

Getting Started with VoiceThread

VoiceThread is web-based presentation software that allows users to create and share interactive multimedia slideshows. VoiceThread presentations are used to showcase audio, video, images, and documents while allowing users to comment on them in a variety of different ways. The result is an ongoing, asynchronous digital conversation that can be easily shared with individuals, groups, and/or embedded into different websites.

Logging in to VoiceThread:

- Go to <http://jhu.voicethread.com> and login with your JHED ID and password.
 - **NOTE: If you already have a VoiceThread account outside of JHU**, you will see a notification that you need to merge your old account into the new JHU account. Simply enter your email address to continue. You will then be directed to the VoiceThread home page, where you should see any VoiceThreads you previously created or subscribed to.

VoiceThread 'Landscape:'

MyVoice – stores links to VoiceThreads that user has created and any that are subscribed to

Create – create and edit VoiceThreads

Browse – contains links to publically available VoiceThreads

The screenshot shows the 'MyVoice' section of the VoiceThread website. The top navigation bar includes 'Browse', 'Create', and 'MyVoice'. The user's identity is shown as 'abrusini@jhu.edu'. The main content area displays four VoiceThread presentations: 'Emancipation Proclamation', '(untitled)', 'Illuminated Manuscripts', and 'Sample'. Each presentation has a 'menu' icon. On the left, there are filters for 'All (4)', 'Owned by me', 'Shared with me', 'I've subscribed to', and 'Tutorials'. Below these are 'ORGANIZATIONS' including 'Johns Hopkins University'. On the right, there is an RSS icon. Three callout boxes with arrows point to specific elements: 'User identity' points to the user's email address, 'Subscribe to comments using RSS' points to the RSS icon, and 'VoiceThread Presentations' points to the grid of presentation thumbnails.

User identity

Subscribe to comments using RSS

VoiceThread Presentations

Finished VoiceThread Presentation:

The screenshot shows a VoiceThread presentation interface. At the top, the title is "Access Innovation: Wheelchair Design in America ...". The main content area displays a slide from the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, Kenneth E. Behring Center. The slide is titled "Sponsors" and "Publications". Under "Sponsors", there are logos for the Wheelchair Foundation and US PARALYMPICS. Under "Publications", there are images of an exhibition catalogue and an on-line exhibition website. The slide also lists David E. Behring as an NMAH Board Alumnus and President of the Wheelchair Foundation, and USA ParaOlympic Team Sponsors including Visa, Coca-Cola, Nike, and United, etc. The interface includes a menu on the left with icons for a box, a car, and a person. On the right, there are three video thumbnails of participants. At the bottom, there are navigation controls: a left arrow, a play button, a "comment" button, and a right arrow. Red lines connect the menu icons to a box labeled "Comments left by viewers", the "comment" button to a box labeled "Add a comment", the play button to a box labeled "Play slideshow", the right arrow to a box labeled "Advance slide", and the video thumbnails to a box labeled "Comments left by viewers".

Comments left by viewers

Add a comment

Play slideshow

Advance slide

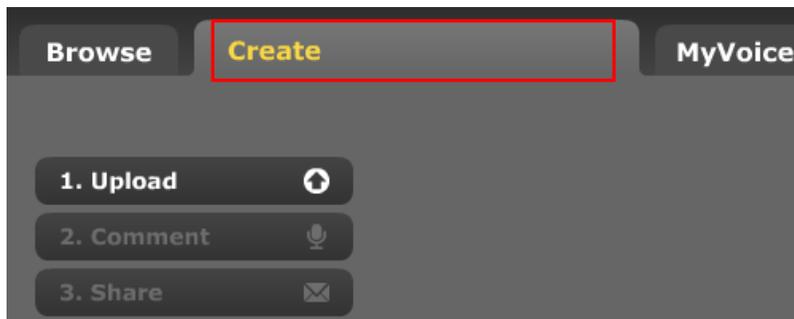
Comments left by viewers

Setting up your Microphone:

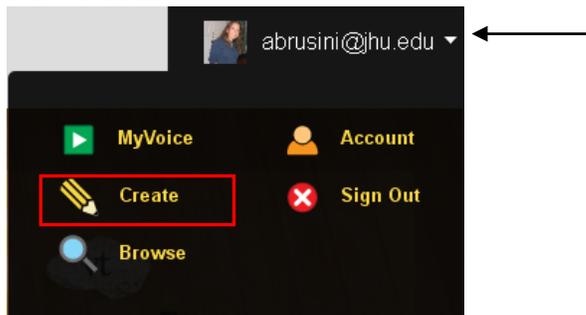
If you intend to use the audio record feature, you will need a working microphone. To do this, we highly suggest you use a USB headset microphone. If you have ever participated in a LiveTalk or Adobe Connect session, the same mic can be used. You can also use the microphone that is built in to your computer. Please see the following linked instructions to set up a microphone on your [Mac](#) or [PC](#).

