was accurate.

Submissions, Corrections, and Updates: We encourage organizations to contact us regarding their Section 508 compliance. Contact us by phone (781) 864-4423, email info@centerononlinelearning.org, or visit our www.vpat.org.

Read the Center's [white paper](#) which details the recent history of accessibility legislation and several examples of VPAT best practices.

Product & Vendor	VPAT	Notes	Category	Distribution	Updated	Responded
Adobe Acrobat XI Pro Adobe Systems Incorporated	VPAT link		PDF Converter	Commercial	6/27/2013	Y
Adobe Digital Editions Adobe Systems Incorporated	VPAT link		eBooks/Reader	Commercial	6/25/2013	Y
Adobe Reader XI Adobe Systems Incorporated	VPAT link		PDF Viewer	Commercial	6/27/2013	Y
ATutor ATutor	VPAT link		Content/Learning Management	Open-Source	6/25/2013	Y
Blackboard (E-Books) Blackboard, Inc.	VPAT link		Content/Learning Management	Commercial	6/25/2013	Y
Canvas LMS Instructure	VPAT link		Content/Learning Management	Open-Source	6/25/2013	Y
Canvas Learning Canvas Learning, Inc.	VPAT link		Variety		7/18/2013	Y
CourseQuest CourseQuest	VPAT link		Content/Learning Management	Commercial	6/25/2013	Y
Desire2Learn Desire2Learn	VPAT link		Content/Learning Management	Commercial	6/25/2013	Y

The End

