

## Notes on “moodle@NovaSBE&Perusall”

*(please follow link)*

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## What is **Perusall**?

**Perusall** is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party Platform using instructional technology developed by Harvard University and is integrated in the “moodle@NovaSBE” Platform; as a **social reading annotation tool**, Perusall is a collaborative eBook reader where an individual reading activity is turned into a shared interactive reading online experience.

**Perusall Assignments** goal is to collaboratively annotate text, videos or images to stimulate exchange of questions or comments to help other Students by answering and upvote them, to draw attention to important subjects or areas of confusion which Instructors may take into account and address in the next session with Students.

With promoted active **reading, writing and thinking** there is an increase in Students participation, confidence, ownership of ideas and engagement.

**Reading materials** are available in many formats and can be selected from a variety of sources; **Grades** are automatically calculated by an **AI** auto-scoring feature and synchronized with moodle Grades/Gradebook according to the selected **Advanced Setting** – see below [\(\\*\)](#).

### ➤ **How to start Perusall from your moodleCourse**

#### 1 - in the “moodle@NovaSBE” Platform

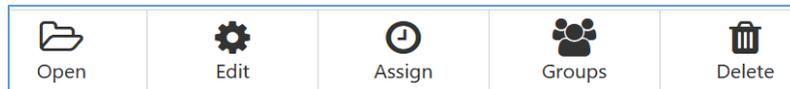
- **Add an External tool Perusall Activity** to create a **general connection/overall link** and change its **Settings** accordingly:
  - **Grade - disable Grading,**
  - in **Common module settings/ Availability = Hide it from Students.**
- Click on **this link** to access Perusall to create this Course in Perusall system – done by the Instructor and only once per Course.

**NOTE** – the 1<sup>st</sup> time you access Perusall, you will receive an **eMail** to link your existing Perusall account with your moodle Platform for which you need to click on [Confirm and merge accounts](#).

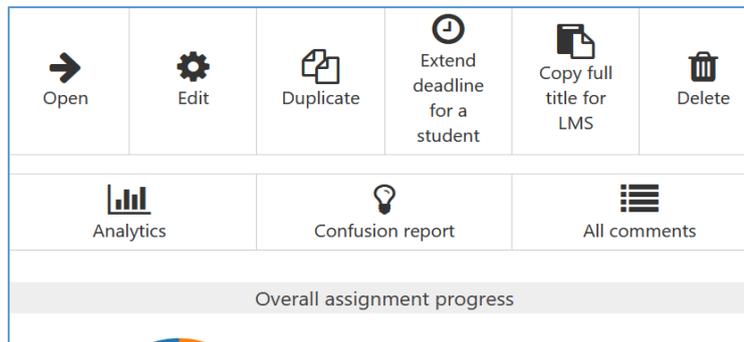
## 2 - in the Perusall system

### 2.1 - Go to Course home, left panel – tabs navigation:

- **Get started** – to setup your Course, start and end dates...
- **Library** – pool of added contents/readings;



- **Assignments** – focusing on selected materials, with links to other information such as analytics, comments, the Assignment progress:



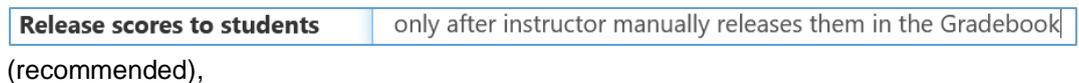
- **Students** – list of enrolled Students in the corresponding moodleCourse which have already accessed Perusall; other options are:



### 2.2 - Settings on the left panel

Click and validate the **Settings options** in the following **tabs**:

- **General** – Course info, name, start and end dates, and more



- **Access**,
- **Grouping** – Students that work together for each Assignment; for a manageable number of annotations use **max 20 members/group** (recommended); Groups for a particular document are fixed once the document is uploaded, to ensure Students have a consistent view of each document. Students will only see the annotations made from others in their Group plus any threads that Instructors start.

Students are assigned to Groups automatically or manually:

- **Students automatically/randomly assigned to Groups** - each document has a different set of Groups for different Assignments; each Student will have an opportunity to interact with different Students.

- o **Group manual assignment** can be done by



Click the **Import from spreadsheet** button to obtain the Excel Template to fill in with your Students info and upload next.

