Getting Started with Perusall

What is it? (Pedagogical Overview)

Perusall aims to change the nature of reading from a solitary experience to one that is both engaging and collective. Perusall is an annotation tool that promotes student collaboration and engagement through assigned class readings. Help motivate students to be more prepared for class discussions by providing a more focused and engaging reading experience. As the instructor, you can highlight specific areas of a text, prompt questions, and also engage with your students. Analytic reports give you insight to confusing concepts, increased areas of student interactions, and even has an automatic grading feature. Use this information to tailor class discussions and provide formative learning experiences.

Reasons you want to use it!

Perusall is a useful tool for assigning class readings. If you find that students often skip solitary reading assignments or don’t seem to get anything out of them, consider using Perusall to guide students through the reading process and promote threaded discussions within the text.

- Encourage students to ask questions, make connections, and start discussions throughout each passage.
  Highlight specific areas of the text you would like students to focus on. Ask thought-promoting questions to help guide the metacognitive process. Ensure quality discussions knowing that annotations are scored using a grading rubric based on the intellectual content, timeliness, and helpfulness of student interactions. Use the ‘reaction’ feature to encourage students to upvote their peer’s comments.

- Help students continue the discussion even when you’re not in class.
  Students are sent email summaries about their conversations to encourage them to check into the discussion when there is activity. Nudges remind students when they need to participate. Encourage students to be more prepared after engaging with the reading in a more relevant way.

- Make informed teaching decisions using real data.
  Sift through annotations based on type to find student questions. Prepare discussions based on Perusall’s “confusion report” which highlights where students misunderstood areas of the text. Use examples of the best annotations to cite in class discussions. Get alerts about students with misunderstandings.

- Suitable for any class size.
  Students are sorted into non-overlapping annotation groups optimized for maximum learning. You can
either use the automatic sorting feature, or connect Perusall with Canvas and use predetermined Canvas groups.

**How to get started**

Creating an account:

It is recommended that you connect with Perusall directly from the Canvas course space in which you would like to use Perusall. This will automatically create an account using your UCI account, connect your course roster, and create a unique course space for you within Perusall.

If you have previously created a Perusall account and are now trying to connect through Canvas, Perusall will automatically prompt you to migrate your two accounts (see image below). You will still be able to access previous content but now with the added convenience of the Canvas integration!

![Perusall Integration Image]

Adding readings to your course:

1. Click on **Library** on your course home page.
2. To add a book from Perusall's catalog, click **Add > Textbook**.
3. To upload a reading (PDF or EPUB format) from your computer, click **Add > Documents from my computer** or **Add > Documents from Dropbox**.
4. To add a web page as a reading, click **Add > Web page**.

Creating **Assignments**:

1. Click on **Assignments** on your course home page.
2. Click **Add assignment** and select the document you want to assign.
3. Select the part of the document to assign, specify a deadline, and click **Save changes**.

For more information on getting Started, visit Perusall’s **Getting Started** web page.
Setting Up on Canvas

Perusall is a third party tool integrated with Canvas, so we recommend that you add Perusall in your Canvas navigation panel on the left side of your screen. Follow these steps and see the image below:

1. Open your Canvas course space and click on “Settings”.
2. Click on “Navigation” near the top.
3. There are two lists here. Drag “Perusall” from the lower list to the upper list. Or click on the three dots to enable.
4. Click “Save” at the bottom of this screen.
5. Perusall should now appear as a menu item on the left hand side of your Canvas course.

Best Practices Teaching with this Tool

Use Perusall to meet your course’s learning objectives. Be intentional about the readings and documents you choose to use and the purpose of the assignments. Consider which of your reading assignments would benefit from this type of interaction and which ones might not. Think outside the box! Upload your syllabus or worksheets, not just articles or texts. You may choose to adapt none, one, or all of your reading assignments depending on your needs. It is also important to consider copyright permissions when uploading documents to Perusall; contact your subject librarian for any questions or concerns. Furthermore, to minimize accessibility concerns, please ensure that all PDFs are accessible before uploading to Perusall and be prepared to offer alternative assignments if necessary.
Resources

Tutorial Resources:

- Perusall – Teach Anywhere | OVPTL + OIT | UCI
- Canvas setup – Perusall
- Canvas and Perusall - Canvas Community
- How Perusall grades student annotations - Perusall
- Communicating with Students About Perusall – CTE Resources

Webinar Recordings:

- DTEI Hands-on Workshop 6: Perusall, Poll Everywhere, and Piazza
- Introduction to Perusall - a message from co-founder, Gary King
- PERUSALL Tutorial: Introduction to the platform - Dawson College

Technical Support and Consultation:

- OIT EEE Support
- DTEI Office Hours - Teaching consultations
- Instructors – Perusall