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# **Creating a Student-Friendly Canvas Course**



# Overview

- Communicating with students
- Structuring your course using Modules
- Using Pages to provide information
- Keep it organized with some global ideas

The background features a horizontal band of abstract, textured colors ranging from deep purple to bright cyan. Overlaid on this are several thin, white circular lines of varying radii. A prominent white rectangular box is positioned on the left side of the band, containing the word "Communication" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# Communication

# Using Canvas to Communicate

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**Announcements**



**Canvas Inbox**



**Open Discussion Board(s)**

Q&A/Ask the Instructor  
Water Cooler Chat



**Using (most of) the boxes when creating**

“If you’ve only said it once,  
you haven’t said it enough.”

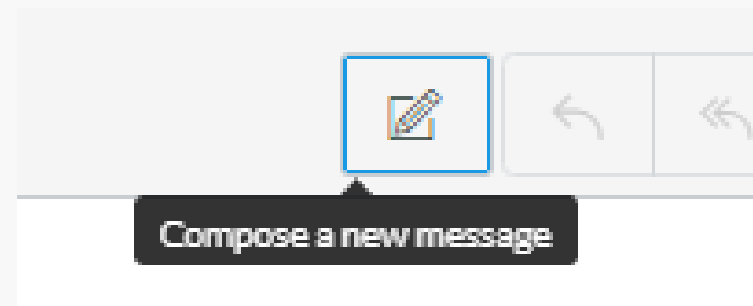


**Using feedback in  
Quizzes and  
Assignments**

# Activity #1 – 2:00 min

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1. Go into your Inbox
2. Click on the New Message button
3. In Courses, choose Canvas Instructor Orientation
4. Send a message to Lily Shafer-Lahnum



Compose Message ×

Course Canvas Ins..rientation

To Lily Shafer-Lahnum ✉

Subject Hi Lily!

Send an individual message to each recipient



The background features a horizontal band of blue and purple hues with a grainy, textured appearance. Overlaid on this are several thin, white circular lines of varying radii. A prominent white rectangular box is positioned on the left side of the band, containing the word "Modules" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# Modules