Creating a VoiceThread

1. Gather the materials that you will be using in your presentation (presentation files, images, videos, etc.). **TIP:** While you can use a PowerPoint file as your presentation, we have found that saving the presentation as a .pdf file before uploading to VoiceThread often works better.
2. Login to VoiceThread and click the 'Create' tab.



Note: If you login to VoiceThread's main page and don't see any tabs, locate your identity in the upper right corner of the screen and click the dropdown next to it. Then click 'Create' to be taken to the Create tab.

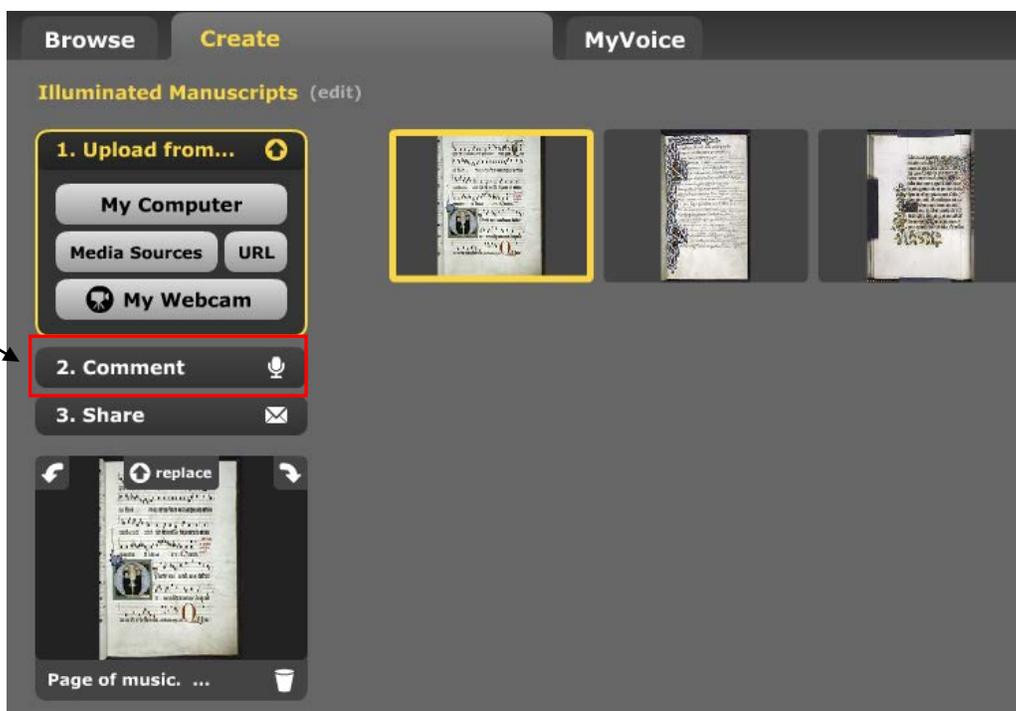


3. Click the Upload button to expand the options for uploading.

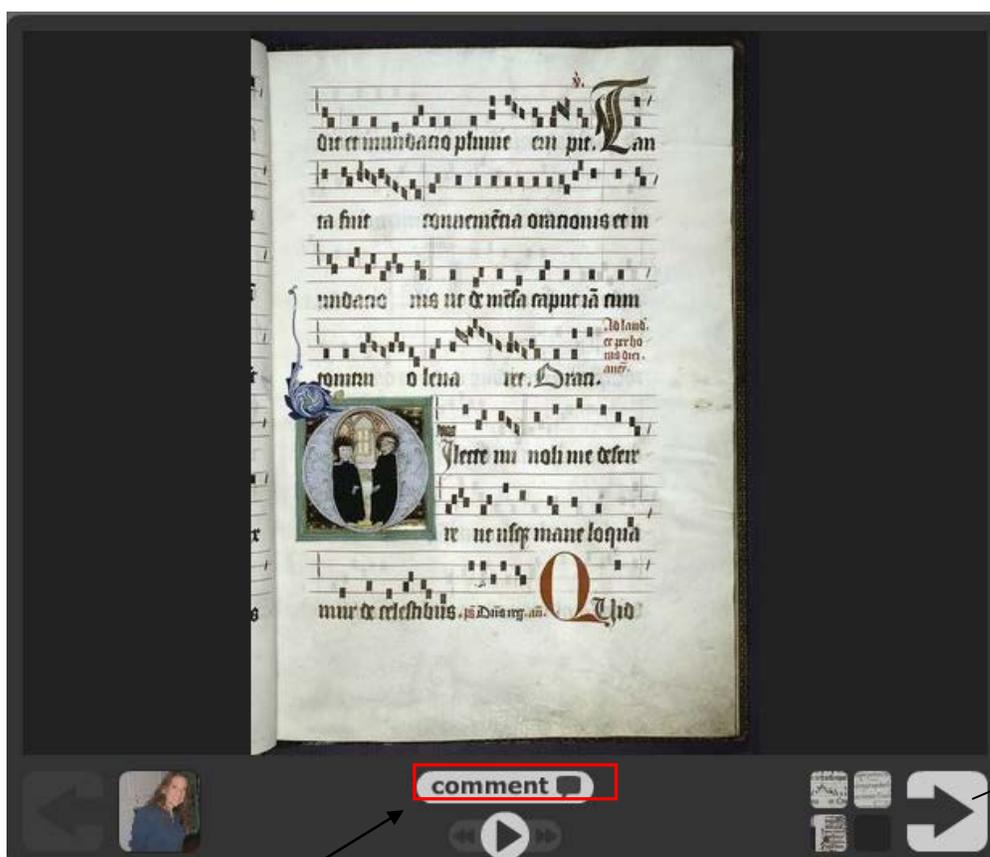


Click '**My Computer**' to upload a file from your computer. '**Media Sources**' allows you to upload images or files stored in your own account with media sites such as Facebook or Flickr. '**URL**' allows you to enter the address of a particular file on the internet. '**My Webcam**' allows you to record a video using a webcam connected to your computer. **Note:** If uploading a video, .mov, .flv, and .mp4 files work best.

- Once the file (or files) is uploaded, you can add a comment to it by clicking the Comment button.



- Click 'Comment' (again) from your VoiceThread to expand and select from the commenting options. If you would like to leave a comment on another slide, click the advance arrow to progress to the desired slide.





Record a comment using the telephone (60 minutes max.)

Record a comment using a webcam (60 minutes max.)

Record a comment using a microphone (60 minutes max.)

Add a typed text comment

Upload a previously recorded audio comment (.wav or .mp3 files work best)

- When saved, the comment will appear as your identity icon, located alongside the VoiceThread. Any future comments made by others will be added the same way, with identity icons populating the perimeter of the VoiceThread. When finished adding comments, the VoiceThread is ready to be shared.

Identity icon, indicating a comment has been left



Each comment also adds a 'timeline' under the play button, the length of which corresponds to the length of the comment. Hover over it for a timestamp on the comment.

