



Docs Rocks! Engaging Activities with Google Docs

Session Agenda - bit.ly/curts-gdocs



Presenter

Eric Curts

- EdTech Coach, AI Strategist, Author, Blogger, Speaker, Google Champion
- 💡 Eric's EdTech blog - controlaltachieve.com
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- 🏠 Bring me to your school, organization, or conference with over 70 PD sessions to choose from - bit.ly/curts-pd
- 📰 Sign up for my weekly email newsletter - bit.ly/curts-news
- 🐦 Socials: [Bluesky](#) - [Threads](#) - [X](#) - [Facebook](#) - [LinkedIn](#) - [Instagram](#) - [Mastodon](#)
- 📺 YouTube - youtube.com/ericcurts
- 🔔 Get new blog posts automatically through email - [FollowIt](#) link
- 📧 Join the "Control Alt Achieve" email discussion group - bit.ly/caa-emailgroup
- 💬 Join the "Control Alt Achieve" Facebook group - bit.ly/caa-fb
- 🔗 EdTech Links of the Week - bit.ly/caa-links
- 📖 "Control Alt Achieve" book - [Amazon link](#) - [Details](#)
- 🖐 Google Educator Group of Ohio - bit.ly/gegohio
- 👍 Rate my session and provide feedback - bit.ly/curts-rate

Sharing Doc - Share any comments, questions, answers, resources, links, examples, and more - [Google Document link](#)

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General Resources

- Slideshow - "ELA Activities with Google Docs" - [Google Slides link](#) (or [make a copy](#))
- Blog post - "8 Engaging ELA Activities for Google Docs" - [Website link](#)
- Training video - "8 Engaging ELA Activities for Google Docs" (55 minutes) - [YouTube Video](#)
- Fabulous Features of Google Docs - bit.ly/curts-docs - [Google Slides link](#)

Highlighting for Summarization

- Blog post - "Improve Reading Comprehension with Google Docs Black Out" - [Website link](#)
- Sample article about spiders - [Google Doc link](#)
- Step 1 - Find an article - [15+ Awesome Article Sites for Students](#)
 - Newsela - <https://newsela.com>
 - TweenTribune - <http://tweentribune.com>
 - Wonderopolis - <http://wonderopolis.org>
 - DOGOnes - <https://www.dogonews.com>
 - Here There Everywhere - <http://htekidsnews.com>
 - Youngzine - <http://youngzine.org>
 - Scholastic News Online - <http://magazines.scholastic.com>
 - National Geographic Kids - <http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore>
 - Science News for Students - <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org>
- Step #2 - Put the article in Google Docs
 - Tip: Clean up the text with the Mercury Reader extension from the Chrome Web Store - [Chrome extension link](#)
 - Tip: Click "Edit" and "Paste without formatting"
- Step #3 - Share the Google Doc with your students
- Step #4 - Students "Black Out" the article
 - Select the text you want to black out.
 - Click the "Text color" button in the top toolbar.
 - Click the "Highlight" option in the drop-down menu.
 - Click the black color option.
 - The selected text will now be blacked out.

- Repeat this process for other text throughout the document as needed.
- Tip: Double-click on the "Paint format" button to "lock in" the copied formatting.
- My final blacked out version - [Google Docs link](#)

Text Annotation

- You can also use highlighting for annotating text - [Google Applied Digital Skills lesson](#)

Black Out Poetry

- Highlighting can also be used to create Black Out Poetry - [Website link](#)
- Activity Steps
 - Prepare the Original Text in Google Docs
 - Change the Page Background to a Temporary Color
 - Highlight the Chosen Words with White
 - Change the Page Background to Black
 - Share the Final Poem
- Examples
 - Sample text for Black Out poem - [Google Docs link](#)
 - Completed examples - [Example 1](#) - [Example 2](#)

Emoji Learning Activities

- Blog post - "10 Ways to Add Emojis in Google Tools" - [Website link](#)
- Blog post - "5 Emoji Learning Activities with Google Docs" - [Website link](#)
- Insert emojis
 - Click "Insert" then "Emoji"
 - Or type "@:" followed by the name of the emoji you want
- Sample activities
 - Write a summary with emojis
 - Create a rebus story with emojis
 - Wintertime example - [Blog post link](#) - [Template link](#)
 - Valentine example - [Blog post link](#) - [Template link](#)
 - Halloween example - [Blog post link](#) - [Template link](#)
 - Explore emotions with emojis - "Character Emojis" Template - [Google Doc link](#)
 - Emoji writing prompts - [Blog post](#) - [Google Sheets template](#)
- Emoji Kitchen - google.com/search?q=emoji+kitchen or emojikitchen.dev