# Modules Keep It Organized

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**Why use Modules?**



**Adding content to Modules**

Use text headers and indentation



**Reorganizing Modules**

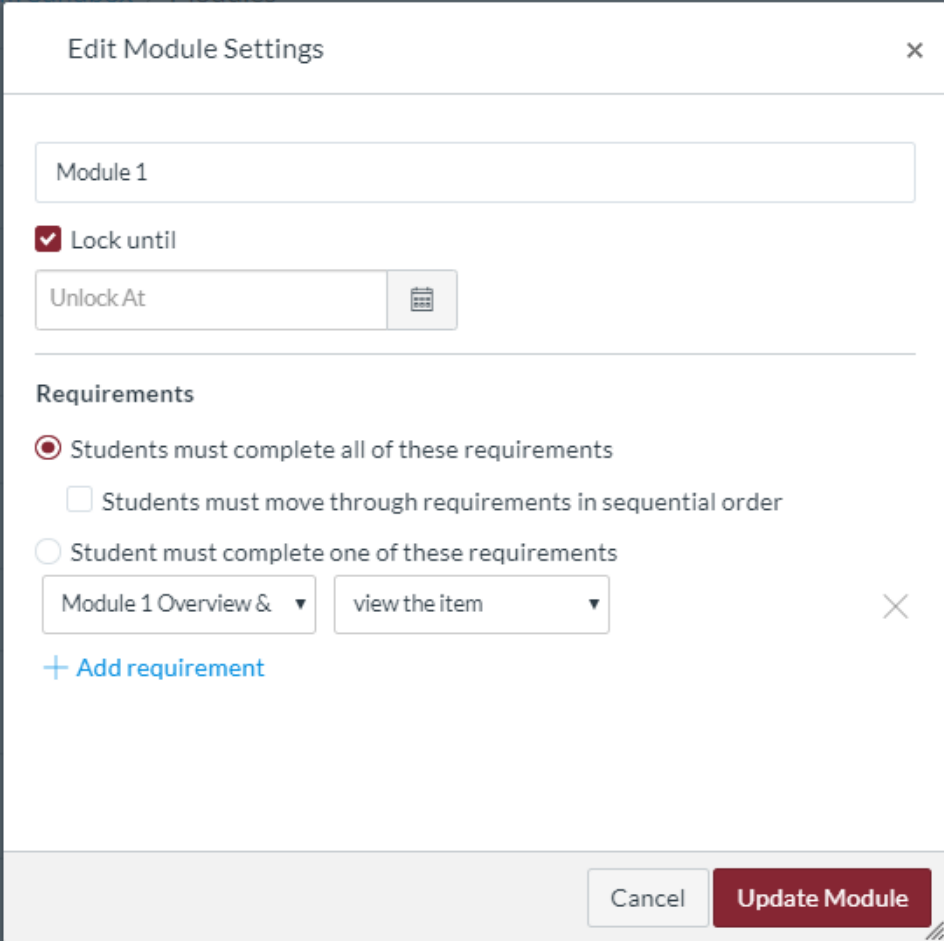


**Module settings**

Locking, Requirements and Prerequisites

# Activity #2 – 2:00min

- Go into your Sandbox course
- Create a new Module – give it a meaningful name
- Add a Lock Until date
- Adjust the Requirement options for the module



The screenshot shows the 'Edit Module Settings' dialog box. At the top, there is a title bar with 'Edit Module Settings' and a close button (X). Below the title bar, there is a text input field containing 'Module 1'. Underneath, there is a checked checkbox labeled 'Lock until'. Below this is an 'Unlock At' field with a calendar icon to its right. A horizontal line separates this section from the 'Requirements' section. The 'Requirements' section has a title 'Requirements' and three radio button options: 'Students must complete all of these requirements' (which is selected), 'Students must move through requirements in sequential order', and 'Student must complete one of these requirements'. Below these options, there is a dropdown menu showing 'Module 1 Overview &' and a 'view the item' button. To the right of this button is another close button (X). At the bottom of the dialog, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' and 'Update Module'.