Editing a VoiceThread

1. Click the 'MyVoice' tab to locate your VoiceThreads.



2. Click the 'Menu' icon on the bottom right of the VoiceThread that you want to edit, and then click the 'Edit' button.



3. This will take you to the Create tab where you can make changes to any of the slides.

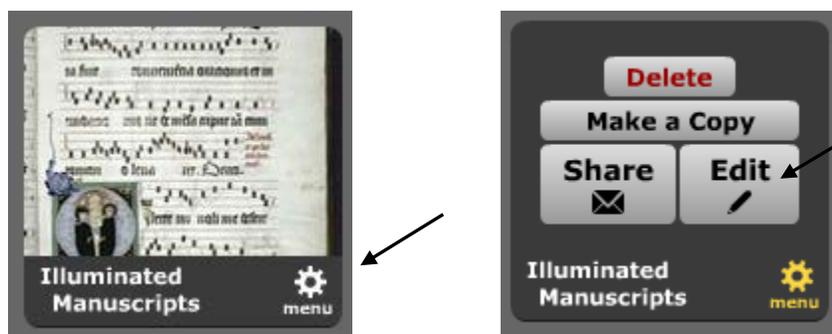


Embedding a VoiceThread Presentation in Blackboard

1. Click the 'MyVoice' tab to locate your VoiceThreads.



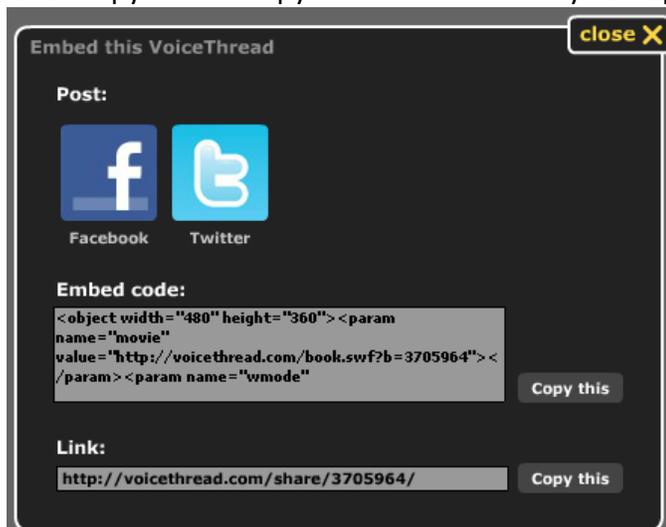
2. Click the 'Menu' icon on the bottom right of the VoiceThread that you want to embed, and then click the 'Edit' button.



3. Click the 'Embed' button at the bottom of the page.



4. Click 'Copy this' to copy the embed code to your clipboard.

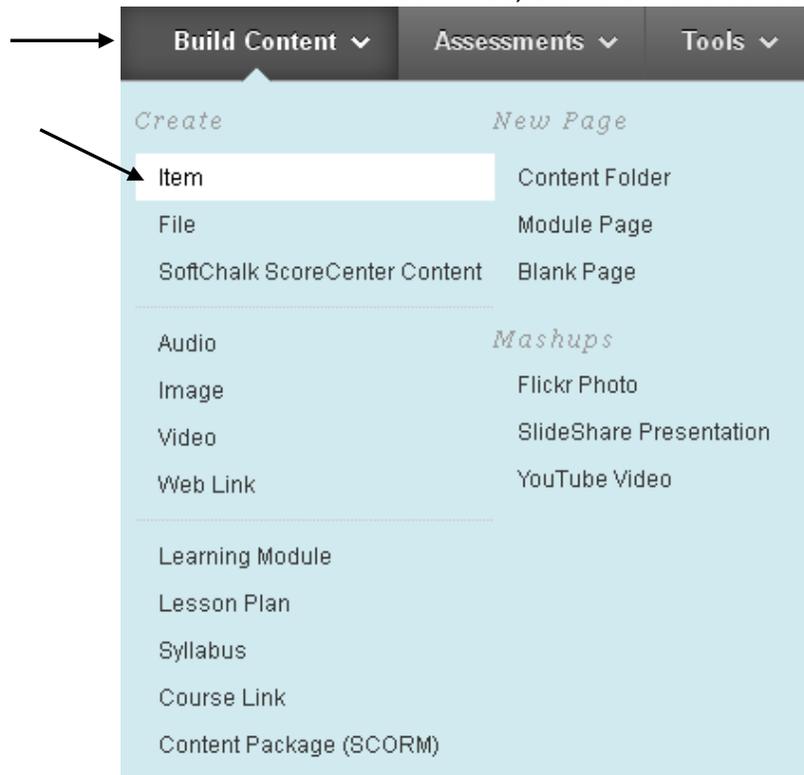


- You will receive a message that your link has been copied to the clipboard.

Copied to clipboard.

- Login to Blackboard and navigate to the content area in your course where you want the VoiceThread to appear.

- In the Blackboard content area, click the 'Build Content' dropdown and select 'Item.'

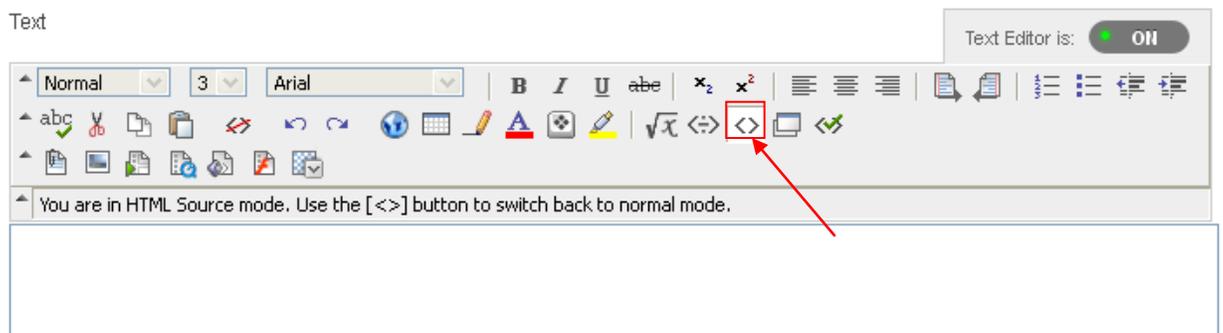


- Give the item a name. Next, click the icon to toggle the editor into HTML source mode.

