Blackboard Services℠

Designing Course Structure

Education Services

Blackboard

Meet Your Consultant!

Nicole Wall

Senior Consultant, Education Services

- Specialist in Learn and Analytics
- B. Multimedia (Hons I); M. Digital Design; G.C. Higher Ed.
- Worked in Australian Higher Education for 10 years

Thank you for allowing me to assist you in your learning journey.

Session Objectives

- Recognize the components of the My Blackboard interface.
- Identify the Learn Course interface.
- Explain how the Teaching Style can customize the course design.
- Assemble a Course Menu that matches different course needs.
- Compare essential communication tools.

Keep in mind...

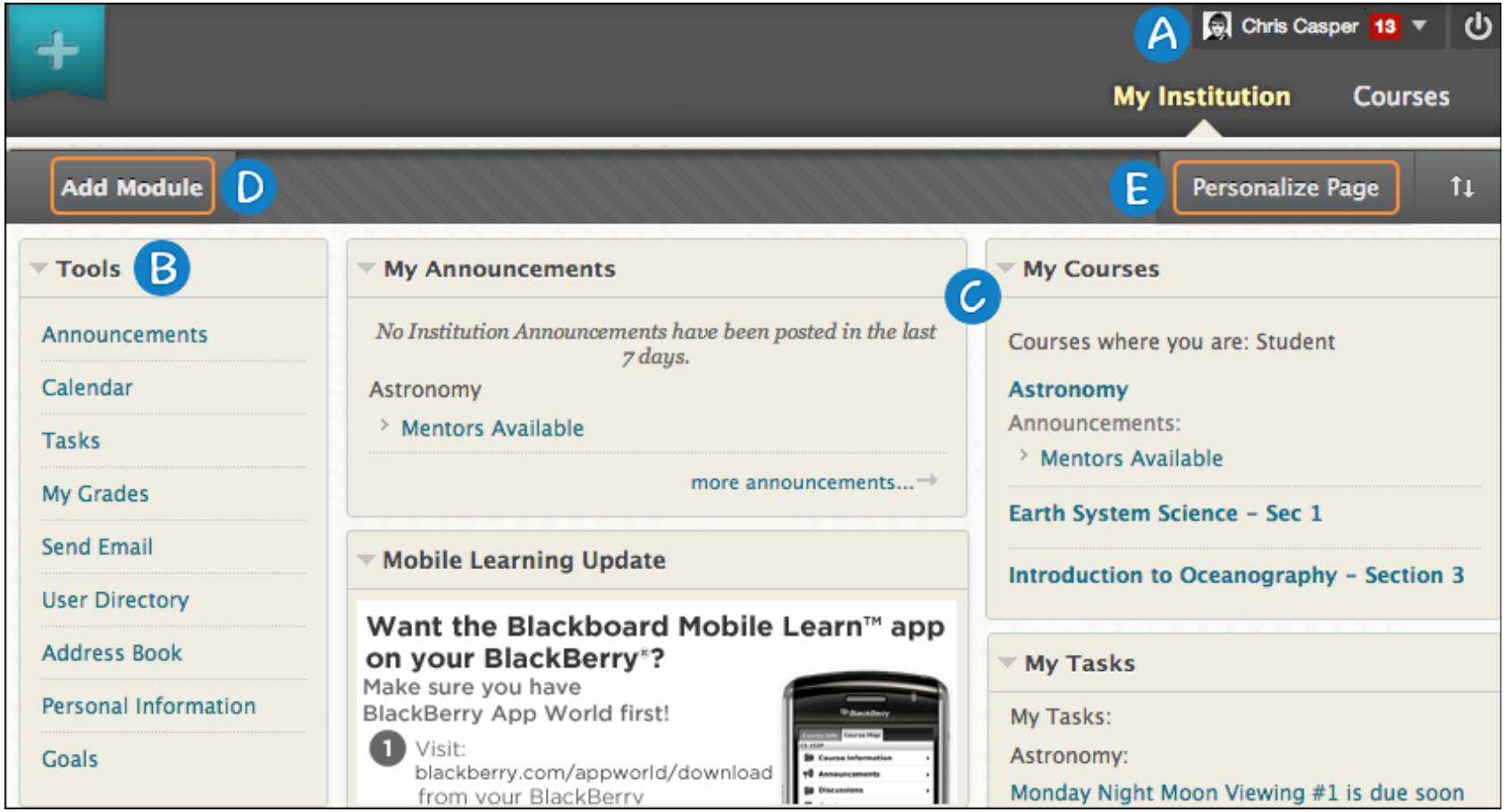
- It’s about discovering the possibilities and deciding what works best for *you* and *your course*.

MY BLACKBOARD INTERFACE

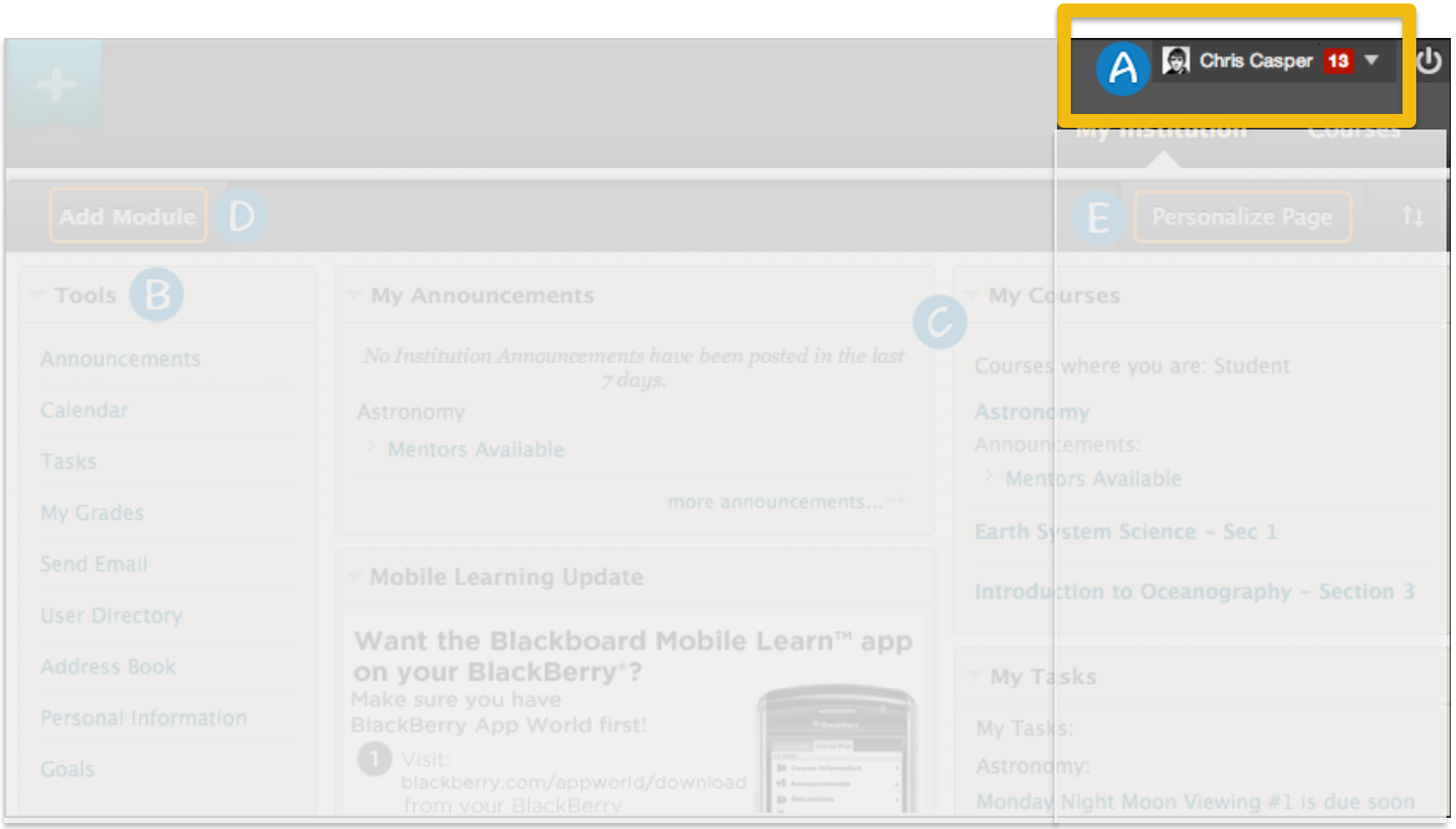
My Blackboard

- Provides quick and easy access to critical and timely information.
- Centralized view of key tools: calendar, updates, posts, and grades.
- Access to the My Blackboard Social Community (if enabled).

