

# Testing Learning Management System Written Feedback Tools

# Sharpening Assessment

Viewing 1 of 26 gradable posters

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Exit

## INTRODUCTION

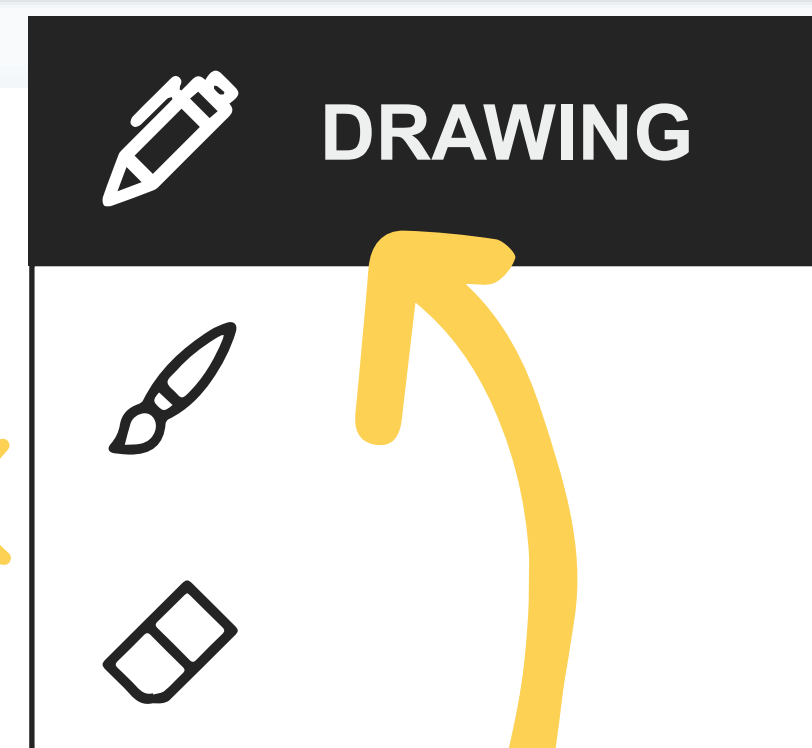
Learning Management Systems (LMS) are utilized by over 100 million users and 90 countries for higher education (Darko & Jagger, 2020; Cision PR Newswire, 2017).

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In the spring semester of 2021, with online course modality a required option due to the the COVID pandemic, one study recommended implementing more creative feedback tools to support comment assessment. (Hast, 2021).

Great point!



Blackboard's draw feature was tested, utilizing the online pencil tool to write comments directly onto students' documents in the LMS as an alternative to printed and handwritten feedback.

A total of 66 undergraduate students (N = 66) were enrolled in an agricultural scientific communications course that had a writing focus, grading split in half: one grader using Blackboard comments while the other utilized LMS written tools.

**Table 1**  
*Frequency Distribution of Students' Blackboard Feedback Preferences (N = 39)*

Question	f	f(%)	Mode
View Document Feedback (n = 19)			Every time
Every time	13	68.0	
Some, if curious	3	16.0	
Only if needed	2	11.0	
Very little	1	5.0	
Feedback Preference			Blackboard comments
Blackboard comments	26	67.0	
Written feedback	10	25.0	
No preference	3	8.0	

Note. Student response was optional.

LMS written tools allow feedback to be **displayed directly on the document.**

Using a mouse, **click and drag** to leave marks similar to a pen or pencil.

HOW TO

**Cost-free** on any computer with LMS.

Most efficient use of draw tool was a touch-screen device and stylus pen.

**\$5 (Stylus)** and **\$199 (Device)**

COST

**68%** of students view feedback every time it's given.

**67%** (n = 26) **prefer Blackboard comments over written feedback.**

RESULTS

"I don't care how I get feedback as long as it is comprehensive. The format is less important to me than the content itself; **the delivery method is irrelevant to me.**"

STUDENT

"I value constructive criticism and I can take it either way. **Blackboard comments are more readily available but the hand-written feedback is more tangible.**"

STUDENT

On average, the drawing tool took **10 minutes more** per assignment.

Student response **does not support the need** for this extra grading time.

RESULTS

WESTERN REGION

AAAE CONFERENCE

/2021

## CONCLUSION & DISCUSSION

As educators consider LMS written feedback tools, we suggest focusing effort on **visual documents, as they may benefit more** from the draw tool.

Most students stated they look at the feedback on every assignment, but the **quality of feedback holds higher importance than the method.**

We recommend testing this LMS writing tool on **multiple types of assignments** as well as **future courses** and fields of study, requesting feedback from students to confirm the perceived value.

## REFERENCES

Cision PR Newswire. (2017, January 27). Blackboard Delivers Worldwide Growth. <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/blackboard-delivers-worldwide-growth-300398129.html>

Darko, C., & Jagger, D. (2020). How can we manage the Blackboard learning management system to enhance student's learning? ICDLT 2020: Proceedings of the 2020 4th International Conference on Deep Learning Technologies (ICDLT), 49-54. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3417188.3417205>

Hast, M. (2021). Higher education in times of Covid-19: Giving online feedback implementation another look. Higher Education Studies, 11(1), 1-7.