Name

Color of Name Black

Text



- Once in HTML Source mode, paste the copied embed code into the editor.

Text

Text Editor is: **ON**

Normal 3 Arial | **B** *I* U abc | \times_2 \times^2 | [List Icons] | [Image Icons] | [Table Icons] | [Link Icons] | [Code Icons]

You are in HTML Source mode. Use the [<>] button to switch back to normal mode.

```
<object width="480" height="360"><param name="movie" value="http://voicethread.com/book.swf?b=3705964"></param><param name="wmode" value="transparent"></param><embed src="http://voicethread.com/book.swf?b=3705964" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" wmode="transparent" width="480" height="360"></embed></object>
```

- Fill in the rest of the options in Blackboard as needed and click Submit.

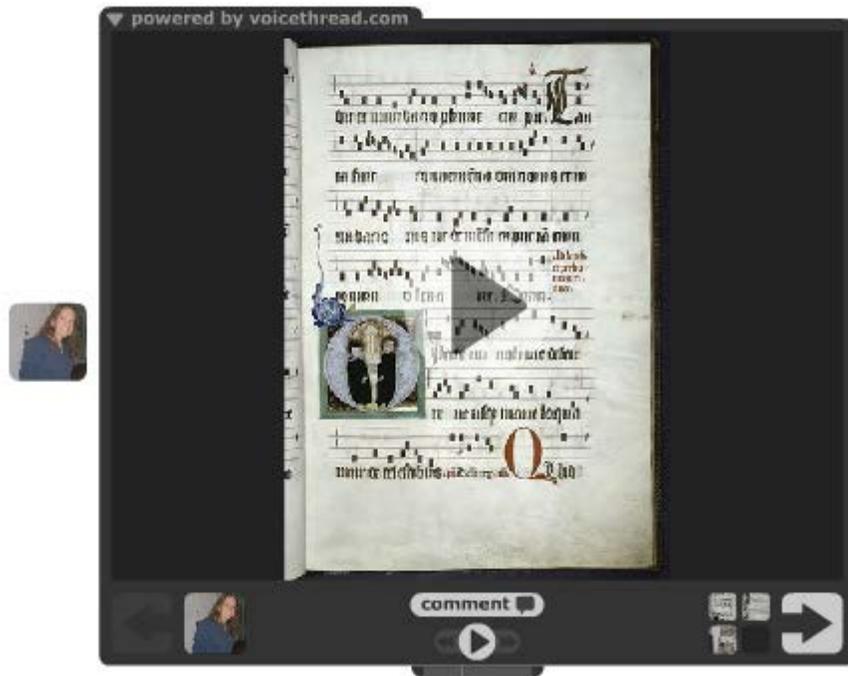


- The embedded VoiceThread should now appear on the page. Click the 'play' button to start the presentation.



Embedded VoiceThread

powered by voicethread.com

A screenshot of a VoiceThread player. The main content is a page of a medieval manuscript with musical notation and Latin text. A large play button is overlaid on the center of the page. On the left side, there is a vertical list of profile pictures of participants. At the bottom, there is a control bar with a play button, a comment button, and a share button.

Note: It is possible to increase the size of the embedded VoiceThread. When you've copied the embed code into the HTML editor, change all width values to '600' and all height values to '800' before clicking Submit.

Text Text Editor is: ON

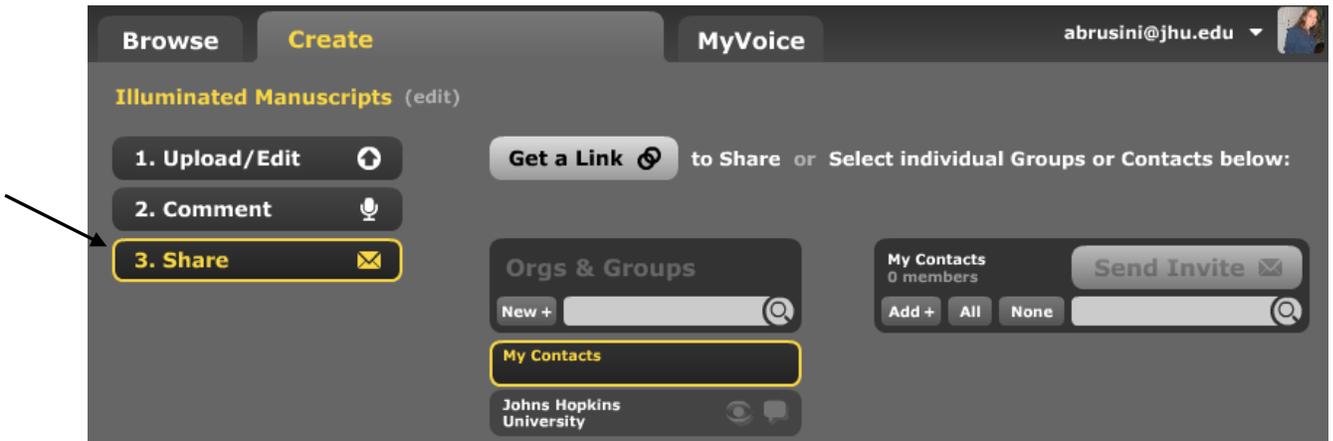
Normal 3 Arial **B** *I* U abc x_2 x^2 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 

