Topic: Bb Ally and Accessibility

- Content Accessibility
- What is Bb Ally?
- How Does Bb Ally Benefit Students
- Using Bb Ally to Improve Accessibility in Online Course(s)
- Best Practices and Additional Resources

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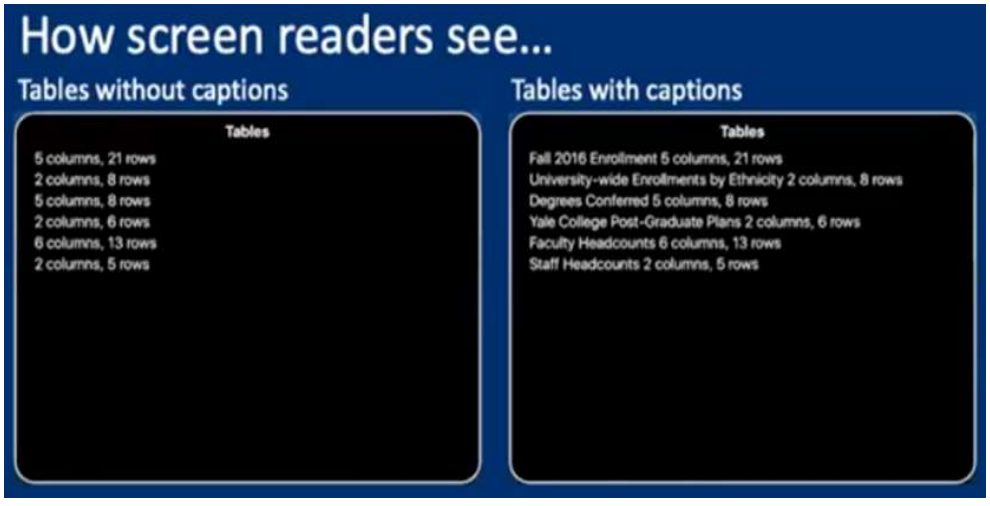
Online Equal Access: Content Accessibility



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Universal Design Content Accessibility

- Standard - Online content is accessible to everyone - variety of learning styles, cultural backgrounds, and various environments.
- Benefits
  - Remove any obstacles in meeting learning goals.
  - Provide learning environments that all students can thrive in without the need for special accommodations.

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What is Ally?

- Tool within Blackboard that **automatically** picks up on any existing or new course materials, runs it through the accessibility checklist, and makes the alternative accessible versions available to both the student and the instructor.
- Includes guides to help **fix content** so students have fewer problems viewing in Blackboard.

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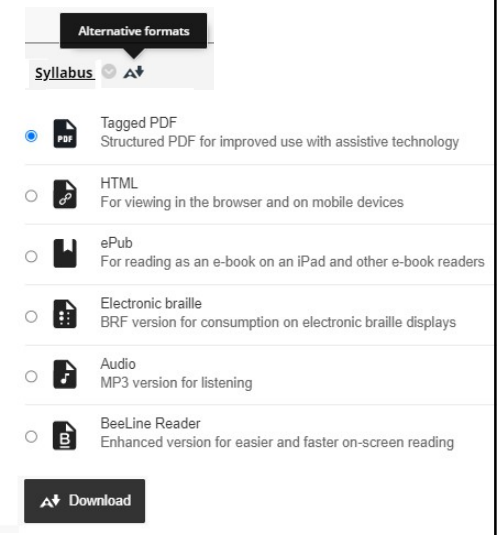
How Does Ally Benefit Students?

- Ally helps make digital course content more accessible: *automatically* provides alternative formats, such as HTML, audio, ePub, and electronic braille.



