

# TEACHING TUESDAYS



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## BELLISARIO BULLETIN



– By [Denise Bortree](#)

Welcome to Teaching Tuesdays! It's another beautiful fall day on campus. Thank you to the faculty and staff who continue to support our students on this “back half” of the semester. I hope you can join tomorrow’s Teaching Tuesdays in Real Life (TTIRL) to learn more about the asynchronous discussion tool Packback. Are you interested in increasing student engagement and discussion in your classes? This tool might work for you. Below, Danielle Harris provides a primer on Packback and also show us how to integrate it into Canvas. It’s a useful issue. Have a good week. Denise

### Important Items of Note

- **AI, Pedagogy, and Academic Integrity** | Visit the [AI, Pedagogy, and Academic Integrity site](#) for information and resources.
- **Generative AI for Creativity & Innovation** | Using your PSU credentials, you have access to this course offered by Adobe. | [Access Here](#) and click 'Get started with your PSU email.'
- **Teaching Tuesdays in Real Life** | Packback Comes to Campus! | October 25 | 1 - 2 pm | Bellisario Media Center Room 103 | [Sign Up](#) | Food provided

### Careers/Internships

- **October 24 & 25** | CzechMates Information Session | 5:00-6:30 p.m. | 075 Willard Bldg. (10/24), 067 Willard Bldg. (10/25)
- **October 31** | COMM Careers in the Capital | 1 - 4 pm | Marriott Marquis, Washington, D.C. | On-location internship and job fair specifically for Bellisario College students in Washington, D.C.

### Upcoming Events

- **October 24** | Foster-Foreman Conference of Distinguished Writers | 6 - 7 pm | Freeman Auditorium, HUB-Robeson Center | Lyndsay Green, a Penn State alumna and Pulitzer Prize finalist from the Detroit Free Press, will participate in a free public session highlighting the second day of the Foster-Foreman Conference.
- **October 25** | Brownbag Series | Leah Dajches | 12 - 1 pm | Multipurpose Room, Bellisario Media Center (103) | [RSVP](#) | Presenting “Popular Media, Fandom, and Communication-Related Empowerment.”

- **October 25** | Teaching Tuesdays in Real Life | Packback Comes to Campus | 1 - 2 pm | Multipurpose Room, Bellisario Media Center (103) | [Sign Up](#) | Food provided

## TEACHING TIP



### What is Packback?

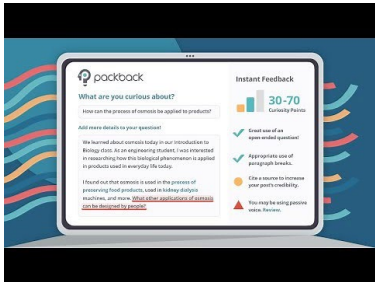
– By [Danielle Harris](#) | Instructional Design



Packback is an online learning platform for student dialogue which uses artificial intelligence to facilitate discussion and encourages student engagement by highlighting high-quality contributions, suggesting relevant follow-up questions, and more. Analytics track student progress and participation. Feedback can be provided to the individual student or the course, making this a useful discussion tool when facing large class sizes and limited time for detailed feedback when grading student posts.

If [attending Teaching Tuesdays in Real Life tomorrow](#), you will hear from Packback experts as well as instructors who use this interactive tool!

#### Video Overview



#### What is Packback?

Packback is a different kind of online discussion platform where students are guided to ask their own open-ended discussion questions. Through AI-based automated coaching and moderation, plus powerful instructor tools for giving feedback at scale, Packback makes meaningful discussion possible in any size class. Based on the principles of the ...

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

#### At a Glance

Packback is available to students, faculty, and staff at Penn State University. The cost is **free to PSU teachers** and, for students it is currently \$29. **Scholarships are available** to students if they [contact Packback](#) and make the request. Packback integrates nicely with the Canvas learning platform and teachers have the assistance of our PSU Packback representatives ([Anne Olson](#) and [Billy Gorman](#)) as well as the Bellisario College instructional designer, both of whom can help walk you through the Canvas integration process.