**Pages**

# Using Pages

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**What is a Page?**



**What can I put on a Page?**

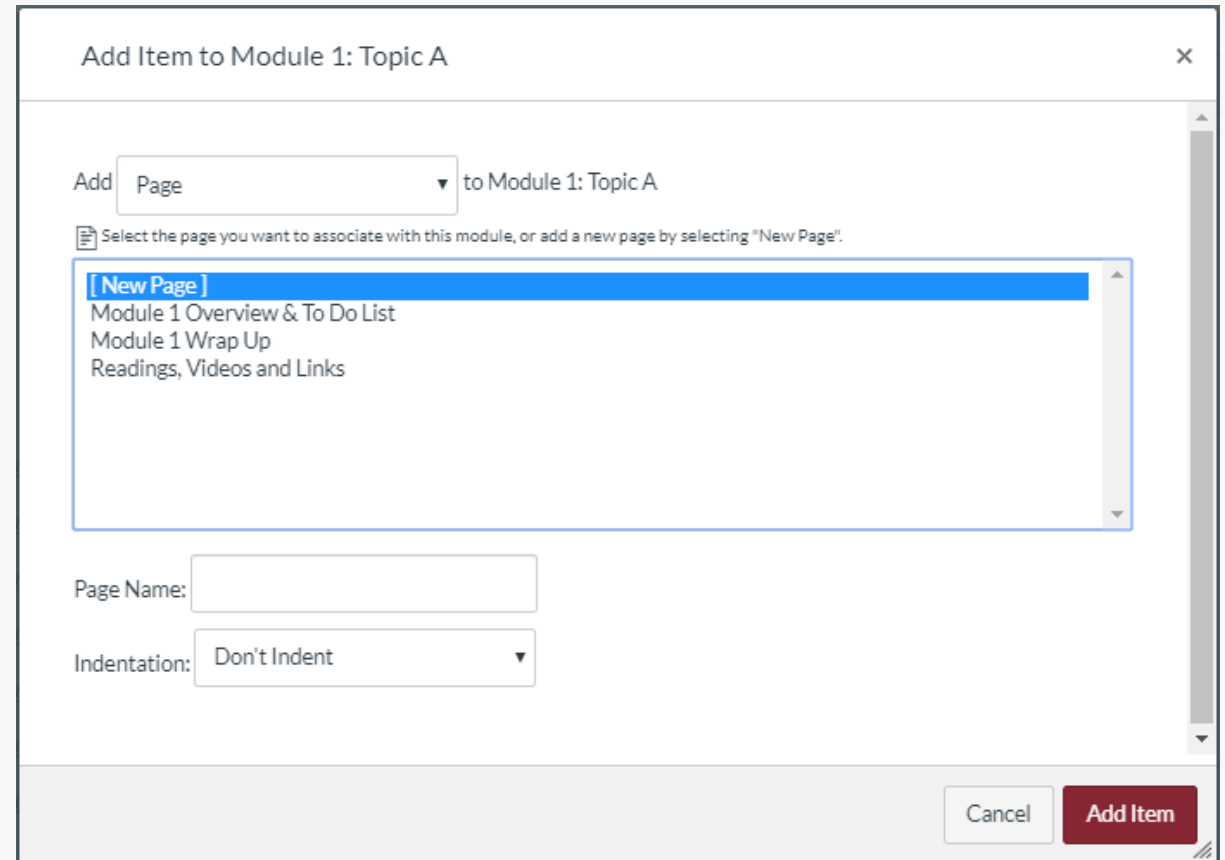
(hint: almost anything!)



**How can I use Pages effectively?**

# Activity #3 – 3:00 min

1. Go into your Sandbox course
2. Create a Page in your new Module
3. Add content to your new Page
4. Add the Page to Student To-Do



Add Item to Module 1: Topic A

Add  to Module 1: Topic A

Select the page you want to associate with this module, or add a new page by selecting "New Page".

- [ New Page ]
- Module 1 Overview & To Do List
- Module 1 Wrap Up
- Readings, Videos and Links

Page Name:

Indentation:

Cancel Add Item



# **Course Organization**

# Keeping Things Organized

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## Chunking

a silly word for an important idea



## Due Dates

If you see a due date box, fill it in



## Consistency

Rhythm matters to learners almost as much as jazz artists



## Course Menu

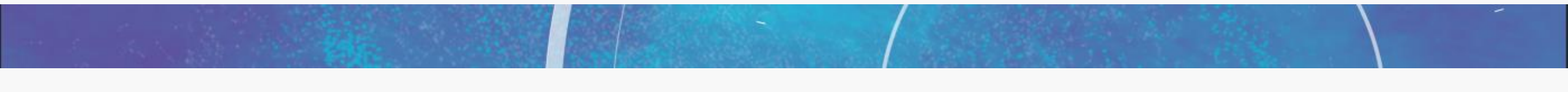
Keep it simple

# **Activity #4 – For After**

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Write down your upcoming assignments, quizzes, lectures, readings and other materials.