^ You are in HTML Source mode. Use the [<>] button to switch back to normal mode.

```
<div style="height: 600px; width: 800px;" class="previewDiv"><object width="800" height="600">
<param name="movie" value="http://voicethread.com/book.swf?b=3705964" /> <param name="wmode"
value="transparent" /> <embed width="600" height="800" src="http://voicethread.com
/book.swf?b=3705964" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" wmode="transparent" /> </object></div>
```

Adding a link to a VoiceThread Presentation in Blackboard

1. From the Create tab in VoiceThread, click the 'Share' button to expand the sharing options.

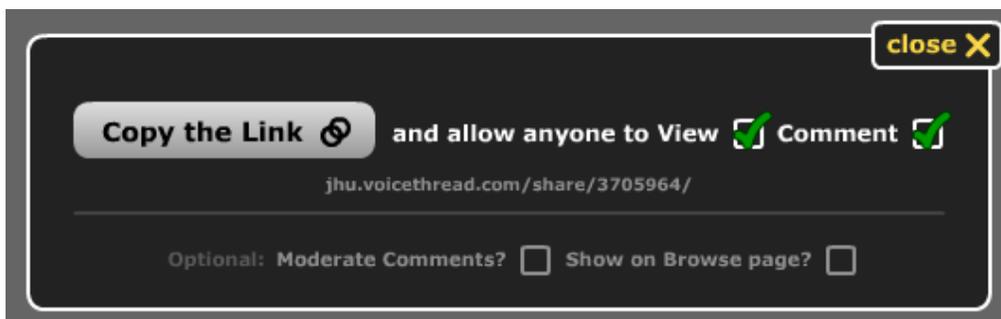


2. Click the 'Get a Link' button.

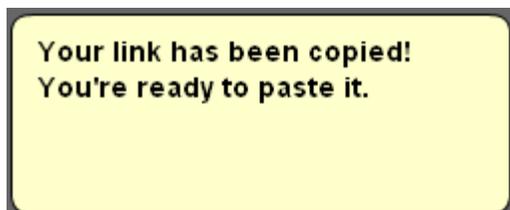


3. Select any desired settings and click 'Copy the Link.'

Note: If 'Moderate Comments' is selected, students cannot see each other's comments, but the instructor can see all of them. If 'Show on Browse Page' is selected, the VoiceThread will be published to the publically available VoiceThread page site.