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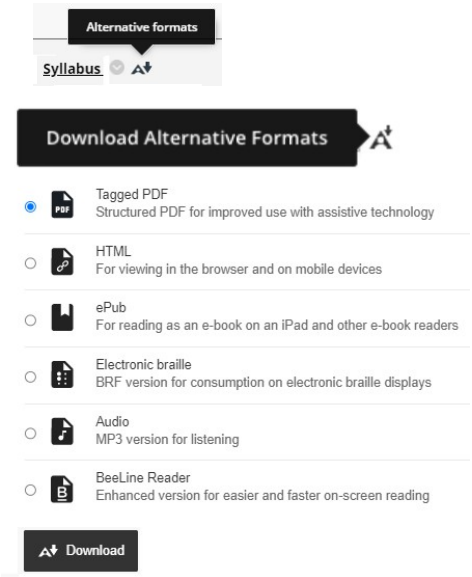
How Does Ally Benefit Students?

- A student can view the list of alternative formats by selecting the "A" icon beside a file attached in your course.
- Then, the student can access the alternative formats to choose from and select download to view.



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Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

- Provides instructor feedback and guidance on fixing accessibility issues.
- Feature Only Visible to Instructors.
- Ally Accessibility Score - Each score is composed of both a numerical indicator, a number, and a colored gauge that reflects that number.
    - **Low**: File is not accessible and needs immediate attention.
    - **Medium**: File is somewhat accessible and could use improvement.
    - **High**: File is accessible but could be improved.
    - **Perfect**: File is accessible. No improvement needed.

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Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

- Ally identifies issues within the original file such as the following:
    - Images without an appropriate alternative description.
    - Text fragments with insufficient contrast.
    - Documents without Heading(s).
    - Tables without Headings and/or Captions.

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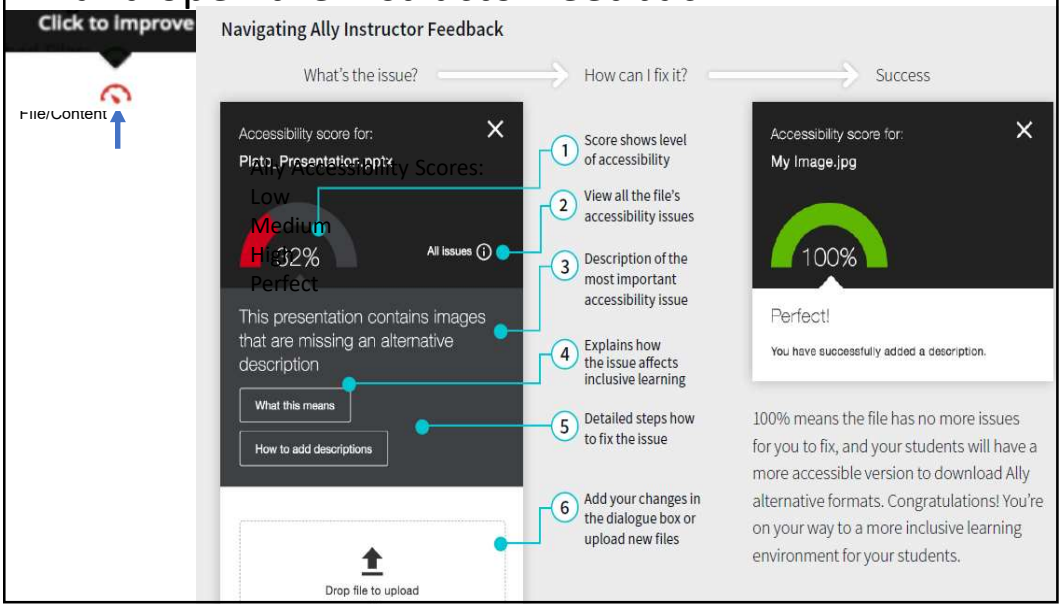
Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

Select the icon to view the accessibility score and open the instructor feedback.



