Overview

AnnotationsX is an educational tool that allows faculty to set up text, image, and video objects within their Canvas (or Edx) course site, so that students can engage with the materials by submitting annotations.

Since AnnotationsX is still in pilot phase, you must request it to have it added to your Canvas course. If you would like to participate in the pilot, please send your request to atg@fas.harvard.edu.

Using Text Annotation  Instructors can set up a text object, such as a short story or poem, that will be available to the class. The instructor and students can then view and annotate the text from within the Canvas site, see each other’s annotations, and add comments to existing annotations submitted by the instructor or fellow students. Annotations can also be tagged, for easy sorting and organization of annotations. This is useful to engage students in careful readings of short texts.

Here is a link to a HarvardX-produced video on how to use the tool. (Note that the interface has changed somewhat since the production of the video, as search tools are on the right, rather than at bottom of the screen.)

Using Image Annotation  Similarly, instructors can set up an image object to be available to the class. The instructor and students can then view and annotate the image from within the Canvas site, see each other’s annotations, and add comments to existing annotations submitted by the instructor or fellow students. Annotations can also be tagged, for easy sorting and organization of annotations. This is useful for close examination and discussions of images.

Using Video Annotation  Instructors can also set up video objects to be annotated. Instructors may specify YouTube videos. Students will be able to annotate segments of a video, indicating relevant starting and stopping points. When the video is played, annotations automatically appear at the corresponding times in the video.

For Instructors:

- How to create a new text annotation assignment
- How to create a new image annotation assignment
- How to create a new video annotation assignment

For Students:

- How to add an annotation to a text object
- How to add an annotation to an image object