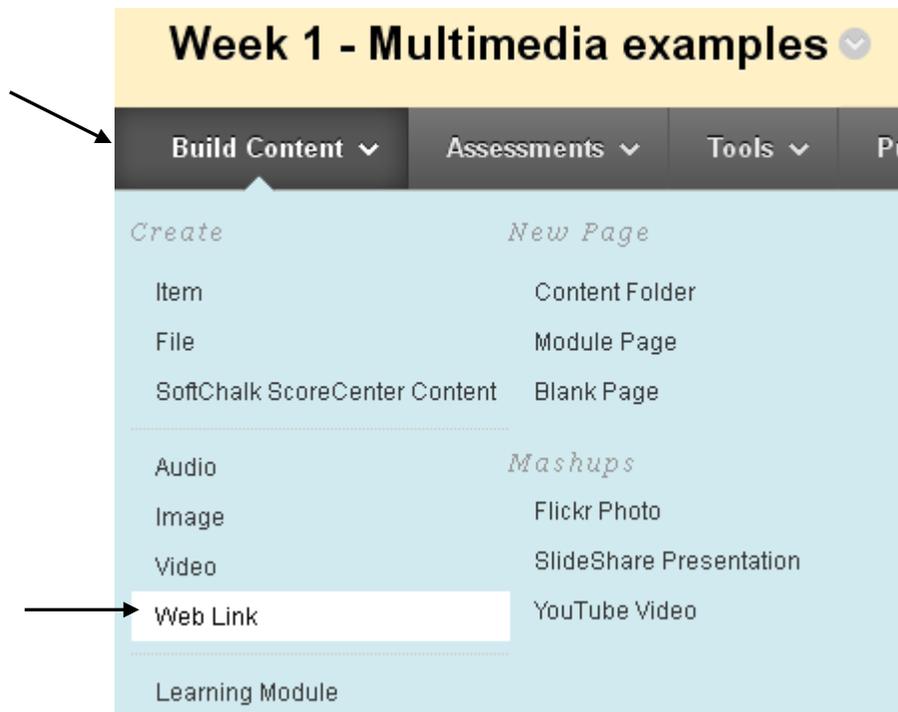


4. You will receive a message that your link has been copied to the clipboard.



5. Login to Blackboard and navigate to the content area in your course where you want the link to appear.

6. In the Blackboard content area, click the 'Build Content' dropdown and select 'Web Link.'



7. Fill in a name for the link and paste the copied link into the URL field.

1. Web Link Information

✖ Name

✖ URL

For example, <http://www.myschool.edu/>

This link is to a Tool Provider. [What's a Tool Provider?](#)

