**What are the Options for Posting Content in Canvas?**

Canvas provides three options for presenting and managing content in a course space: Files, Modules and Pages.

- **Files** area serves as a repository for documents, presentations, images, pdf files and media that have been uploaded from your local computer or that have been migrated or copied from another course. This area can be hidden from students (while still sharing the content in it through other tools) or you can choose to share the repository itself with students.
- **Modules** are used to create a structured, link-oriented, sequential presentation of content. Modules can link to files, web pages, third-party integrations, and other Canvas tools (such as Quizzes or Discussions).
- **Pages** are wiki-like web pages that not only can display text, graphics and embedded media, but also provide links to other course content. Pages can be used to design a course “home page” or starting point.

**Why Would I Want to Share the Files Area?**

This is a valid question that actually we hope our faculty will help us answer over time as they become more expert practitioners of Canvas course design. However, one could envision a course space in which the primary goal is to share content. Files access might also be useful for leaders of organization spaces where, again, the objective is to provide access to files for the organization membership. Note: for organizations, if the objective is to facilitate interactive file sharing between members, a better option would be to create a group with shared Files access in the organization space. This concept is discussed in the Canvas Guide available at: [http://guides.instructure.com/s/2204/m/4212/l/55567-how-do-i-store-and-share-files-within-my-group](http://guides.instructure.com/s/2204/m/4212/l/55567-how-do-i-store-and-share-files-within-my-group)

**Why Would I Want to Use Modules?**

The structure for Modules is quite bare bones; there is no option for integrating graphics and the process for including explanatory text is contrived, at best. However, if you want to emphasize the linear nature of your course, e.g.,

Read Document A→Contribute a related discussion posting→Read Document B→Visit XYZ web pages→Take a chapter quiz→Submit a paper online

and you want to constrain student progress through the materials, Modules is a highly effective way to scaffold content, assessments, and collaborations. When you use Modules to organize your course, you can often “hide” many links in the Navigation menu since the Module structure serves as a navigation tool. What Navigation menu links might need to remain visible to students?
Example of Modular organization: Utah State University School Library Media Foundations  [https://usu.instructure.com/courses/129366/modules](https://usu.instructure.com/courses/129366/modules)

**Why Would I Want to Use Pages?**

Pages is a place where you can integrate text, images and other media content. If you envision a highly graphical interface for your course, Pages is the way to go. If you used “Items” in Blackboard to provide context or formatting for “Content Areas”, Pages will provide you with similar capability. You can provide a narrative to tie together content and other features of your course space.

**The Best of Both Worlds?**

Many faculty integrate Modules and Pages quite effectively. Modules become a gateway to unit pages that house the critical content of the course. Thanks to the Draft State (Publish/Unpublish) option, instructors can limit access to Page content by unpublishing certain modules and by hiding the Pages link from the course Navigation menu.