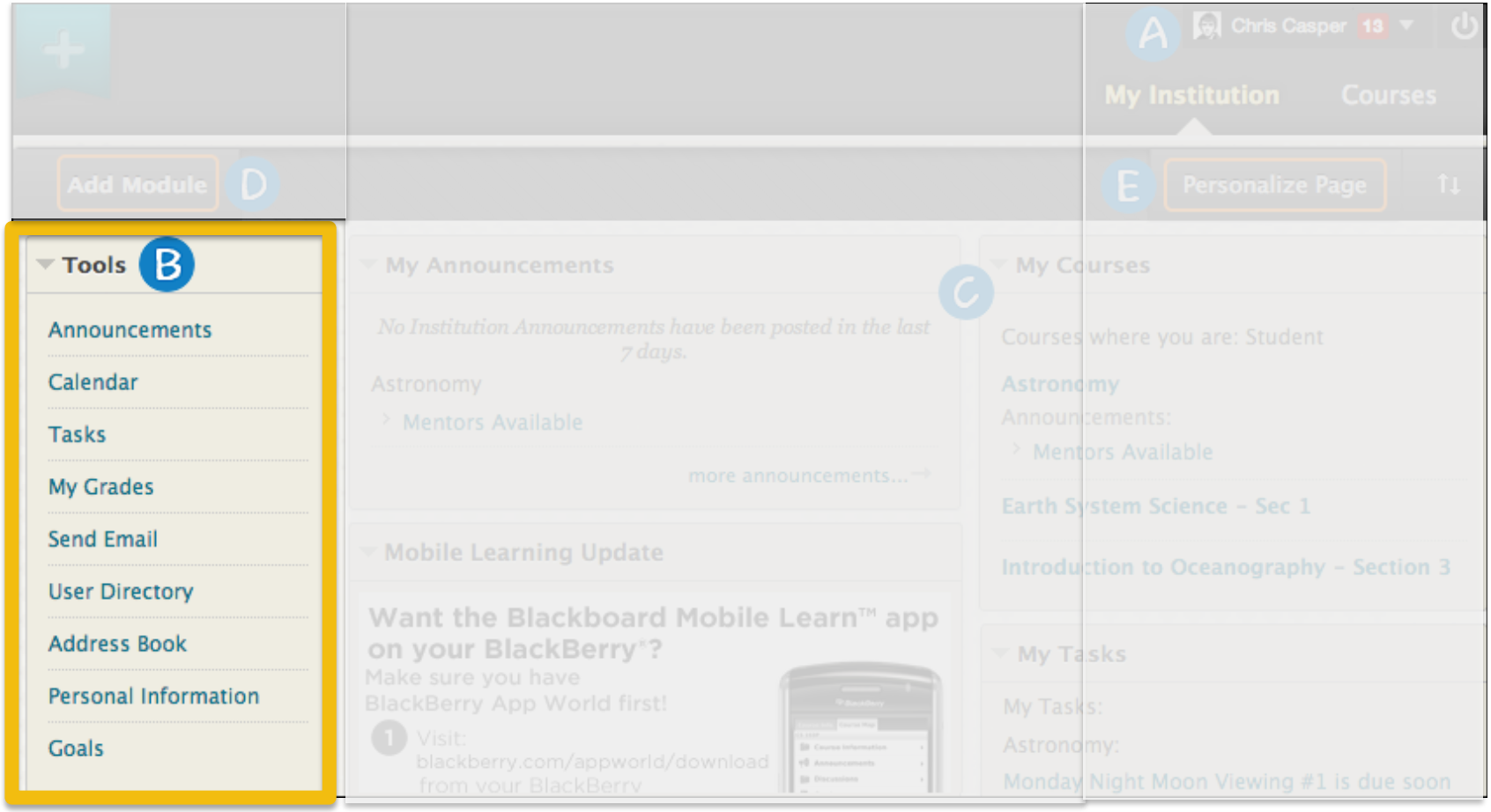
Let's Explore: My Institution



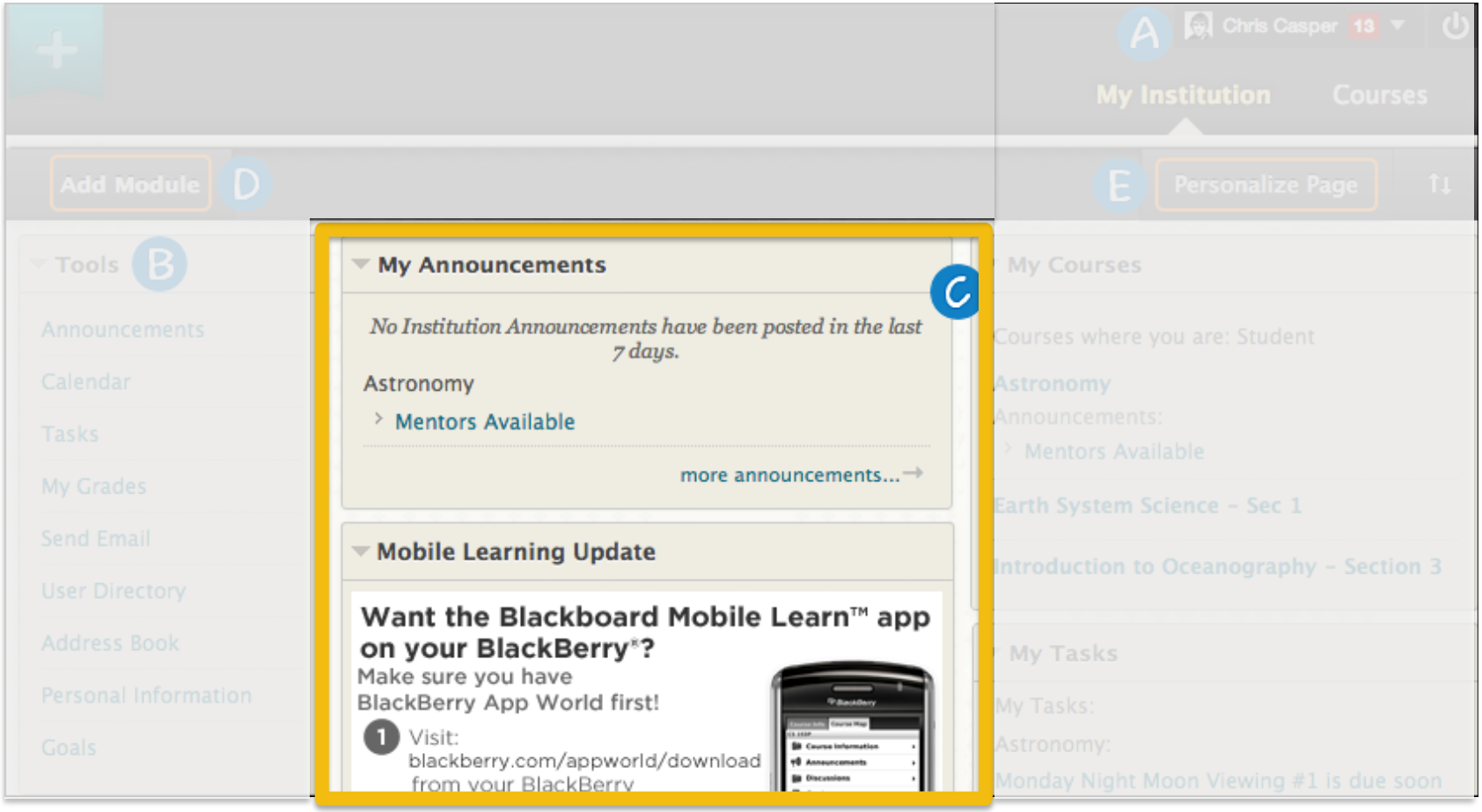
My Institution: Global Navigation



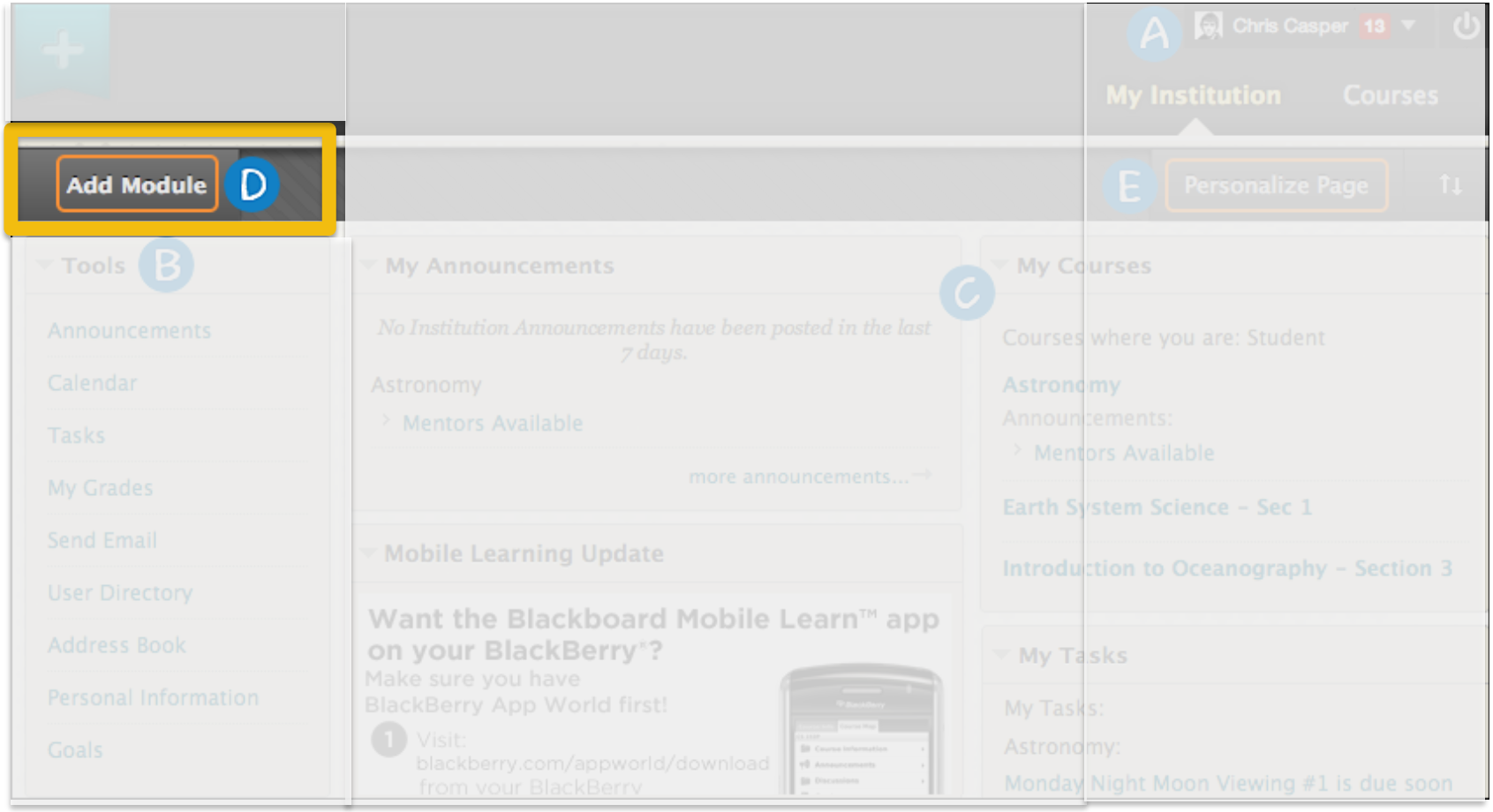
My Institution: Tools