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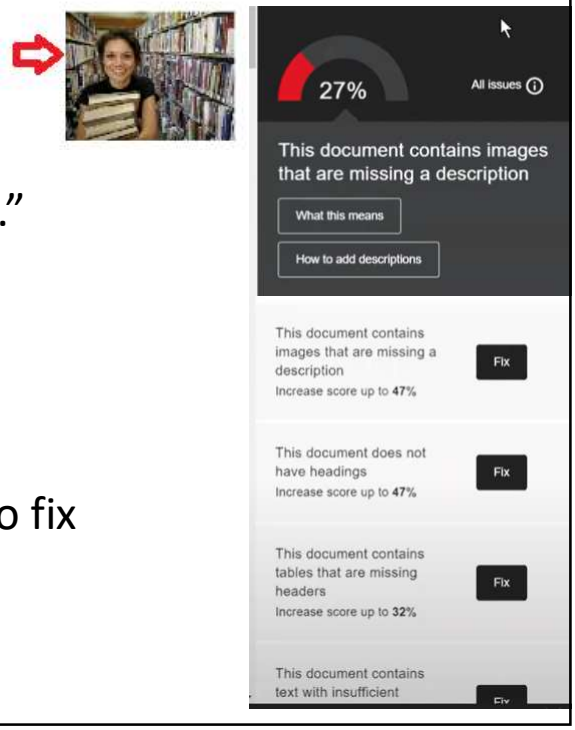
Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

"This document contains images [ALT Text] that are missing a description."

- Review "What This Means."
- Select "How to add descriptions."
- Select "All Issues" to fix item(s).



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ALT Text Descriptions

- Text equivalent for an image.
- Image being presented is to inform the user of content.
- Ask "If I could not use this image, what would I put in its place?" to determine appropriate alternative text.
- Use 1 – 2 short sentences.
- Do not use "image of ..." or "graphic of ..." to describe the image.

Context: In this painting, the artist Emanuel Leutze used light, color, form, perspective, proportion, and motion to create the composition.

Choose the Best ALT Text for Image:
A. "George Washington"
B. "Painting of George Washington"
C. "Painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware River."

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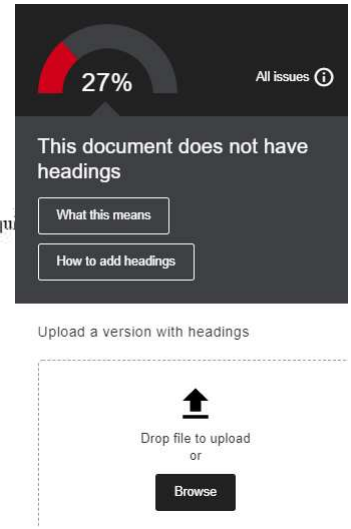
Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

"This document does not have headings."

On Campus Requirements
A statement informing students of any mandatory on-campus requ



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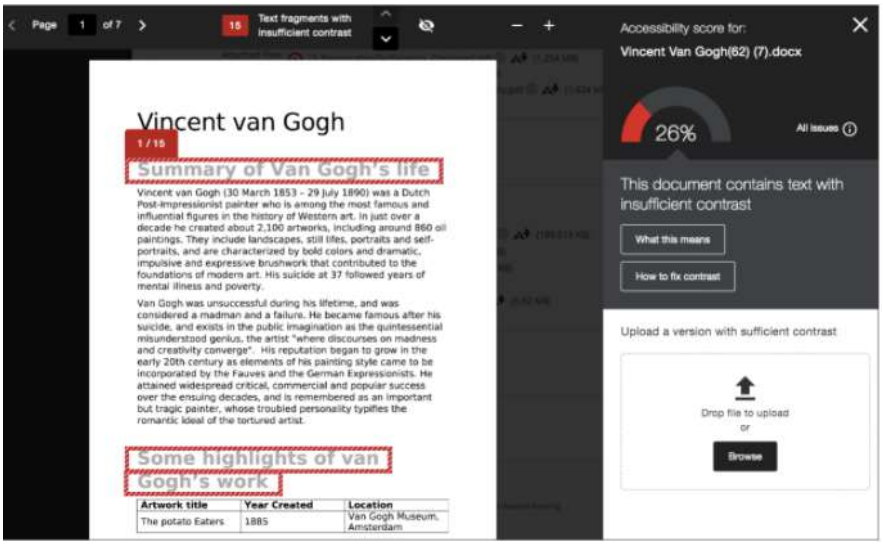
Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

"This document contains text with insufficient contrast."



