

Viewing comments in assignments

During December, all schools using Blackboard had to move to a new assignment markup tool. This function was previously handled by a third-party program called Crocodoc. That program was bought by a company called Box. Box decided to stop offering the Crocodoc service and replaced it with their own markup tool, which is what you'll see in your Blackboard assignments area now.

If your instructor types comments directly on your assignment in Blackboard, this new Box program will be used to display it. Here are some important things you need to know about how to use it.

1. If your **assignment does not immediately appear** after you upload it and you see a download button instead, refresh your browser to get it to display. If you leave the assignment and re-open it, it will display also. You do NOT have to wait for the "converting" message to finish. This will hopefully be fixed quickly.
2. Wherever you see highlighted text in your graded assignment, there is most likely comments attached. To view **comments on any highlighted text**, point at the highlighted text and a comment box will pop up. If the box doesn't display, click the highlighted text instead. Only one comment can be displayed at a time. It is possible for your instructor to highlight text and not actually type a comment. This would be rare but it could happen.
3. To view **comments included in the text bubble**,  point your cursor at the icon and the comment box should display. If that doesn't work, click on the text bubble. Only one comment can be displayed at a time.
4. You can **download or print a copy of your assignment** using these boxes at the top,    but comments made directly on the document won't display/print. You could take screenshots of each comment but since only one comment displays at a time, this would be very time consuming.

Review Submission History: Box assignment 2

Hover over highlighted text to see the comment box.

Hover over this icon and a comment box will pop up.

If the box doesn't open when you hover over the item, click the icon or highlighted text instead.

If your instructor only makes comments in the Comments area on the right side of the assignment page, you won't need to worry about the things mentioned above. Some faculty may choose to download your assignment, write comments on it and then re-upload your assignment with their comments. If they do this, you'll see a file listed on the right side of the graded assignment page that you can open to view their comments.

We, along with many other universities, have reported all of the shortcomings of this new third-party program to Blackboard. Hopefully Box will be able to resolve these issues quickly.