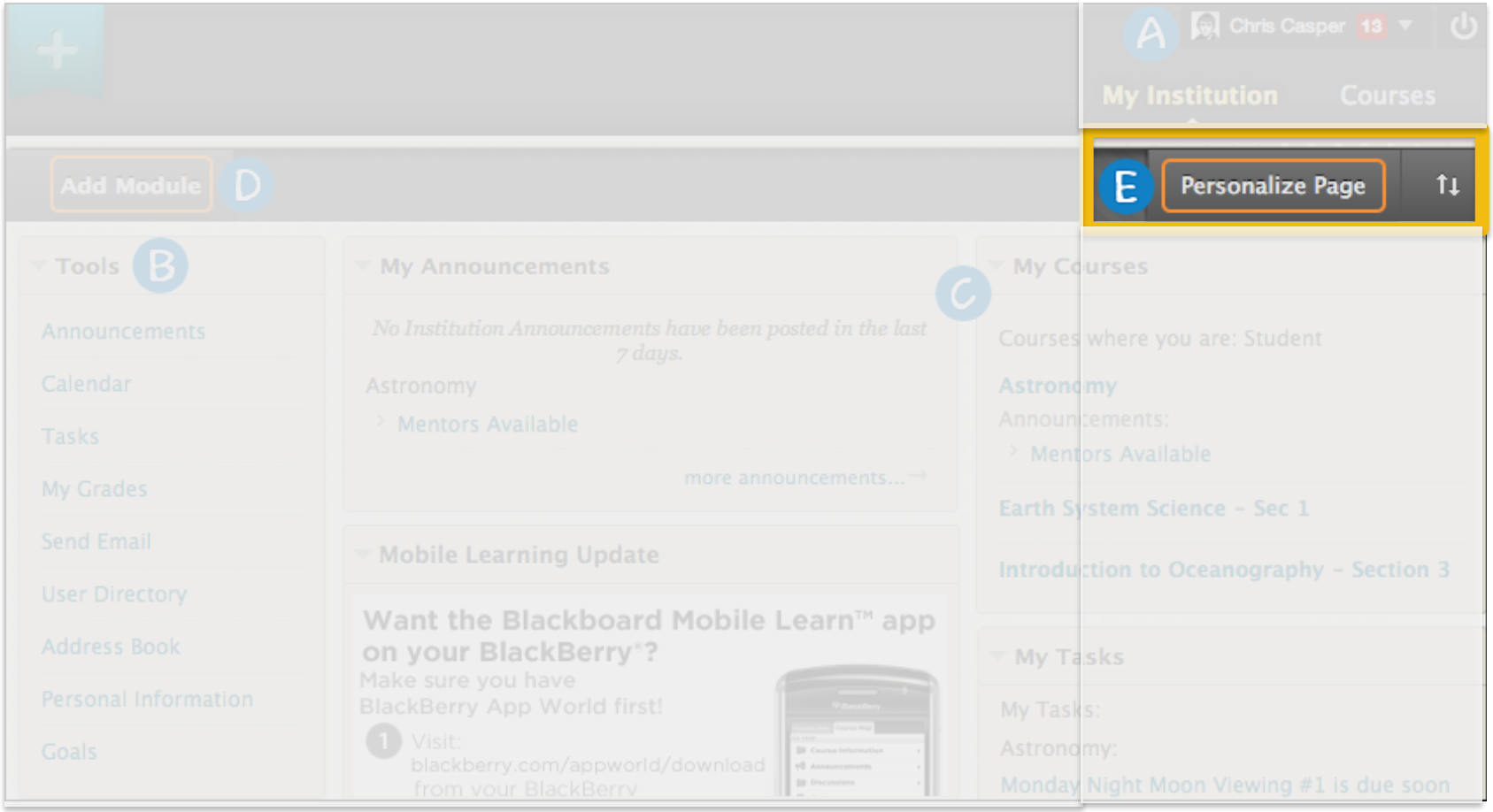
My Institution: Modules



My Institution: Add Modules



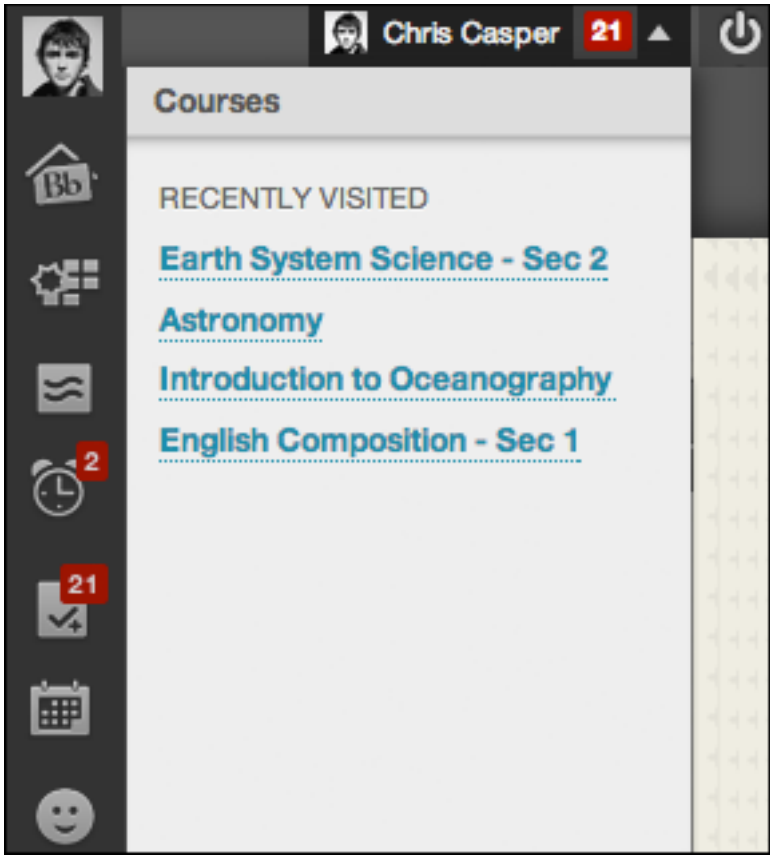
My Institution: Personalize Page



Global Navigation Menu: Student View

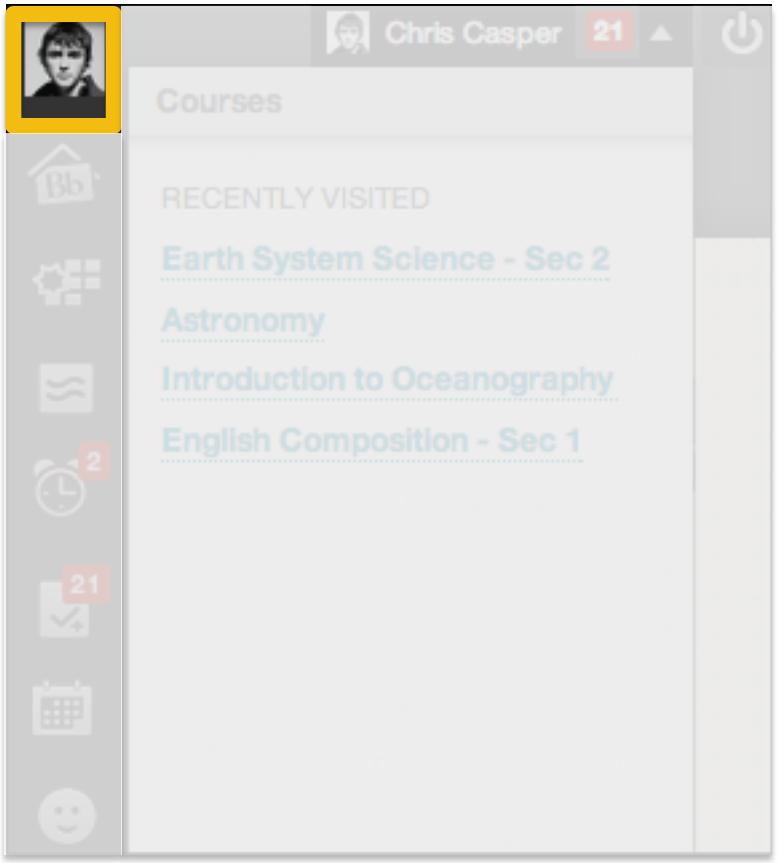