Choose Your Own Adventure Stories

- Blog post - "Choose Your Own Adventure Stories with Google Docs" - [Website link](#)
- Sample - "Dragon Quest" Interactive Story - [Google Document link](#)
- Sample text to use for your story - [Google Document link](#)
- Steps
 - Plan your story
 - Writing in Google Docs
 - Page Breaks and Headings
 - Linking Pages
 - Sharing the final story
- Free image sites for schools - <https://www.controlaltachieve.com/2018/04/free-images.html>

Cloze Reading Activities

- Blog post - "Create Cloze Reading Activities with Google Docs Dropdown Chips" - [Website link](#)
- Tutorial video - [YouTube link](#)
- Sample - "Frog Cloze Activity"
 - Sample Starter Text - [Google Docs link](#)
 - Completed Example - [Google Docs link](#)
- Steps
 1. Put the original text in Google Docs
 2. Pull out the words into your word bank
 3. Add the dropdown chips for the word choices
 4. Students complete the cloze activity

CLOZEit - [Google Docs Add-on link](#)

- This add-on allows you to turn any paragraph text into a fill-in-the-blanks activity, or also known as a cloze activity.
- Simply highlight or underline words you'd like to be blanked.
- Next select "Option 1" where the words are fully replaced with a blank and a randomized list of those words are added at the end of the text as a 'word bank'.
- Or "Option 2" where the words are fully replaced with a blank except its first letters. This will provide students hints to figure out the rest of the words.
- The word bank generated at the end of the text is randomized in order.



Prewriting with Embedded Graphic Organizers

- Compare and Contrast Writing Example - [Google Docs link](#) - [Google Drawing link](#)
- Sample graphic organizers to copy

- Blog post - "30 Free Google Drawings Graphic Organizers" - [Website link](#)
- <https://sites.google.com/a/k12.kpdsb.ca/kpresources/writing>
- <https://sites.google.com/isd423.org/draw/templates>
- <https://sites.google.com/a/gshare.blackgold.ca/engagingstudents/home>
- Steps
 - Create Google Document for student writing assignment
 - Add a Drawing by clicking "Insert" then "Drawing" then "New"
 - Create the graphic organizer, or copy and paste from an existing Drawing.
 - Click "Save and close" to embed the Drawing in the Document.



Cursor Voting

- Get quick participation from students for formative assessment questions, voting, surveys, feedback, and more.
- Demo document for testing - [Google Docs link](#)



Have Students Write Better by Writing Less

- Blog post - "Have Students Write Better by Writing Less with Google Docs" - [Website link](#)
- Choose your limit and topic
- Use the Word Count tool in Google Docs
 - Select the text you have typed.
 - Next click "Tools" in the top menu bar.
 - Select "Word count" from the drop-down menu.
- Sample document to test - [Google Docs link](#)
- "Compose a Tweet" template - [Google Drawings link](#)



Punctuation Practice

- Blog post - "Creating Punctuation Practice Activities with Google Docs" - [Website link](#)
- Sample document to test - [Google Docs link](#)
- Put your text into a Google Doc.
- Remove all capitalization with Format - Text - Capitalization - Lowercase
- Remove all punctuation with "Find and Replace"
 - Find = [^0-9a-zA-Z \n]
 - Replace = blank
 - Check option for "Match using regular expressions".
- Students now edit by adding punctuation and capitalizing letters as needed.

- Note: For an alternative you can use the "Punctuation Practice" template with built-in Apps Script coding to remove all capitalization and punctuation.
 - Punctuation Practice - [Overview and Code](#) - [Example](#)
 - More details at bit.ly/curts-aicode

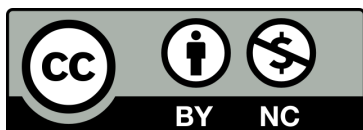
AI Writing Activities

Resources

- Google AI in Education - bit.ly/curts-googleai - [Video](#) (1 hour) - [Blog post](#)
- The ABC's of AI: What Educators Need to Know - bit.ly/curts-ai - [Video](#) (42 min)
- Google Gemini - gemini.google.com

Ideas

- Generate writing prompts for stories, essays, articles, and more - [Example](#)
- Generate story elements (names, places, items, etc.) - [Example](#)
- Generate main ideas to explore when writing about a topic - [Example](#)
- Round Robin Writing with AI - [Example](#)



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