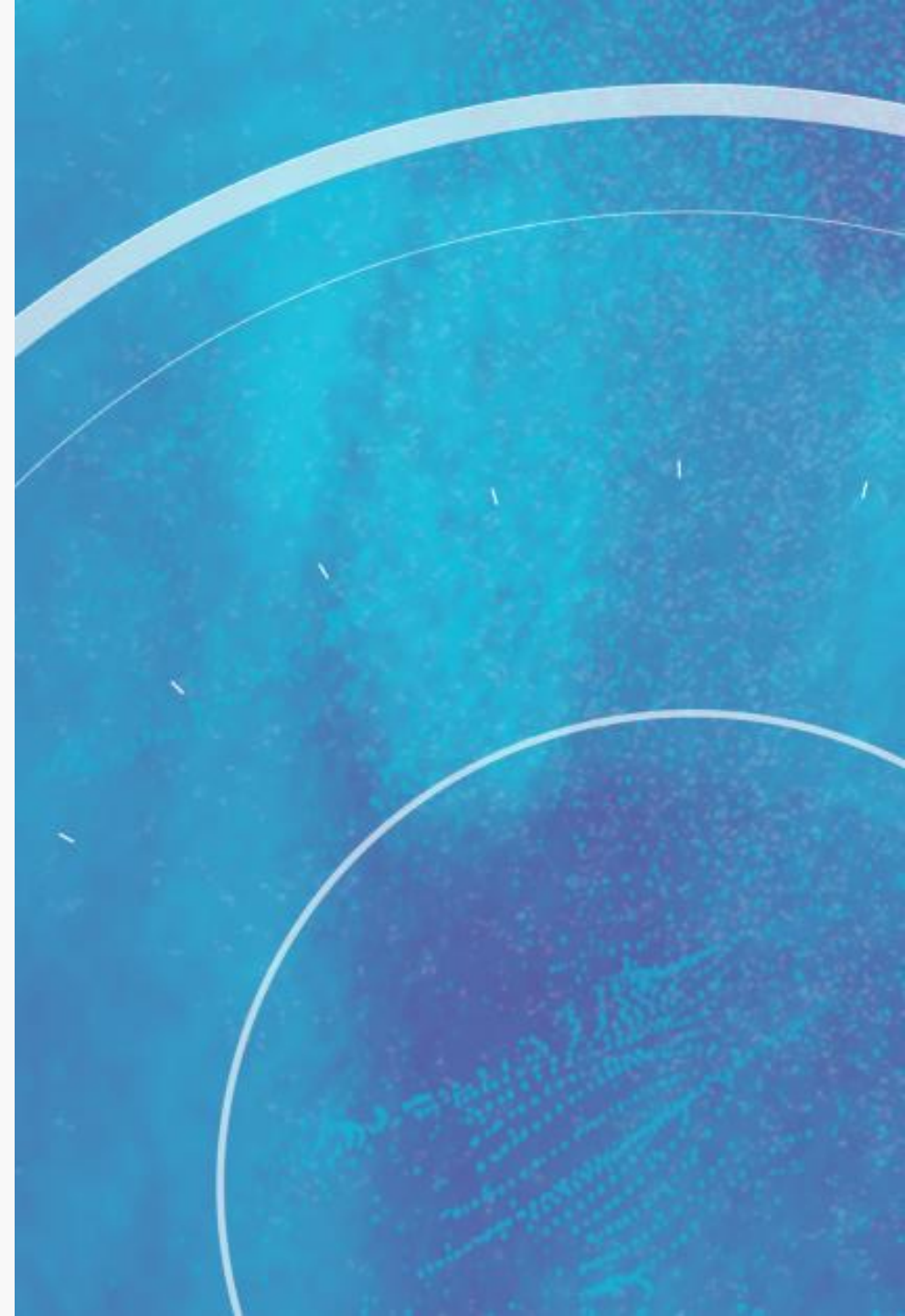
What will your rhythm be? Map it out. Write it down.





# Review

- [Announcements](#)
- [Canvas Inbox](#)
- [Canvas Inbox: Facts](#)
- [Open Discussions](#)
- [Quiz Feedback](#)
- [Assignment Feedback](#)
- [Use Modules](#)
- [Use Pages](#)
- [Customize your Course Menu](#)
- [Canvas: Notification Recommendations](#)



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**Thank you!**

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**[bit.ly/cilacphs](https://bit.ly/cilacphs)**