The image on the right shows a Global Navigation Sample.

What do you notice?



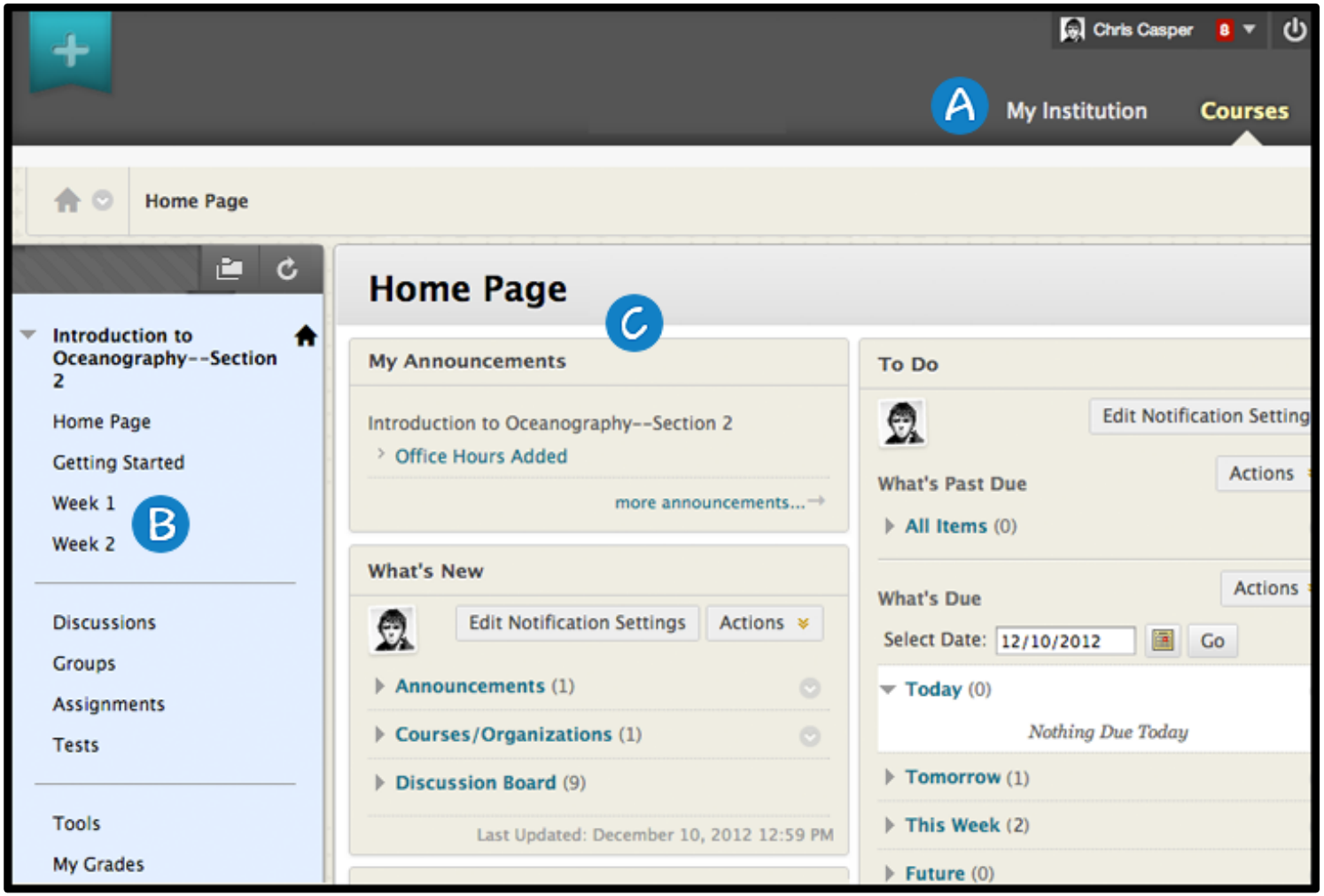
My Blackboard Social Community

Click your Profile image to access your Social Profile.

