How to Set Up VoiceBoards/Blackboard Collaborate

Blackboard gives you the option of creating Voice Boards in your course using the Blackboard Collaborate (formerly Wimba) software. Voice Boards are audio recordings your students can make in a forum setting. They can post messages via recording their voice in a Voice Board, respond in a Voice Board in the audio format or even create new threads in the Voice Board (using text and audio). This feature has been popular in foreign language courses and is a great benefit to have in your course.

Getting Started

It is essential that the instructor creates the “opening” message to the assignment students can respond to. To get started go to the Blackboard course page. Click on Communications in the left menu. Then click on Voice Boards. Click on the Add button.

Settings for Voice Board

Enter the following information:
Title: name of assignment
Description: short description of same or due date etc.
Settings: the default setting is “Allow students to start a new thread”. Look at the options and select what you need
Max msg length: 20 minute maximum
Audio quality: leave setting at Standard Quality in this panel.

Click Submit when finished. You will now see a link with the title of your assignment. Click on it. The Wimba Voice board interface should come up. If you get an error message-run the diagnostic utility (link in the bottom of the page) and that will tell you what is missing in your system-(most likely just a JAVA file which is easily downloaded). If you receive the Java Plug-in Security Warning click Grant always. Then a new window will appear. Click on New and the Compose Window will appear.

Type the question/assignment you need a response to and click the red dot to start recording your voice. If you need to redo the recording, click on the red dot again. When finished recording, click the Post button at the bottom of the page. The recording will appear on the Bb page for your students to see and respond to.
Listening to Voice Boards

When you receive students’ responses, click on the dropdown arrow next to your recording. Click on the students name to highlight the recording you want to listen to and click the green Play arrow to listen. Students will listen to other posts and responses posted to the Voice Boards in the same manner.