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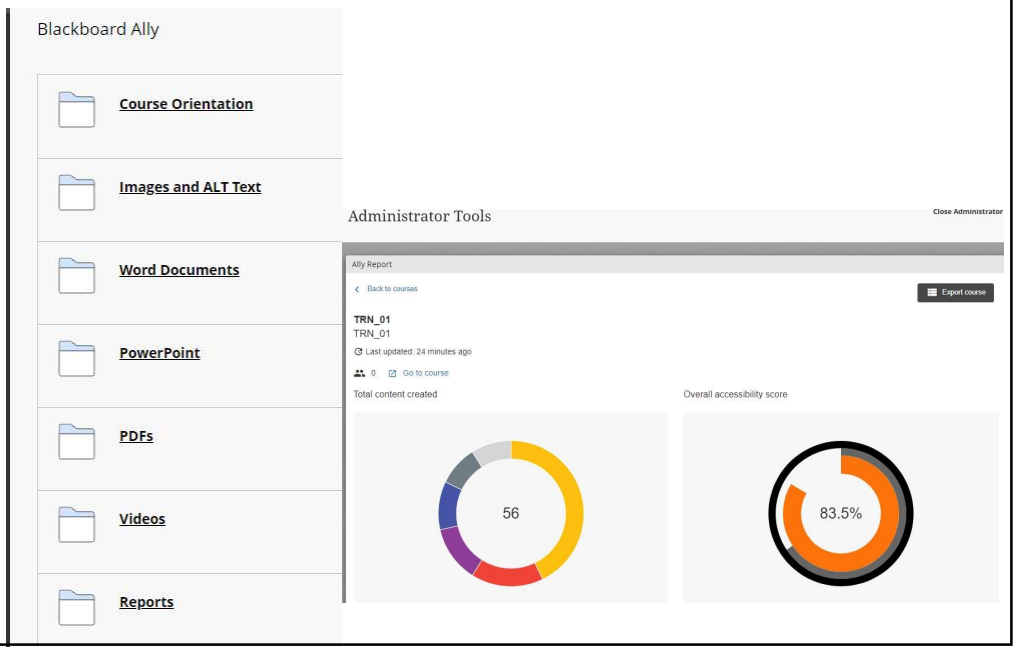
Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

Examples in Bb/Reports



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Best Practices

- Provide ADA Statement (Syllabus).
- Communicate Bb Ally Tool to Students (Course Orientation).
- Review and update course materials:
  - Re-format Scanned Documents
  - Accessibility Checker in MS Word
  - Accessibility Checker in PowerPoint
  - PDFs - Can use PDF but also provide alternative formats.
  - Use Software to create compliant PDFs (Adobe Acrobat Pro DC).
  - Closed Captioning of Videos
  - Transcripts

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Takeaway

- Accessible course content makes it easier for everyone to read and access online course materials and helps improve overall quality and usability.
- Bb Ally Tool helps improve accessibility:
  - Automatically provides alternative accessible downloadable versions of content in Bb Course.
  - Provides built-in guides to help Instructors fix content.