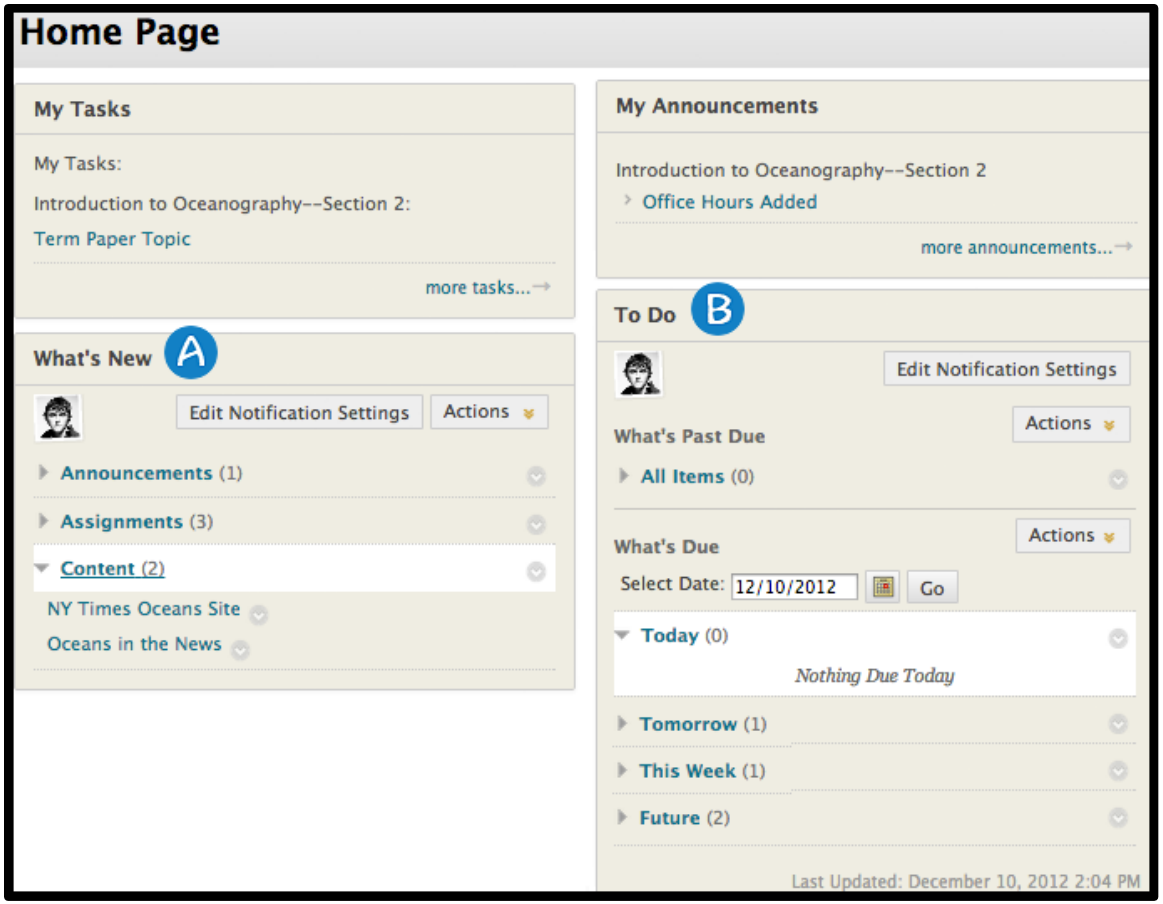


LEARN COURSE INTERFACE

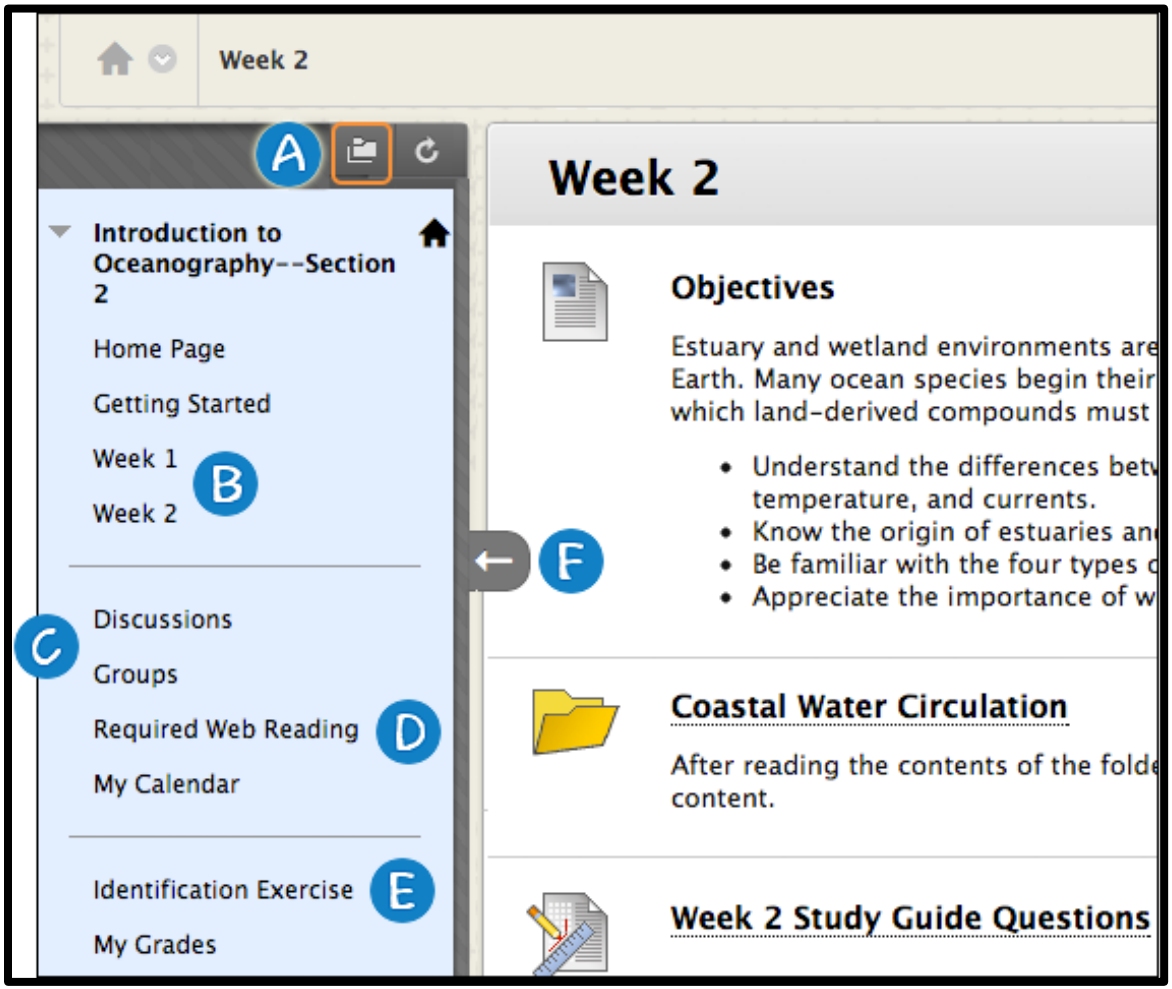
Let's Explore: Learn Course Layout



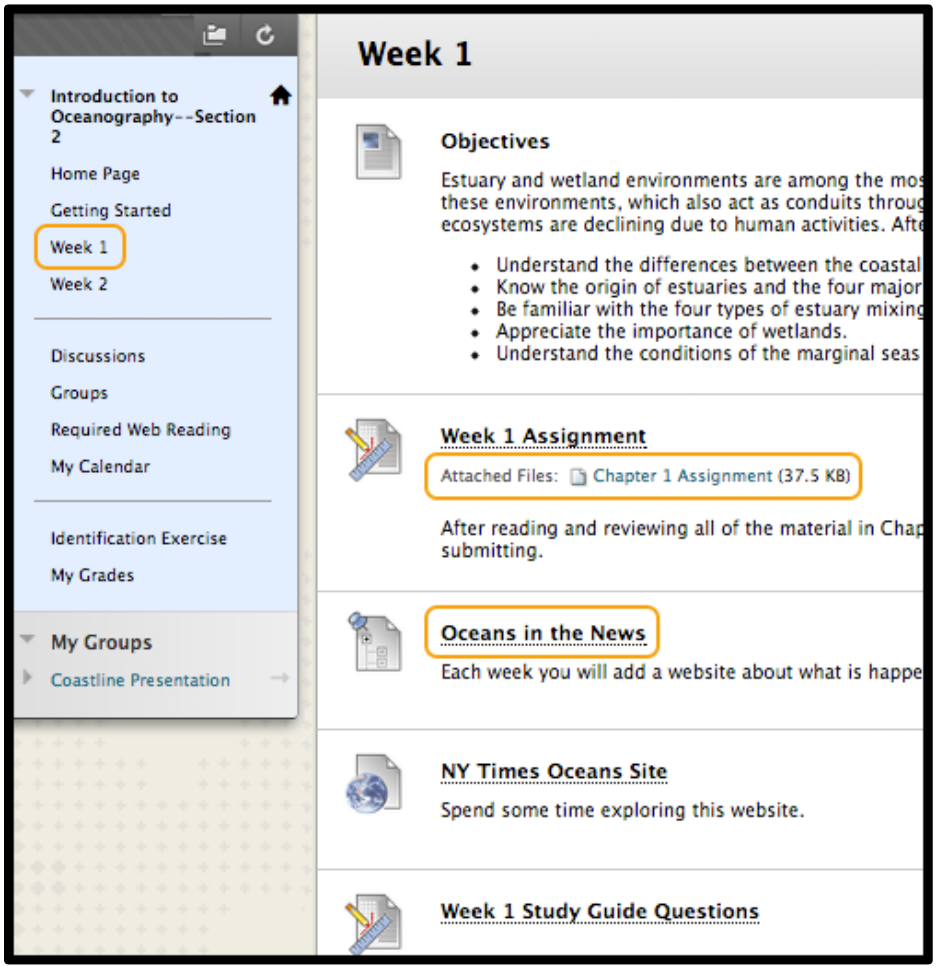
Course Layout: Homepage



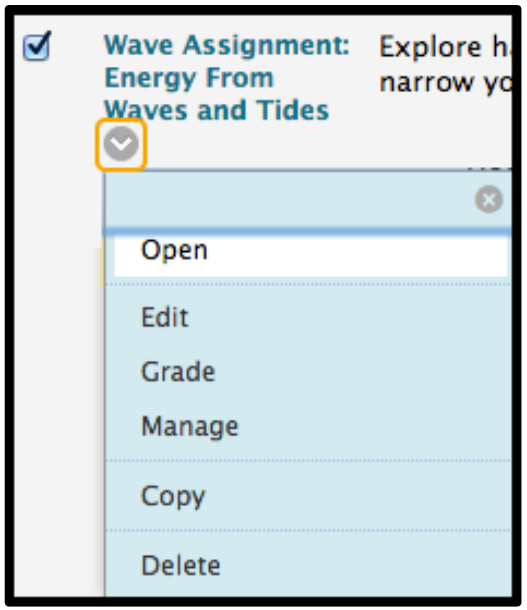
Course Layout: Course Menu

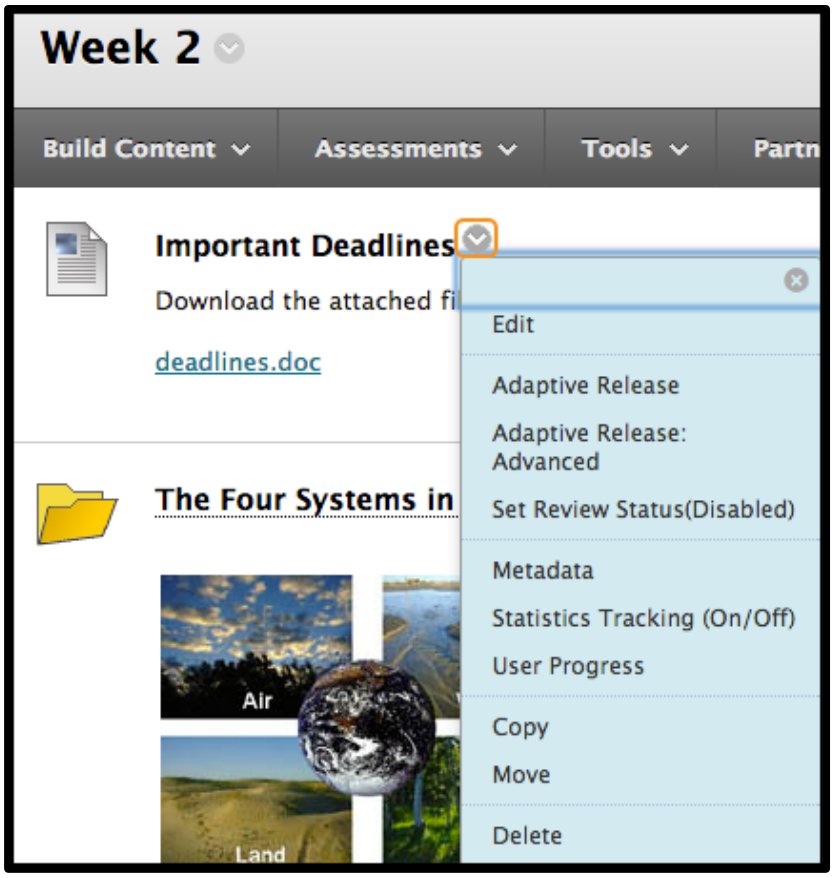


Course Layout: Content Areas

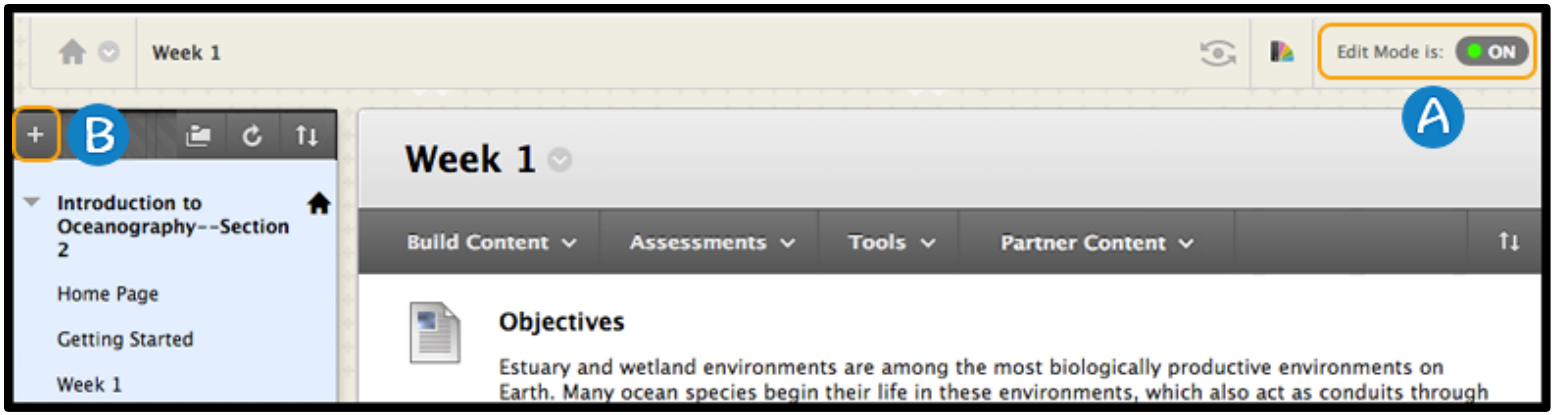


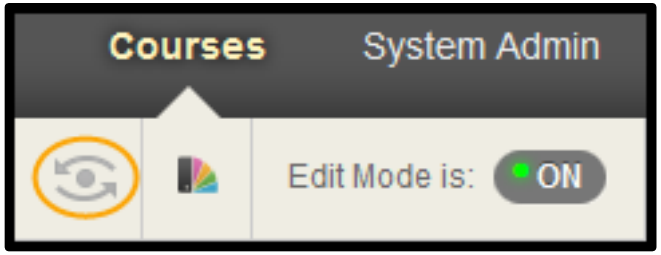