8. Fill in the rest of the options in Blackboard as needed and click Submit.

Submit

9. The VoiceThread should now appear as a link in the content area. Click the link to open the VoiceThread.



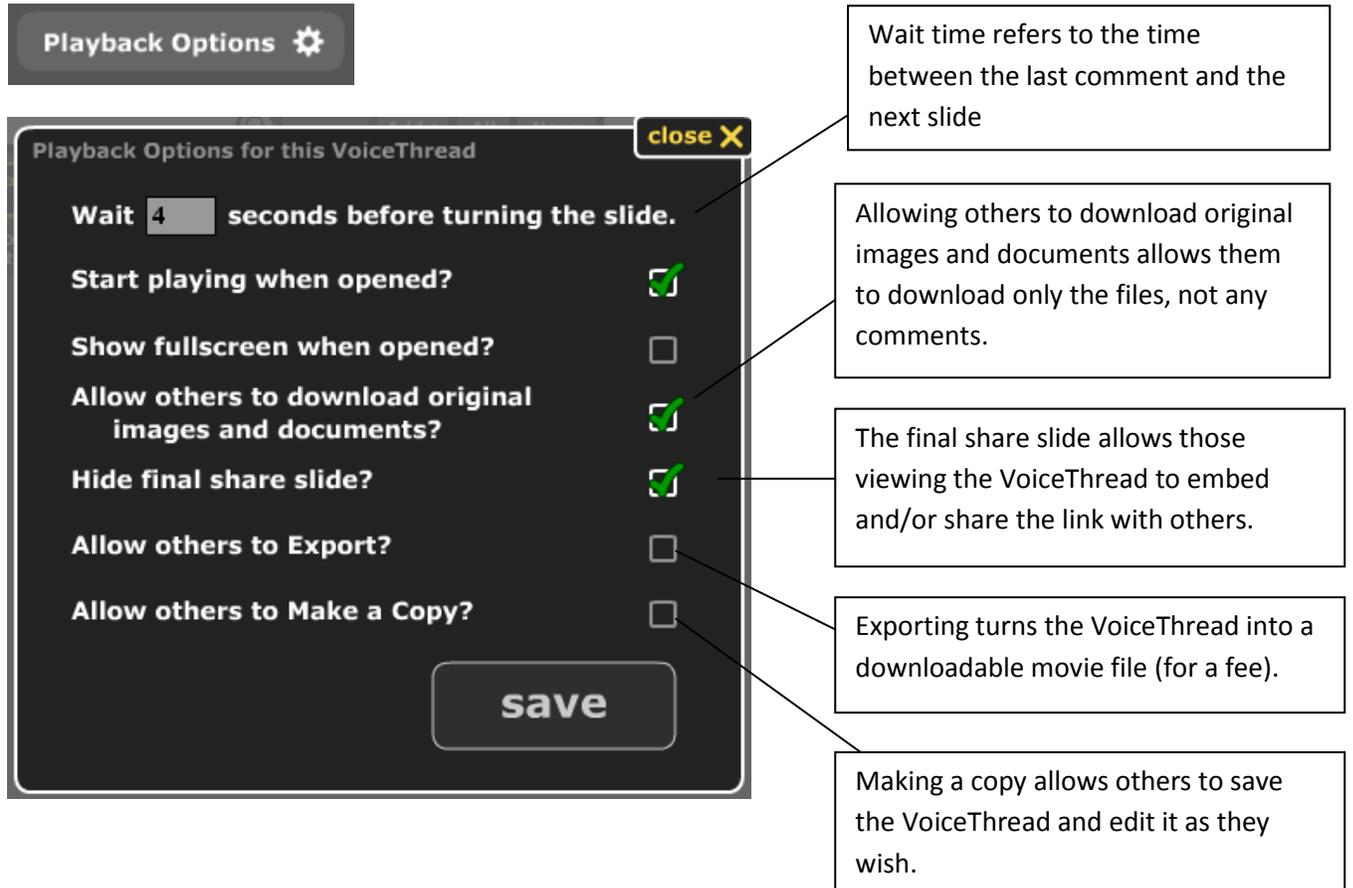
VoiceThread example

Additional Options

When creating or editing a VoiceThread, there are some additional playback and publishing options that appear at the bottom of the Create tab.

Playback Options

Some of the playback options are obvious and some are not. Some clarification is below:



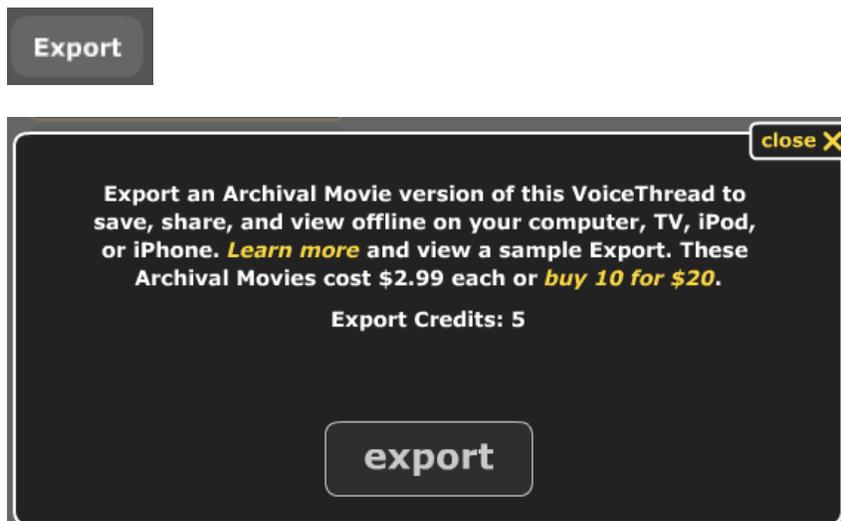
The screenshot shows a 'Playback Options' dialog box with a 'close X' button in the top right corner. The dialog title is 'Playback Options for this VoiceThread'. It contains the following options:

- Wait seconds before turning the slide. (Callout: Wait time refers to the time between the last comment and the next slide)
- Start playing when opened? (Callout: Allowing others to download original images and documents allows them to download only the files, not any comments.)
- Show fullscreen when opened?
- Allow others to download original images and documents? (Callout: The final share slide allows those viewing the VoiceThread to embed and/or share the link with others.)
- Hide final share slide? (Callout: Exporting turns the VoiceThread into a downloadable movie file (for a fee).)
- Allow others to Export? (Callout: Making a copy allows others to save the VoiceThread and edit it as they wish.)
- Allow others to Make a Copy?

A 'save' button is located at the bottom of the dialog.

Export