#### Pedagogical Goals

- Create a classroom community
- Disseminate information/deliver content
- Have asynchronous conversations
- Increase student collaboration outside of class
- Increase student participation

#### Resources

PSU Knowledge Base: Packback

- [Packback Webinars](#)
- [Resources for Instructors: Getting Started on Packback](#)
- [Packback Support Center](#)

# CANVAS CUE



## How to Integrate Packback

– By [Danielle Harris](#) | Instructional Design



In an online, asynchronous setting, there are a number of ways to keep discussions interactive and track engagement levels. [Packback](#) is one option and here we will look at the basic steps to getting your account integrated with a Canvas course.

### [How to Connect a Canvas Course to Packback: Video Overview](#)



#### [How to Connect a Canvas Course to Packback](#)

Today I'm going to show you how to connect your Canvas course to Packback. Please note: This video assumes that you have already made the Packback ToolLink available in your course and you're currently logged into Canvas with the same email address that is tied to your Packback account. To launch Packback in Canvas, click on the Packback

...

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

### Getting Started

If wanting to use Packback in one of your courses, **start by contacting a PSU Packback representative** and they will walk you through starting an account, locating links or other information you may need to place in Canvas or share with students, and ensuring that your Packback community has been established correctly.

- [Anne Olson](#)
- [Billy Gorman](#)

For anyone interested in using the Packback discussion platform, also check out [Resources for Instructors: Getting Started on Packback](#).

### Canvas Settings

An important step in this process will be to visit the settings in your course and make sure Packback has been enabled in the course menu. Be sure to click 'Save' once finished.

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Course Details Sections **Navigation** Apps Feature Options Integrations

Home

Syllabus

Modules

Announcements

Grades

Assignments

Quizzes

Discussions

People

Pages

Files

BigBlueButton

Rubrics

Outcomes

Collaborations

Library Resources

Settings

Drag and drop items to reorder them in the course navigation.

Home	
Syllabus	⋮
Modules	⋮
Announcements	⋮
Grades	⋮
Assignments	⋮
Quizzes	⋮
Discussions	⋮
People	⋮
Collaborations	⋮
Library Resources	⋮

Drag items here to hide them from students.  
Disabling most pages will cause students who visit those pages to be redirected to the course home page.

- Packback Questions  
*Page disabled, won't appear in navigation*
- Pages  
*Page disabled, will redirect to course home page*
- Files  
*Page disabled, will redirect to course home page*
- BigBlueButton  
*Page disabled, will redirect to course home page*

## Packback Assignments in Canvas

Packback representatives will clarify this, and the Bellisario College instructional designer can always confirm this process for you, but it's important to note that Packback discussions will be created as Canvas [assignments](#). When editing the assignment details and, more specifically, the submission type, you will want to select 'External Tool' and then specify that this will be Packback:

Points 10

Assignment Group Discussions

Display Grade as Points

Do not count this assignment towards the final grade

Submission Type External Tool

External Tool Options

Enter or find an External Tool URL

<https://lms-api.packback.co/api/lti/lat...>

Load This Tool In A New Tab

Configure External Tool

Select a tool from the list below, or enter a URL for an external tool you already know is configured with Basic LTI to add a link to it to this module.

- Office 365 - retiring FA23  
Allows you to pull in documents from Office 365 to Canvas
- Packback Questions**  
Education is about more than memorizing facts and taking exams. Curiosity should have a place in every
- Perusall  
The Perusall social learning platform.
- Pivot Interactives

Cancel Select

## Packback Support

The most important thing is to remember that you will have support throughout this entire process. If interested in using this discussion platform in an upcoming course, take the first step and contact [Anne](#) or [Billy](#) with Packback, or the Bellisario College instructional designer ([Danielle](#)) with questions, concerns, or interest in the Canvas integration process.

# SHARE A TEACHING STRATEGY



Share something fabulous that you have been doing in your classroom! Do you have a teaching technology or strategy that you've seen succeed and would like to share it in the *Teaching Tuesdays* newsletter? If so, please [share your idea](#) for an upcoming issue.