Course Layout: Contextual Menus



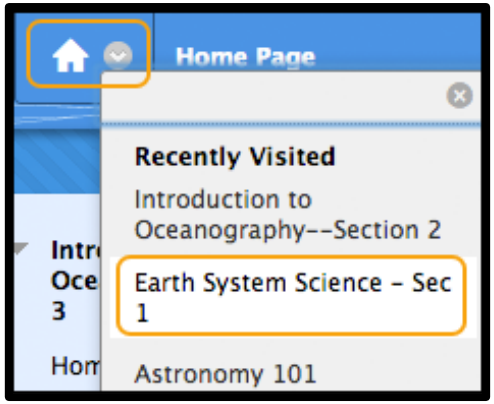


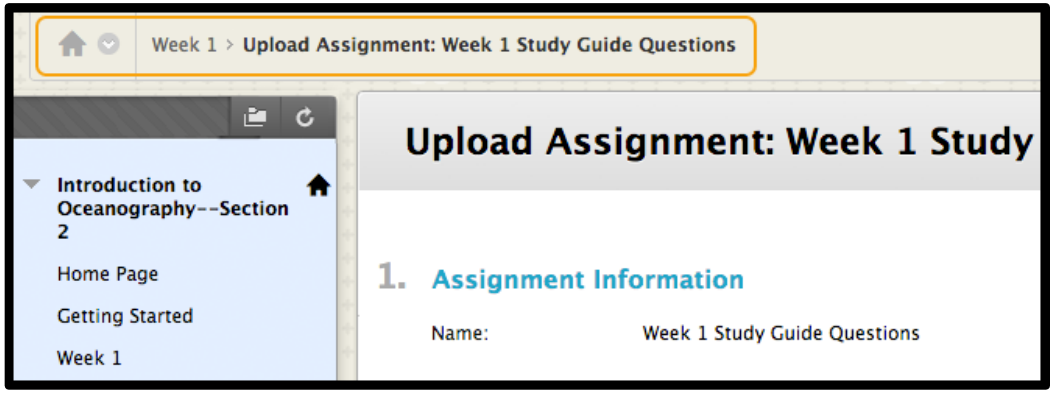
Course Layout: Edit Mode or Student Preview





Course Layout: Navigation





You Try!

You will have five minutes to complete the following actions in your course:

1. Create a new **Content Area**.
2. Add a divider.
3. Add a Subheader.
4. View the contextual menu for the Course Menu area. What modifications can you make?