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ADA Office and Instructor Resources

ADA Accommodations Office
www.jeffersonstate.edu/ada
Anne Sherman
205-856-6077

Bb Ally Resources
Instructor Resources Link
http://www.jeffersonstate.edu/resources-for-instructors-de/

Universal Design Standards;
https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/

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FAQ's:

- Word Documents
- PowerPoint
- PDFs
- Untagged PDFs
- How to Save Documents
- Images in Bb

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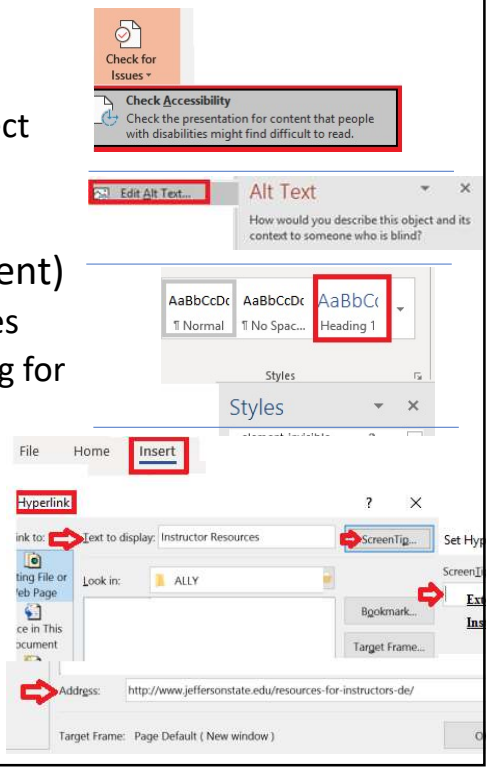
Word Documents

- "ALT" HTML tags on images
  - Right-click on image and select "Edit Alt Text"
  - Use meaningful description
- Headings (Structure Document)
  - Use or modify headings/styles
  - Do not use Bold as formatting for Titles or Headings
- HTML Links
  - Avoid using "Click Here," "More," "Read More"
  - Include hyperlink within sentence (Text to Display)
  - Include Screen Tip



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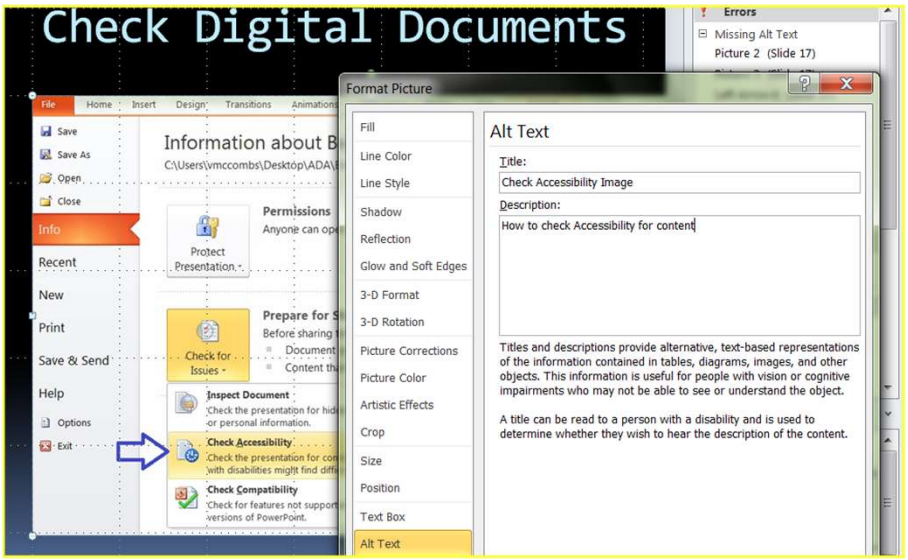
Add "Alt" Text to Image (right click on image)



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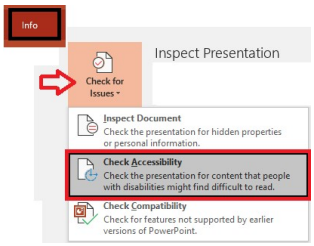
PowerPoint



- "ALT" HTML tags on images
  - Right-click on image and select "Format Picture"
  - Use meaningful description
- Slide Titles - A visually impaired person that uses a screen reader relies on the slide titles to know which slide is which.
- Slides - Color and Contrast; Text on solid colored background; Layout (use Standard Text Boxes Placeholder); Avoid repetitive, moving or blinking content
- Slide Transitions (use sparingly) in classroom; remove for digital material
- Handouts (large size font); use Word to create handouts for Headers and Tables

