

Guide to Accessible Academic Content

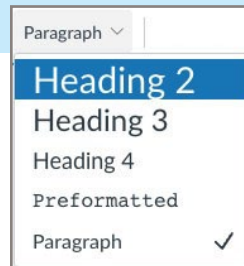


Whether you're developing course materials, adding content to Canvas, or building tests and quizzes, creating accessible academic content is a key part of supporting Harvard's Digital Accessibility Policy and providing an equitable experience for all students, especially those with disabilities.

View the guide online:
bit.ly/das-academic

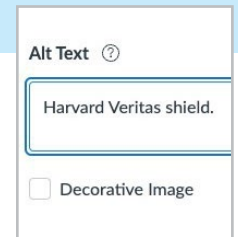
Add headings

When you add headings for sections of content, make sure they're identified as headings. Use heading levels in a hierarchical pattern (Heading 1, Heading 2, Heading 3, etc).



Write Alt Text for images

Alternative (Alt) Text should convey the "why" of the image as it relates to the content of a document or webpage. Add short, descriptive alt text to all non-decorative images.



Create descriptive links

Clearly and accurately convey the link's purpose with link text. Avoid generic text such as "click here" or "continue reading."

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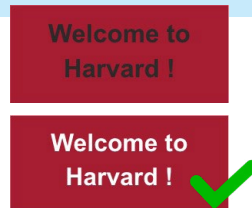
Reconsider tables

Tables should be used for tabular data, not layout. If you do use a table, add row and/or column headers.



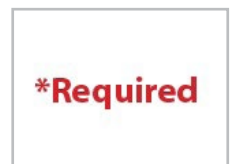
Use high color contrast

Use a color contrast checker to make sure that the contrast ratio between the text color and background color is at least 4.5:1.



Avoid relying on color for meaning

When using color, add a secondary indicator, such as text or shape differences, so that color alone is not conveying the meaning.



Add captions, transcripts, and description for multimedia

Add captions or transcripts for dialog in videos or podcasts, and add audible descriptions of visual elements in videos.



Check your documents

Tag your document with headings, be mindful of color, and use meaningful formatting techniques that will make your document more accessible to more people.



Use an Accessibility Checker

Pope Tech Accessibility for Canvas is a tool that provides guidance and information to help you find, fix, and track accessibility issues in Canvas. Learn more at bit.ly/pope-tech.

