



It's Electric!

Creating Interactive Slides to Engage Students in their Learning

What Are Interactive Slides?

Interactive Slides (also called HyperSlides and HyperDocs) are digital documents that contain all of the content, videos, and links for a set amount of learning time. Lisa Highfill, Kelly Hilton, and Sarah Landis created the concept of HyperDocs and describe them as a “transformative, interactive Google Doc replacing the worksheet method of delivering instruction, the ultimate change agent in the blended learning classroom.” (Source: [HyperDocs website](#)) Interactive Slides can be a complete lesson on a topic or they can be a set of activities for a day or a week.

How Do I Use Interactive Slides?

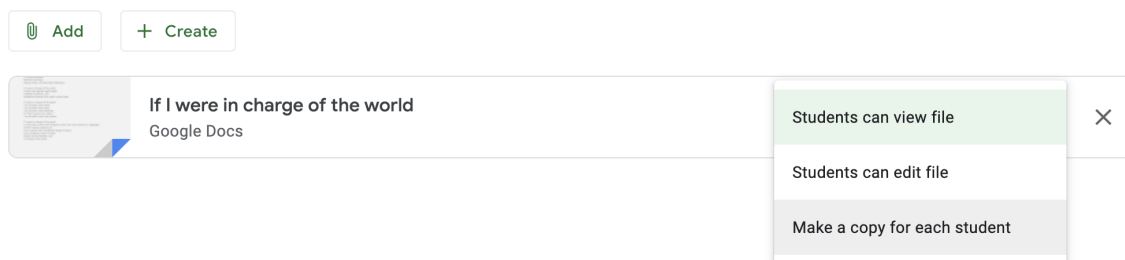
Interactive slides are transformative for self-paced learning because it allows you to take your students through your lesson plan in a Google Slides format or using any other tool. You guide them step-by-step, slide-by-slide through each part of their learning while setting the pace with different components like information to read, videos to watch, interactive activities, and more. It can be used for one lesson or a week’s worth of learning activities during remote learning or with 1:1 Chromebooks in school. Watch this [webinar](#) to learn more about HyperDocs (interactive slides) and see examples. View this [example for the book, The Giver](#), to see how one works.

How Do I Get Started?

First, look at the [HyperDocs](#) website and view some examples to get ideas for how you would like to structure your interactive slides. You can also do a Google search for your content area or curriculum topic and the keywords “interactive slides”, “HyperDocs”, or “HyperSlides”. You may need to try several combinations to find what you’re looking for. Next, you can make a copy of one that you like and then adapt it to your needs. Alternatively, you can start from scratch using Google’s theme templates, [SlidesMania](#) templates, or [Slides Carnival](#) templates. Finally, you can create an assignment in Google Classroom and add your interactive slides choosing to “Make a copy for each student.” In the beginning and depending on your grade level, you will want to model its use for students. You could even create a set of interactive slides that are shared so that the whole class can edit them. This would be great for virtual digital icebreaker activities as you build relationships at the beginning of the year.

How Do I Use Interactive Slides in Google Classroom?

After you add the Google Slides file, and click on “Students can view file” and change it to “Make a copy for each student.” Each student will get their own copy of the slide show. Go to the [Google Classroom handout](#) for more tips and tricks.



What Additional Supports Can I Provide Students?

Audio: You can insert little audio files into Google Slides so that students can listen to your directions or you reading text on the slide. For easy web-based recording, try [Vocaroo](#). It's just a button to start recording and stop it. Then, you get a play button to listen to the playback. There is also a Share button that allows you to download the file. Audio files should be placed into a folder that you name "AUDIO" and you should right-click on the folder to make the files available to "anyone with the link." Then, any future audio files you place in already have the correct share settings. In Slides, click on the Insert menu item, choose Audio, and locate your file. The file names are similar so you may need to rename them or insert them as you record/upload them so that they are the most recent file.

Slip-in-Slide Google Slides Add-on: This Google Slides add-on can be used to add on additional slides after you've already assigned them using the "Make a copy for each student" feature. This would be helpful for students who might be overwhelmed by too many slides at once. You can add additional slides as needed. Read about this tool in [Julie Smith's tech blog](#). This tool is only free for 90 days.

Poll Everywhere for Google Slides Extension: This [Chrome extension](#) allows you to transform one-way presentations into a lively conversation with the entire room. Using the smartphones and devices people carry every day, participants can submit live responses straight to the Google slide. Sign up for a [free account with this link](#) that gives you up to 40 participants as an educator. Poll Everywhere offers [guides](#), [video tutorials](#), and [webinars](#) to get you started.

Resources

[HyperDocs: Remote Learning Gold](#) (video webinar)

[How to Create Drag and Drop Activities with Google Slides](#) (blog post by Shake Up Learning)

[HyperDocs](#) (website with examples and more, some free, some for a fee)

[SlidesMania](#) (the best free Google Slides templates)

[Slides Carnival](#) (more free Google Slides templates)

[SlidesGo](#) (even more free Google Slides templates)

[The HyperDocs Toolbox: 14 engaging example activities](#) (Matt Miller blog post)

[Giraffe Text](#) (easily create fun text and font graphics like bubble letters)