'Export' will turn the VoiceThread into a downloadable movie file (for a fee).



The screenshot shows an 'Export' dialog box with a 'close X' button in the top right corner. The dialog contains the following text:

Export an Archival Movie version of this VoiceThread to save, share, and view offline on your computer, TV, iPod, or iPhone. [Learn more](#) and view a sample Export. These Archival Movies cost \$2.99 each or **buy 10 for \$20**.

Export Credits: 5

An 'export' button is located at the bottom of the dialog.

Embed

'Embed' provides links to social media sites, such as Facebook, as well as html embed code that can be copied into other websites.

Embed

Embed this VoiceThread close X

Post:

Facebook Twitter

Embed code:

```
<object width="480" height="360"><param name="movie" value="https://jhu.voicethread.com/book.swf?b=3705964"></param><param name="wmode"
```

Copy this

Link:

<https://jhu.voicethread.com/share/3705964/> Copy this

Publishing Options

Publishing Options ⚙️

Publishing Options for this VoiceThread close X

Allow anyone to View?

Allow anyone to Comment?

Moderate Comments?

Show on Browse page?

Everyone can view and comment on this VoiceThread. It will never show up on the Browse page or in search results. You are the only person who can edit this VoiceThread.

save

- Allows anyone with access to the link to view this VoiceThread
- Allows anyone with access to the link to comment on this VoiceThread
- If selected, students cannot see each other's comments, but the instructor can see all of them.
- If selected, the VoiceThread will be published to the publically available VoiceThread page site.