COURSE MANAGEMENT

Course Navigation

In every Learn course, there will be the menu similar to the one you see on the left.

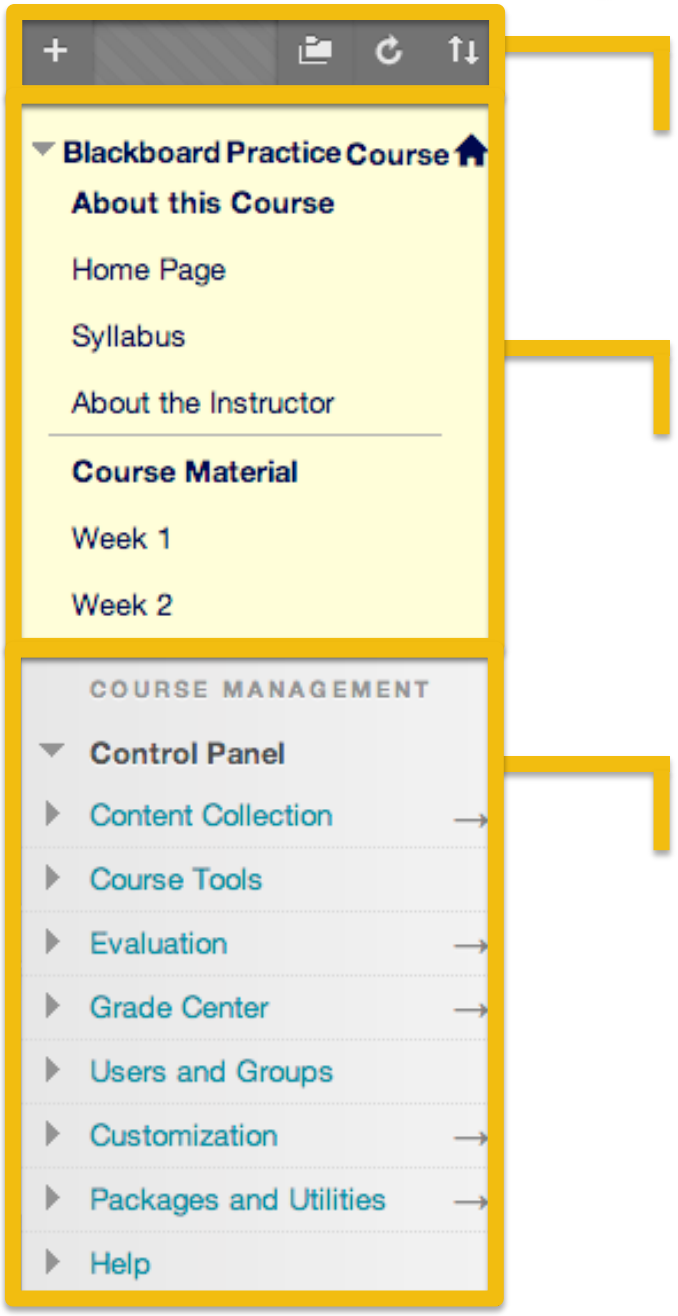
Can you identify the three areas highlighted?

Course Menu Edit

Course Menu

Course Management

Add interactivity



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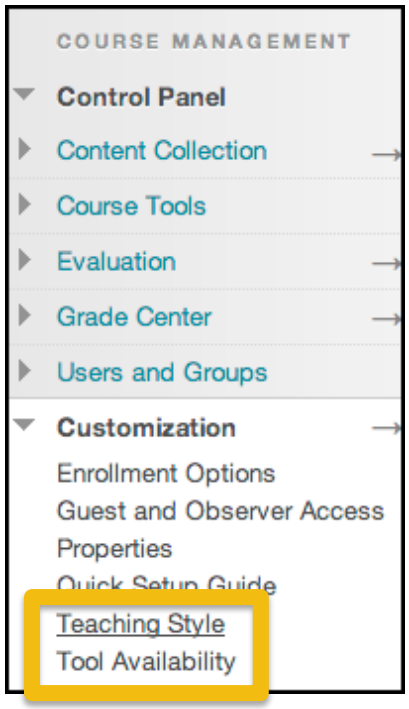
You Try!