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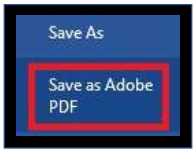
PDFs

- Screen Reader Issues
  - PDF documents do not interact seamlessly – must be "designed" to be compatible (logical structure and reading order by adding "tags"; no security restrictions; fonts; ALT-text; navigational aids)
- Fix original document/How to save as PDF Handout
  - Documents and PowerPoints that are corrected and re-PDF'd will show as 100% in Ally - doesn't mean that it meets all the legal requirements for accessibility.
  - Can use PDF but also provide alternative formats.
  - Software to create compliant PDFs (Adobe Acrobat Pro DC)



- Scanned images
  - Not accessible by screen readers
  - Open PDF in MS Word and re-format

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Untagged PDFs

- Most documents are created in a word-processing programs such as Word or PowerPoint before they are converted to a PDF.
- Many programs create PDF files, but few produce structured or tagged PDFs.
- PDF tags are hidden labels that clarify the structure of the document (e.g., table, heading, paragraph, etc.).
- Untagged PDFs do not contain any of this information and can cause the content to be misinterpreted.

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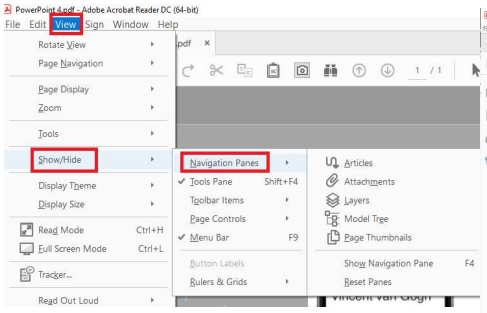
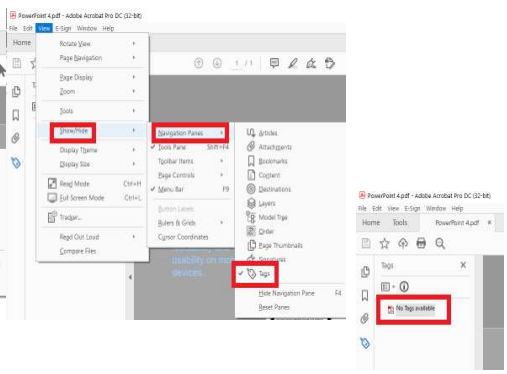
Untagged PDFs

- Adobe Acrobat Reader does not show tags.
- Adobe Acrobat DC Full Version will allow editing and tagging.
- Advanced PDF Accessibility with Adobe Acrobat Pro DC YouTube Video

Adobe Acrobat DC Reader



Adobe Acrobat DC Full Version



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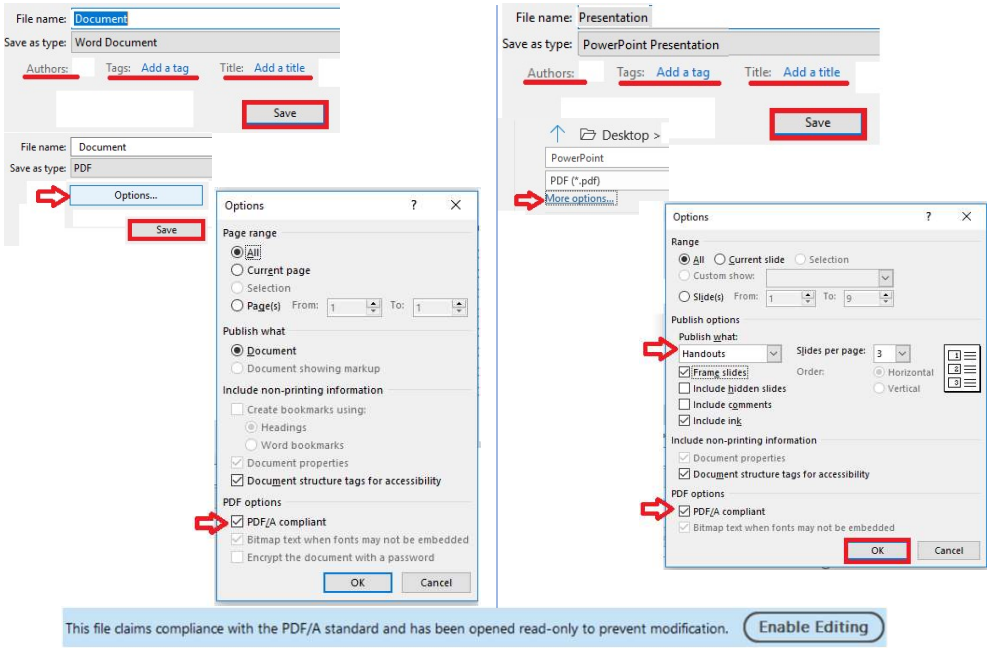
How To Save Documents



