

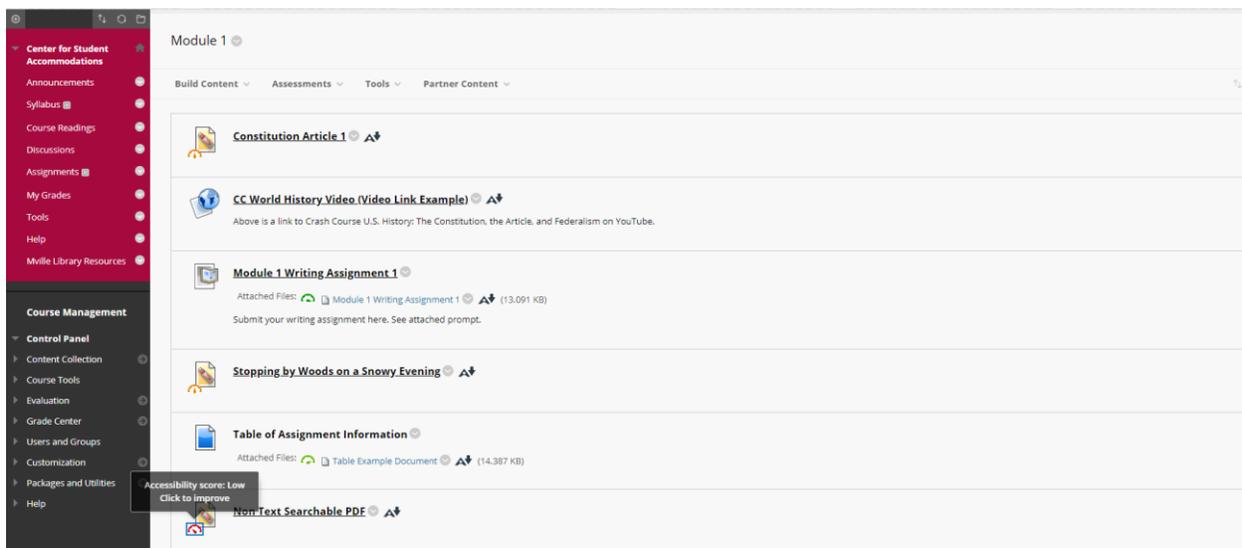
# Blackboard Ally - Brief Overview

## What is Blackboard Ally?

Blackboard Ally is a built-in accessibility tool provided to instructors to gauge the accessibility of content on their course. It provides feedback regarding the specific access issues the documents and/or content may have as well as how to remedy the issue. For students, Ally allows them the access to alternative formats for course content with no extra effort on the part of the instructor. It is a great tool to increase access for all students, including those with disabilities.

## Accessibility Score Indicators

Most content uploaded to Ally will receive an accessibility score indicator. An example of some of the icons associated with Blackboard Ally can be seen below. On the left hand side are the accessibility score indicators, and on the right (the A with the downwards arrow) the Ally icon will provide students with alternate formats of your course content.



The screenshot displays the Blackboard Ally interface for a course titled "Module 1". On the left is a navigation sidebar with sections for "Center for Student Accommodations" and "Course Management". The main content area lists several items, each with an accessibility score icon (a circle with a number) and an Ally icon (an 'A' with a downward arrow). A tooltip is visible over the "LowText Searchable PDF" item, showing an "Accessibility score: Low" and a "Click to improve" button.

Item Name	Accessibility Score	Ally Icon
Constitution Article 1	Low	Ally
CC World History Video (Video Link Example)	Low	Ally
Module 1 Writing Assignment 1	Low	Ally
Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening	Low	Ally
Table of Assignment Information	Low	Ally
LowText Searchable PDF	Low	Ally

You will notice that the accessibility score icons are different colors - this is because the content on this page ranges from completely inaccessible, to some access issues, and then small accessibility concerns that do not have great effect on overall content acquisition. By clicking these icons, Blackboard Ally will provide more specific feedback regarding the concerns of the content.

## Instructor Feedback Panel

Clicking the Accessibility score icon next to your course content will create an instructor feedback panel that you can utilize to remediate the accessibility concerns of the document. Please note: **only instructors can see the accessibility scores and the feedback panel.** Students do not know the accessibility concerns of your documents. This image is what you will see when you open the Instructor Feedback Panel. In it, you will see a list of accessibility issues, the overall accessibility score for the document listed as a percentage, as well as feedback directing you to how best address the accessibility concern.

The screenshot displays the Instructor Feedback Panel for a PDF document titled "Inaccessible PDF(2).pdf". The panel is divided into two main sections: a document preview on the left and a feedback summary on the right.

**Document Preview (Left):**

- Page 1 of 1
- 2 Images without a description
- Title: Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening
- Text: Whose woods these are I think I know. His house is in the village though; He will not see me stopping here To watch his woods fill up with snow.
- Text: My little horse must think it queer To stop without a farmhouse near Between the woods and frozen lake The darkest evening of the year.
- Text: He gives his harness bells a shake To ask if there is some mistake. The only other sound's the sweep Of easy wind and downy flake.
- Text: The woods are lovely, dark and deep, But I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep, And miles to go before I sleep.
- Image 1: A black and white portrait of an elderly man with white hair, wearing a suit and tie. A red "1/2" label is in the top left corner of the image.
- Image 2: A color photograph of a forest floor covered in fallen leaves and branches, with a small stream or path visible. A red dashed border indicates it is missing a description.

**Feedback Summary (Right):**

- Accessibility score for: Inaccessible PDF(2).pdf
- Score: 48%
- All Issues (i)
- Message: This PDF contains images that are missing a description
- Buttons: What this means, How to add descriptions
- Upload a version with image descriptions
- Drop file to upload or Browse

In this image, you can see that the accessibility score for the document is 48%. This is chiefly due to the PDF containing images without an image description. Ally will tell you why this is important in the "What this means" tab, as well as how to fix the issue in the "How to add descriptions tab". You will also see that the accessibility checker has highlighted a specific image that is a concern in a red border.

The screenshot displays the Ally accessibility checker interface. At the top left, it shows "Page 1 of 1" and a red notification box with the number "1" and the text "Text fragment with insufficient contrast". The main content area shows a document page with the title "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" highlighted in a red border. Below the title are three stanzas of the poem. To the right of the poem is a black and white portrait of Robert Frost. At the bottom of the page is a photograph of a forest with fallen trees and a stream. On the right side of the interface, there is a dark sidebar with the heading "Accessibility score for: Inaccessible PDF(2).pdf". Below the heading is a gauge showing a score of 48%. Underneath the gauge is a list of three issues, each with a right-pointing arrow:

- This PDF contains images that are missing a description. Increase score up to 92%.
- This PDF contains text with insufficient contrast. Increase score up to 52%.
- This PDF does not have a title. Increase score up to 50%.

At the top right of the sidebar, there is a button labeled "All Issues" with a close icon (X).

By clicking "All Issues", Ally will tell you what specific accessibility concerns there are on the document in their totality, as well as how important each issue is to fix. They are listed in the order of their importance, with images missing a description occupying the top spot and representing a 40% increase in accessibility once it is fixed.

## For Students - Alternate Formats

You will also notice a small Ally logo on the right-hand side of each document. When students click this icon, they will be offered *alternate formats* for the content.

Download alternative formats ✕

Selected file:

-  Table Document.docx
-  Tagged PDF  
Structured PDF for improved use with assistive technology
-  HTML  
For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices
-  ePub  
For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers
-  Electronic braille  
BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays
-  Audio  
MP3 version for listening
-  BeeLine Reader  
Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading
-  Translated version  
A machine translated version of the original document

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