

Online Learning with JAWS: Tips On Three Platforms

Overview of Google Classroom, Canvas, and Blackboard

- Google Classroom, Canvas, and Blackboard are online learning platforms widely used in schools and universities to streamline course materials.
- Use them to foster collaboration and facilitate communication.
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Google Classroom



CANVAS



Blackboard
LEARN

Navigate All Three Platforms with JAWS

- Use a combination of Windows and JAWS-specific keyboard commands to navigate each platform.
- Navigating these platforms relies heavily on web navigation skills with JAWS.
- Use the Freedom Scientific [Surf's Up](#) web navigation tutorial to enhance these skills.
- Learn skills such as navigating web page elements, filling out forms, and reading tables.

JAWS®



Accessibility Considerations for Course Development

- Ensure page layout is simple, uncluttered, and clean so it is navigable.
- Organize content in short paragraphs so it is scannable.
- Include section headings so the content is easy to locate.
- Use alt text to describe images.
- Link URLs to meaningful text.
- Include column and row headings in tables.
- Use an intuitive layout across courses.
- This ensures consistency when navigating all courses.



Accessibility Features

- Turn on Screen Reader and Braille Support in Google Workspace applications.
- Press **CTRL+ALT+Z** to turn on Screen Reader Support, and **CTRL+ALT+H** to turn on Braille Support.
- Turn on Braille Support even if a refreshable braille display is not in use.
- This ensures all reading and navigation features are accessible.
- Canvas provides numerous accessibility settings.
- Navigate to Profile, then Settings.
- Enable keyboard shortcuts.
- Use high-contrast UI (user interface).
- Use Microsoft Immersive Reader.
- Underline links.
- Use the Quick Links feature in Blackboard to navigate directly to any heading or ARIA landmark on a page.
- Press **SHIFT+ALT+L** from anywhere on a page to open Quick Links.
- Use the Global Navigation menu to quickly locate information.

Collaboration Tips

- Communicate directly via messages on all three platforms.
- Use Discussions in all three platforms to facilitate collaboration.
- Share files from apps such as Google Docs or Word.



Resources

- Visit the Freedom Scientific Resources page for Google Classroom, Canvas, and Blackboard resources.
- <https://www.freedomscientific.com/resources>

