

Lesson 2: Exploring Resources and Activities

In this lesson, you will learn how to:

- Identify different types of Resources and Activities
- Post responses in a Discussion Forum

To familiarize yourself with Navigate, and get a taste of what its like to be a student in a Navigate course, you should examine each resource and activity. Keep in mind that every Navigate course is unique. The following descriptions are an attempt to cover some of the most popular types of **Resources** and **Activities** that have been made available to you.

Resources

Animations – a digital file, generally an mp4 or flv formatted file, which demonstrates a detailed process to help students better grasp a process or continuous action. These are non-graded resources.

Chapter Outlines – a brief outline provided for each chapter covering main topics, sub-topics, and important points. These are useful as a student study tool or as a basis for developing lecture notes. These are non-graded resources.

Crosswords – digital learning object supplied for most books and chapters. These are non-graded learning resources for students. These are best used as study aids.

Digital Learning Objects – a digital resource that can be reused to support learning. *Many of our Digital Learning Objects are also SCORM compliant and feed grades into the Gradebook automatically in these instances they would then be considered an Activity. If a Digital Learning Object is graded automatically then its name will appear in the Gradebook by default.*

Flashcards – digital learning object supplied for most books and chapters. These are non-graded learning resources for students. These are best used as study aids.

Interactive eBook – a full color, high-definition digital textbook. Most have links to outside resources, include videos, interactive assessments, animations, and expansive content.

Interactive Lectures – a digitally delivered lecture that includes video, narration, and incorporates engagement triggers that involve student participation. This allows students the opportunity to work directly with the material and helps maintain student attention. These are non-graded resources.

News Forum – a special forum for general announcements. A course usually only has one News Forum. The instructor maintains this forum.

PowerPoint Lectures – a written lecture provided in a Microsoft PowerPoint format. These lectures can be editing by instructors. By default most PowerPoint Lectures are hidden from students.

Videos – a short digital film usually delivered in flv, mov, or mp4 format.

Web Links – Internet links provided to students so that they have the opportunity to conduct additional research on a set of topics. These are links to outside resources.

Activities

Case Studies – generally an individually graded assignment based on the analysis of one or more particular case histories. Responses are uploaded in the form of a Microsoft Word document or other text document. These are manually graded assignments.

Chapter Quizzes – an array of multiple-choice and true/false questions comprise most chapter quizzes. Occasionally cloze, short answer, or essay questions are also included. These assessments are automatically graded by the system, (all except short answer or essay).

Critical Thinking Exercises – an individual or group assignment that involves exploring and questioning topics surrounding the course content. These exercises are graded manually.

Discussion Questions – a group activity type that uses the Navigate forums. Instructors and students can exchange ideas in response to thought-provoking questions posted in each “discussion forum”. Courses may have several forums in a chapter or section. Instructors generally grade these activities manually taking into account each students’ level of participation and substantive responses. Comments made in a group discussion forum are viewable to the entire class.

Learning Objectives Review – an individually graded response a chapter’s learning objectives. Students generally are required to upload their submission to the instructor in Microsoft Word format for grading.

Study Questions – an individually graded response to a question regarding course materials. Students generally are required to upload their submission to the instructor in Microsoft Word format for grading.

Suggested Activities – activities that are considered “optional” activities, which may be adopted, based on instructor preference. By default Suggested Activities are “hidden” from students. These activities consist of a mix of individual and group assignments.

WebQuest – an inquiry-oriented lesson format in which most or all the information that learners work with comes from the web. The assignment has five distinct sections and includes a grading rubric or grading check sheet for instructors. Grades are manually entered.

Wiki – a collaborative assignment authored by students. Essentially students create a web site within the Navigate system. All pages are linked and authors (students) can add additional pages to the Wiki by simply creating a link to a page that doesn't exist yet. In Navigate the Wiki is a powerful tool for collaborative work. The entire class can edit a document together, create a class product, or each student can have their own Wiki and work on it with you and their classmates. Grades are entered manually and should be based on participation and quality of information written among other factors.

Exercise 2-1 Discussion Forum

In this exercise you will participate in our Instructor Discussion Forum. This is a general discussion forum and is viewable by all participants.

Please post your response to the following Discussion Question in this forum.

What is one positive reinforcement strategy that you have used while teaching students in an online environment?

Exercise 2-2 Discussion Forum

In this exercise you will participate in our Instructor Discussion Forum. This is a general discussion forum and is viewable by all participants.

Please post your response to the following Discussion Question in this forum.

Do you praise students publicly; such as in a group forum, when they have submitted well thought out and well researched comments or work? Why or why not?

Web Links

The following Web Links offer helpful tips for managing your online class:

Tips and Tricks for Teaching in the Online Classroom

<http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/tips-and-tricks-for-teaching-in-the-online-classroom/>

Practical Advice for Going from Face-to-Face to Online Teaching

<http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/practical-advice-for-going-from-face-to-face-to-online-teaching/>

Get Your Online Course Off to a Good Start

<http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/online-education/get-your-online-course-off-to-a-good-start/>