

## What is VoiceThread?

VoiceThread is an application that runs inside your web browser, so there is no software to download, install, or update. VoiceThread allows you to place collections of media like images, videos, documents, and presentations at the center of a conversation. These conversations are not live; they take place whenever and wherever it is convenient for people to participate. A VoiceThread allows people to have conversations and to make comments using any mix of text, a microphone, a web cam, a telephone, or an uploaded audio file.

Educators use VoiceThread for many different projects, from extending and documenting classroom conversations, digital student portfolios, and language practice, to creating online lectures and tutoring, virtual class spaces, and professional development training, just to name a few. Visit the Digital Library to see detailed lesson plans for VoiceThreads created by real educators: <http://voicethread.com/library>.

## Getting Started with VoiceThread

Your MyVoice page is like your e-mail inbox. It holds all of the VoiceThread conversations that you create, participate in, or have subscribed to (which is like bookmarking). Each VoiceThread on your MyVoice page is represented by a square thumbnail image, and each one is its own virtual conversation space filled with media.

The Tutorials link on the left will show you a list of very short tutorials that cover specific features, but you do not need to look at them all to get started. VoiceThread is currently being used by Kindergartners all over the world who do not look at tutorials and cannot yet read. These young students learn by trying, and they almost always succeed. We suggest that you adopt their spirit of fearless excitement. This program is unlikely to explode or electrocute you or anyone else if you make a mistake, so please play and experiment. You will not hurt anything by playing and experimenting, but you will learn to use VoiceThread more quickly. If you ever get stumped, take a look at a tutorial or in the detailed but very simple How-to section: <http://voicethread.com/support/howto/Basics/>.

## Creating Course Groups

Creating a group is one of the first things you will want to do. It will simplify sharing as well as organize the work that is being shared within a group. You can create as many groups as you like, but you should create at least one per course.

 NOTE: Only VoiceThread Pro users may create Groups. (Students cannot create groups)

### Creating Groups Using VoiceThread

Creating a Group is one of the first things you will want to do. It will simplify sharing as well as organize the work that is being shared within a Group. You can create as many Groups as you like.

1. Click on your **login information** in the top right corner of the screen.
2. Select **Groups & Contacts** from the drop-down menu.



You will see any Groups that you have set up. The My Contacts tab will show any contacts that you have set up.

3. Click  Group to create a Group.
4. Type a name for your Group in the *Name* box.
5. Type a description of the Group. This is optional.
6. Choose a Header. This is optional.
7. Click **Create Group**.
8. VoiceThread will create a Group sign up link that you can send by e-mail or embed into a web page or blog.
9. Click 
10. Copy the link and e-mail it to your students via the Communication Tool in Angel or post in a blog, yammer, or on a web site where your students will get the link from you.

When anyone with an account visits the link, they will automatically be added to the Group.

### Creating Course Groups Using Angel

1. Navigate to your course in Angel.
2. Click "Add Content". (If you are in a World Campus course, go to Activities, Add Content).
3. Select "External Tool".
4. Give the activity a title.
5. For tool provider, select "VoiceThread".
6. Save changes.
7. You will now find the assignment listed in the Lesson folder.
8. Click on the link you've just created.
9. Launch the VoiceThread assignment.
10. Select the VoiceThread assignment you would like to share with the course.

Your assignment is now included in your course.