Using Ally in Canvas

A Guide for Educators

Created by the Academic Commons at Thomas Jefferson University

Ally is a tool that promotes inclusive learning experiences for all learners. Ally integrates with Canvas to gauge your content's accessibility and provides guidance and tips on making your course files usable and accessible to all your students. Ally provides instructor feedback and automatically creates alternative formats of course resources for students.

Where do I see Ally in Canvas?

Ally has three main components: (1) accessibility indicators, (2) course accessibility report, and (3) alternative formats. Only the alternative formats are visible to learners.



Accessibility Indicators

Indicators are meant to raise awareness about your course content's accessibility while providing feedback about how to remove barriers to use.

Needs help!	A little better	Almost there	e 🏠 Perfect!
Accessibility score for: Philosopher_Statues.jpg 25% Click the Indicator	This image is missing an alternative description What this means How to write a good description Read the Feedback	Add alternative description Enter a description for the image Add	Perfect! The maps has a perfect accessibility score. Reads to the great work?

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- By default, students in a Canvas course will not see the indicators they are meant to provide feedback to the instructor.
- You can see the indicators in the Files area, or wherever you have embedded files in the Rich Content Editor.
- Selecting the indicator will give you on-screen instructions on how to improve the accessibility score of your materials.

Alternative Formats

- Ally provides students with downloadable alternative formats for course files and content you create directly in Canvas, helping students engage with material in the ways that they learn best. Students can retrieve alternative formats of course files at any time, directly from Canvas.
- Next to each file in Canvas is a drop-down arrow. Choosing that drop-down gives the option to select an alternative format. Canvas-created content (e.g., the Syllabus down below) displays a clickable indicator next to the title of each resource.
 - ✤ Alternative formats include PDFs, ePub, Audio, HTML, and more.



To learn more about alternative formats, check out the Using Ally in Canvas student guide. (to be linked later)

Course Accessibility Report

- The Course Accessibility Report gives you a big-picture overview of the accessibility of your course. It also provides several pathways to remediate materials by prioritizing easy fixes, least accessible files, or more significant issues.
 - ✤ Access the Course Accessibility report from the course navigation menu.

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Course accessibility score 85% Jacob Santos Overview Content	s Sandbox				
133	All course content Image Page Assignment Discussion topic Word document 	58 41 14 6 5		Content with the easiest issues to fix	
	 PDF document Presentation Announcement Quiz Syllabus 	3 2 2 1 1	~	Fix low scoring content	

Ally Help

- > Check out Ally's Instructor Package: Resources & Support documentation
- > Contact Academic Commons and <u>Schedule a Consultation</u> on our website.
- Campus Specific Support: Available Monday Friday 8AM 6PM
 - Contact the Academic Commons' Educational Technology Support team at <u>EdTech.Support@lists.jefferson.edu</u> or call (215) 503-2830.