Save to Google Drive extension (Google Chrome Store)

You need to be in the Chrome browser. This only works for Chrome. Add the free extension "Save to Google Drive" from the Chrome Store. This will allow you an icon at the upper right of your browser bar and after associating it with your Drive account it will give you the save to Google Drive option when right clicking on files. No middleman involved.
Right click on the actual file and choose "Save link to Google Drive." This should load the file to your Drive account and should come up when looking in "Recent." If it is a Word file you should see that icon at the left of the file title in Drive. Double click the file to open and it will open as a PDF looking file. Then, choose "open with Google Docs" and it will become a writable file owned by the student. It can be edited, responded to, etc. Let me know if this is a keeper.