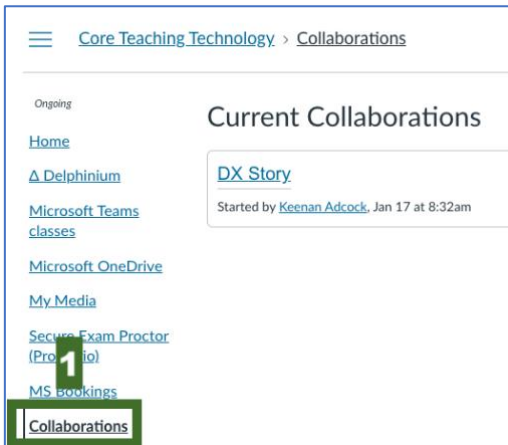# UVU

# DX STORIES

### DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION | *Teaching & Learning*

## 1. WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?

"For the past five years, I've been exploring strategies to improve collaborative experiences in my Elementary Mathematics Methods courses. Throughout the semester, students participate in discussions, plan lessons, and analyze student work.

*As an instructor, I often found it **difficult to provide students with timely feedback because of all of the documents** they utilized were **cumbersome and their work would often get lost in the Google Drive**. It was also **challenging to keep track of all the projects we were working on, particularly while livestream teaching**."*
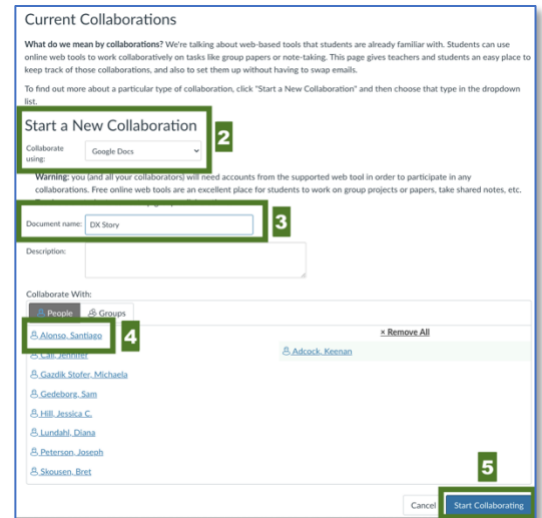
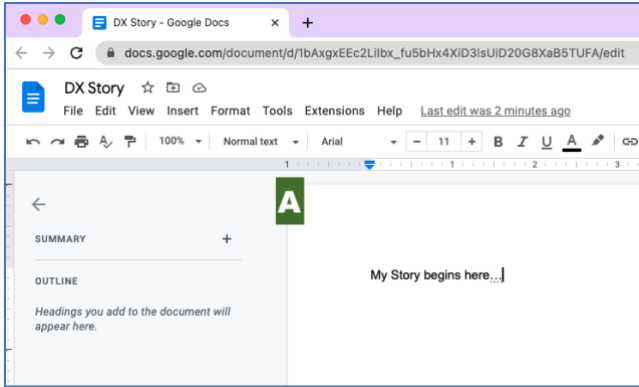## 2. HOW DID THE PROJECT LEADER(S) APPROACH SOLVING THE PROBLEM?



"In 2020, I tried **Canvas's Collaboration** tool for one of my livestream courses and the tool has been an absolute time saver. Collaboration has tools and features that have really helped to keep everyone organized and on the same page."



## 3. WHAT WERE THE RESULTS?

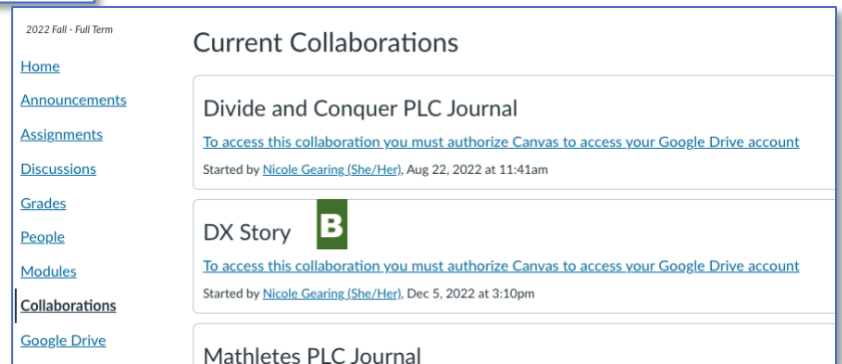"In Education, we frequently use Google Docs so I'll show that first. Canvas creates a document that is going to be shared with my students. First, **1)** click "**Collaborations**" and then select **2)** "**Start a New Collaboration", 3) Provide a Name, 4) Add people,** then **5)** click **"Start Collaborating"**. Canvas creates my new Collaboration (A [see below])."

"And then, when I go to my current Collaborations (B), I can see my shared google doc. Students can also access their document from the same tab.

On the student's end, Microsoft works the same way: Collaboration allows you to share an already created file, which is great as each student can easily view the document during a group discussion or while working on a class activity. I also have access to students' notes so I can

monitor their learning and then provide crucial feedback through the comment feature.



## 4. WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

"My favorite thing about Canvas Collaborations is how much more organized everything is. Instead of everyone doing their own thing, all the work on a project is in one place and can be easily accessed. Plus, being able to provide immediate feedback has really improved student engagement for both my in-person and livestreaming courses.

Canvas Collaborations is a feature that really deserves a look. Spend a bit of time testing it out and I'm sure you'll agree!"

## 5. WHO TO CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Dr. Nicole Gearing, Assistant Professor in the Elementary Education, nicole.gearing@uvu.edu.

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