

How to Engage with Course Materials!

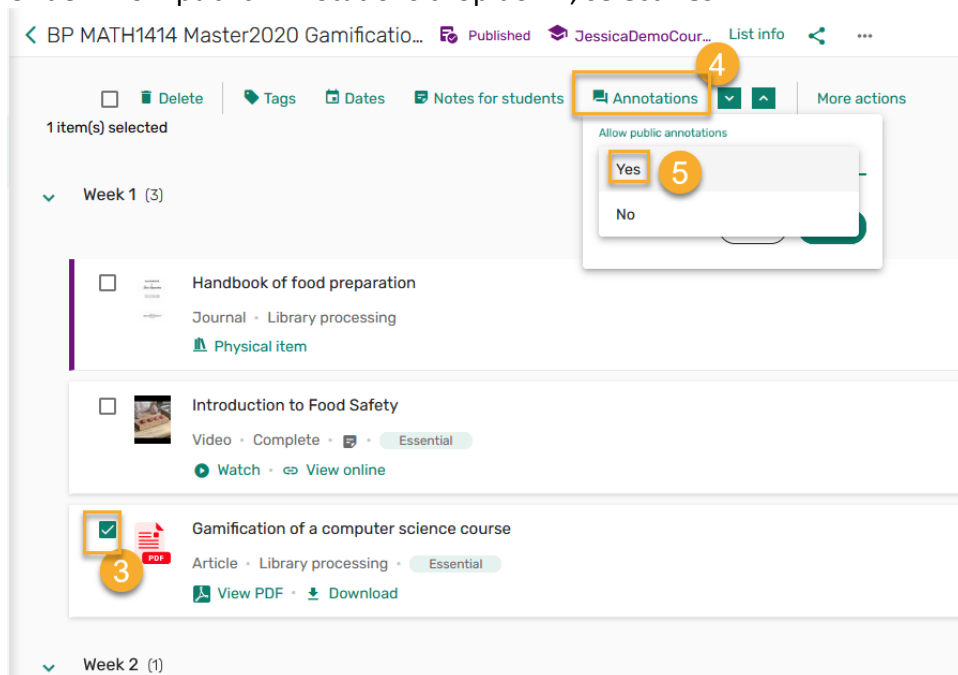
Teaching in various settings, be it online, hybrid, or face-to-face, presents the common challenge of ensuring students actively engage with assigned materials. As experienced instructors, we understand that passive reading or watching doesn't lead to true knowledge retention and understanding. So, what's the solution? We can transform our course materials into interactive resources and gather valuable analytics on their usage.

Purpose: This lesson aims to demonstrate how to activate the interactive features of *Course Materials* and offers tips and strategies to effectively engage your students.

Creating Public Annotations

Users can add annotations and highlights to PDFs that are embedded in citations. Students and instructors can share their annotations with each other, as long as annotations have been changed to public.

1. Begin by going into your Blackboard course.
2. Go to your course materials or reading list link within the Blackboard course menu.
3. In your reading list, check the resource you would like students to annotate, currently this feature is available only for PDF files.
4. Then select **Annotations option** on top menu
5. Under Allow public Annotations drop down, select **Yes**



6. Then press the **Save** button.

Tip:

To get students to begin participating in class discussions do not just direct them to annotate, be the first to comment and add instructions to help guide your students.

The screenshot shows a digital reading interface. At the top, there are tabs for "My notes" and "Class discussion", with "Public Annotations" checked. Below the tabs is a toolbar with icons for search, highlight, comment, and other functions. The main content area displays an article titled "Gamification as a Strategy to Increase Motivation and Engagement in Higher Education Chemistry Students" by Guillermo M. Chans and May Portuguez Castro. The article text is visible, including an abstract. A public annotation is overlaid on the right side of the article, containing the text: "As you go over the reading, highlight an effective practices utilized in green, an ineffective practices utilized in yellow. Comment on aha moments experienced in the article and explain why." The annotation is attributed to "Sanchez, Jessica" and dated "01/02/2024 16:38 PM".

Monitor and Analyze:

As students engage with the reading list and its interactive components, monitor their activities and utilize analytics provided to track their interactions and progress.

The screenshot shows the ExLibris Leganto interface. The top navigation bar includes "Published" and "COLTT-1301-90L-...". Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for "+ Add", "Manage sections", "Filter", and "Search". The main content area displays a list of books for a course, titled "Books for Course (5)". The first book listed is "Self-determination theory : basic psychological needs in motivation, development, a...". The second book is "Gamer Psychology and Behavior [electronic reso...". An orange arrow points to an "Analytics" icon in the right sidebar, which is highlighted with a yellow box.

How Librarians Can Help

Librarians can help add a resource list to your course, search for possible materials in the library's collection or elsewhere online and help troubleshoot any issues.

Contact Liliana Galindo, UTRGV Librarian, if you have any questions about an existing list or about setting up a list for a course.

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