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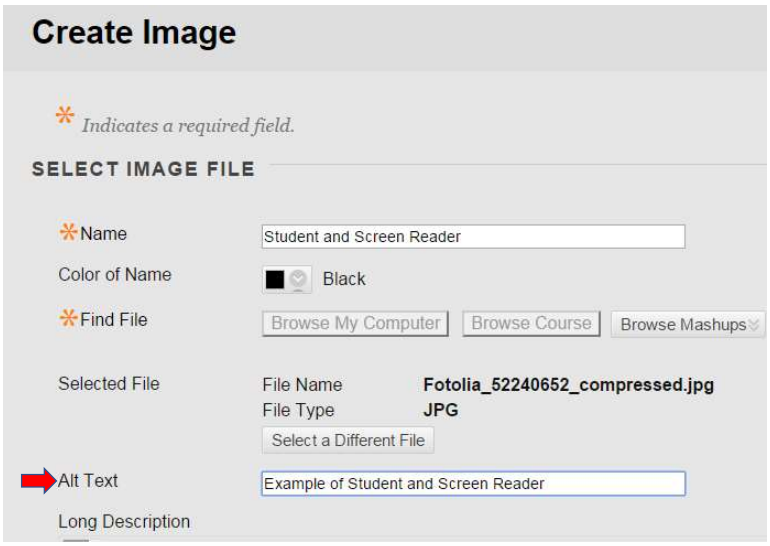
Bb - Add Image with “ALT” text



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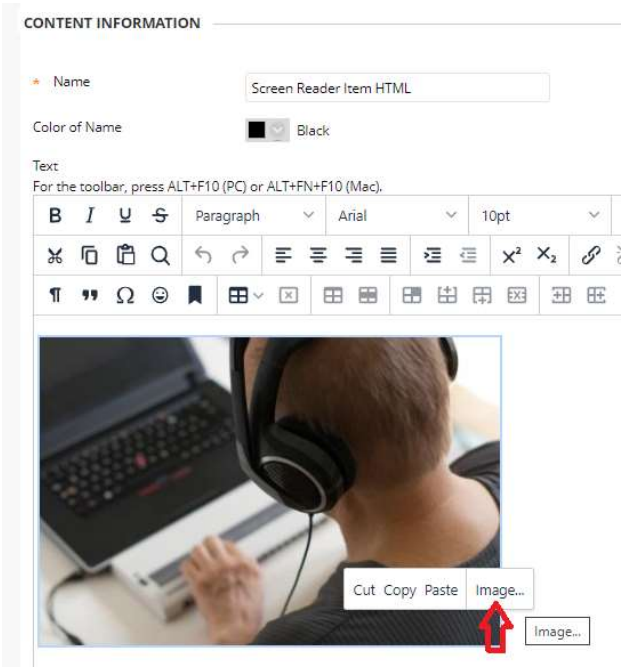
Images in Bb – Content HTML



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