**To change from manual to automatically-generated groups** and force Perusall to regenerate Groups, go to **Library/ Groups** button and **click Reshuffle groups**

- **Scoring** – of up to 6 components to be graded



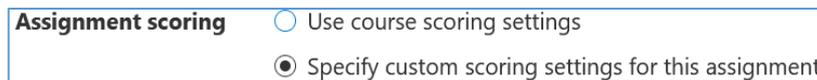
- **Advanced** – with more info on Grades, such as **Assignment grade range** – lowest and highest score for this Assignment,



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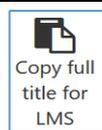
## ➤ For each new Perusall (annotation) Assignment

- 1 - In the **Perusall system**, go to **Course home**, left panel, click **+ Add assignment**, top right, and go through and validate all options in the **tabs**:
  - **Content** - select the content and its range to be worked on,
  - **Options** - deadline, Assignment name, instructions for Students,
  - **Scoring** - you may choose from



- 2 - To create **this assignment in the “moodle@NovaSBE” Platform:**

- 2.1 - Go to **Perusall Course home**, left panel, click the **Assignments** button and select the one;



next, click the button to copy the Assignment name,

- 2.2 - Go **back to the “moodle@NovaSBE” Platform** (select its Browser tab),

Create a new **External tool** Perusall Activity in the moodle Platform; in its **Edit settings**,

- **Activity name** - paste the **Perusall Assignment name**,
- in **Privacy** and **Grade** sections - enable grading.

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## ➤ What should you tell your Students?

Students will interact with the Perusall activity just like any other **in moodle**:

- Click on the provided **Perusall Activity/Assignment** - Students will be taken to your Perusall Course page and corresponding Assignment,
- In the Perusall **Assignment** – for the select readings, they should highlight, comment, upvote, compile a list of excerpts, ask and answer questions.

### **VERY IMPORTANT – navigation rule for Students:**

Make sure your Students **launch each Perusall Assignment** from the corresponding Assignment-specific (same name) **link in the “moodle@NovaSBE” Platform**.

This is **mandatory to ensure that grades sync** (between Perusall and moodle) works throughout.

After that, if Students want to **work in another** Perusall Assignment they **should go back to the moodle** Platform and click on another Perusall assignment link to access and work on it in Perusall.

For more info: <https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002173133-Students>

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## ➤ NOTES:

### • on Grading/scores and analytics

Grades are based on effort and engagement – scores from 0-3.

- **Annotations are evaluated based on:**
  - **Quality** – Scores are either 0, 1 or 2 (2 showing thorough and thoughtful reading AND insightful interpretation of the reading).
  - **Quantity** – Instructor sets minimum number of annotations, Perusall computes overall grade based on highest-quality annotations.
  - **Timeliness** – Is assignment completed by deadline?
  - **Distribution** – Are annotations made throughout the document?

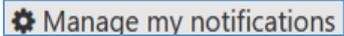
(\*\*)

**Artificial Intelligence (AI)** is used to compute reading scores and aggregated analytics,

- the grading is automatic; it can be changed by Instructors,
- grades sync with moodle may take **up to 1h** to be shown in moodle Gradebook,
- each Assignment has an **Analytics** button with a few detailed Reports on the Users activities, their engagement, time spent in Assignments vs reading time and grades distribution.

### • Good Practices:

- Use a **1<sup>st</sup> reading** Assignment **for training only**,
- Students should be encouraged to engage with materials by interacting more than once per reading,
- Instructors should monitor conversations but interact only at the end/due date, otherwise Students may stop talking with each other and wait for other Instructors interactions/right answers,

- Do not use the anonymous annotation – it may defeat this tool objectives,
- There is a **mail notification** sent to your eMail every time there is a comment from other Students.  
You may turn it off by clicking **Notifications**, left panel, then click  button, top of the screen and choose from the available options; Notifications are seen immediately if online and will be available also for consultation in a button on the tool bar, on the right of the Perusall screen,
- **Study Groups** (from **My Courses** option) – to read a book from Perusall catalog with friends; a User that creates the Study Group can invite by eMail other Students that bought the same book as additional members. Study Groups work like Courses but with no assignments or grades.
- To **upload documents** or capture **web pages** for use of a Group only, **create a regular Course** (instead of a Study Group).

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## ➤ More Perusall Information

### **(\*\*)** PERUSALL Tutorial: Introduction to the platform (08:08)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODE6v4YOo0E>

- **introduction to Perusall** (08:20)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV2wRlyc0uw>
- **Perusall Support**  
[support@perusall.com](mailto:support@perusall.com)
- **Perusall-moodle setup**  
<https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/articles/360049783633>
- **for Instructors - Courses and Content**  
<https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002157414-Instructors>
- **for Students - Getting started and Assignments**  
<https://support.perusall.com/hc/en-us/categories/360002173133-Students>
- **Basic primer on using Perusall in our Moodle system** (14:30)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PiRBbuqIK8>
- PAPER – study on the impact of Perusall annotation assignments in Students' engagement:  
**Students' experiences with the use of a social annotation tool to improve learning in flipped classrooms**  
<http://headconf.org/wp-content/uploads/pdfs/9131.pdf>  
on **Flipped Classrooms Model: Why, How and Overview** (05:03)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCIxikOq73Q>
- **TLTC Workshop: Engaging Students with Course readings, using Perusall in Moodle** (01:03:28 – start at 12:25-52:10)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtujLXFpa9Y>

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