From your practice course, visit **Teaching Style** and **Tool Availability**, then answer these questions:

1. What is the difference between **Teaching Style** and **Tool Availability**?

2. Can you change the entry point to your course **Tool Availability**?

3. What modifications can you make using **Course Structure** within **Teaching Style**?

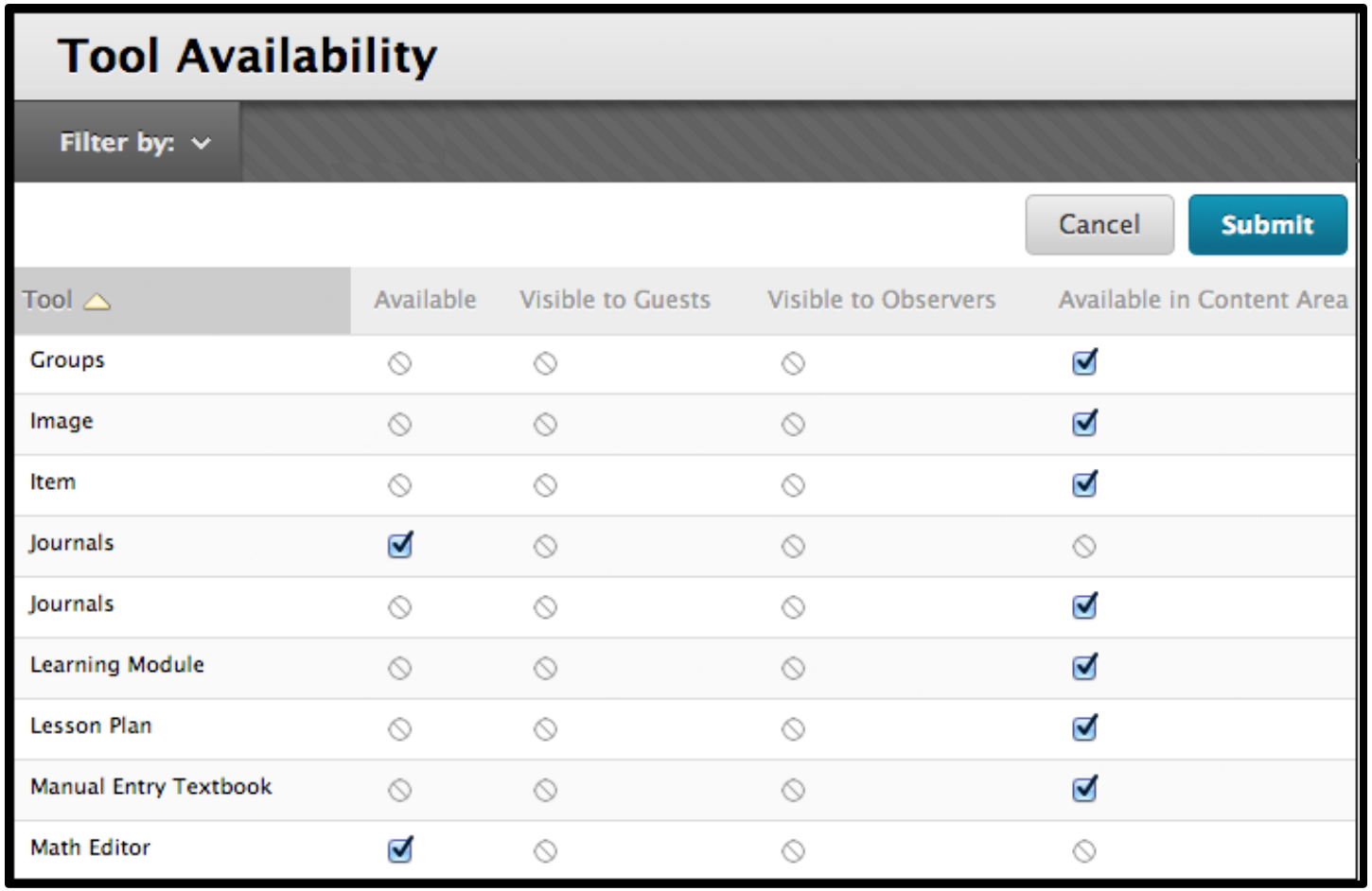
Your Answers

1. What is the difference between **Teaching Style** and **Tool Availability**?

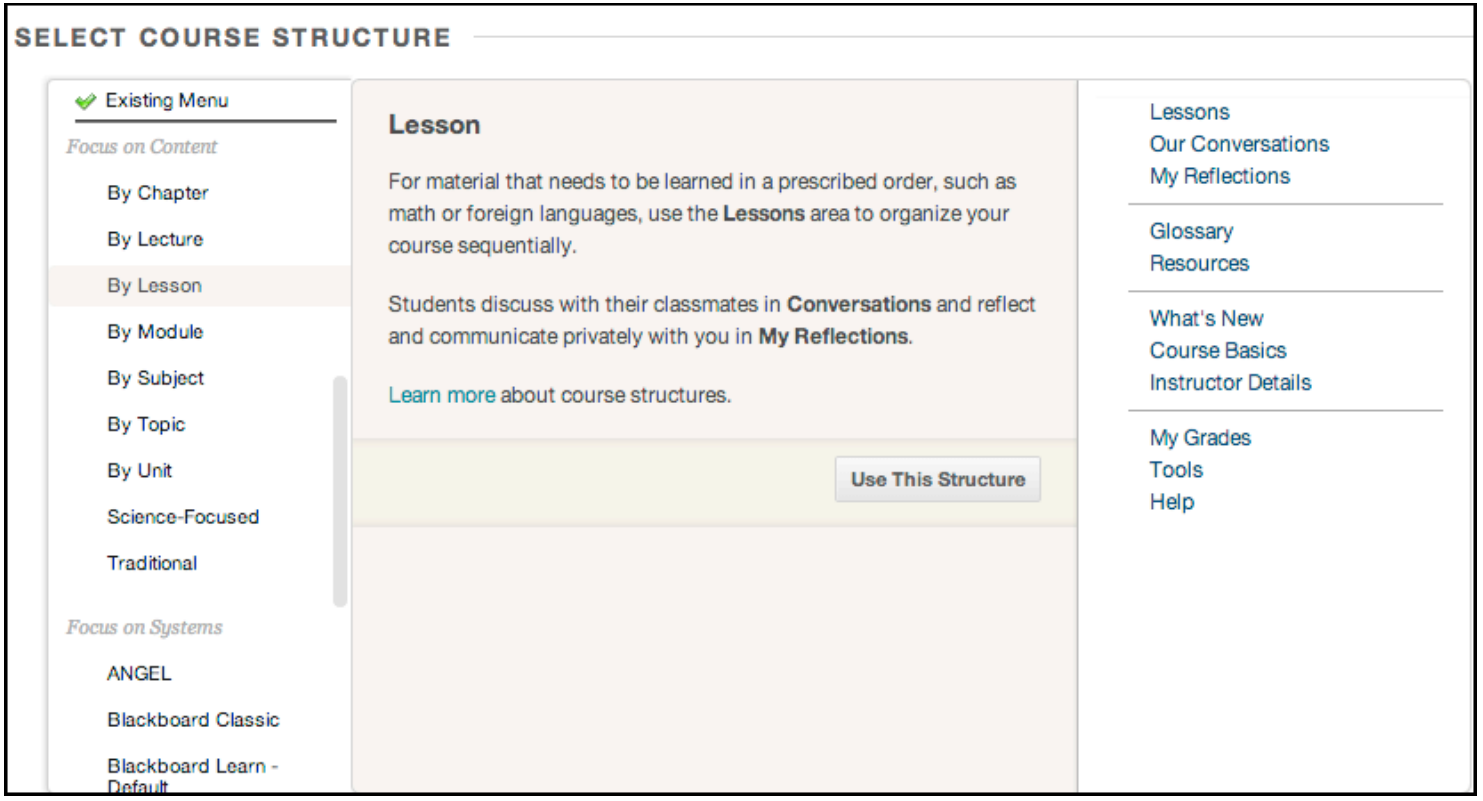
2. Can you change the entry point to your course **Tool Availability**?

3. What modifications can you make using **Course Structure** within **Teaching Style**?

Tool Availability



Course Structure



You Try!

You will have five minutes to complete the following actions in your course:

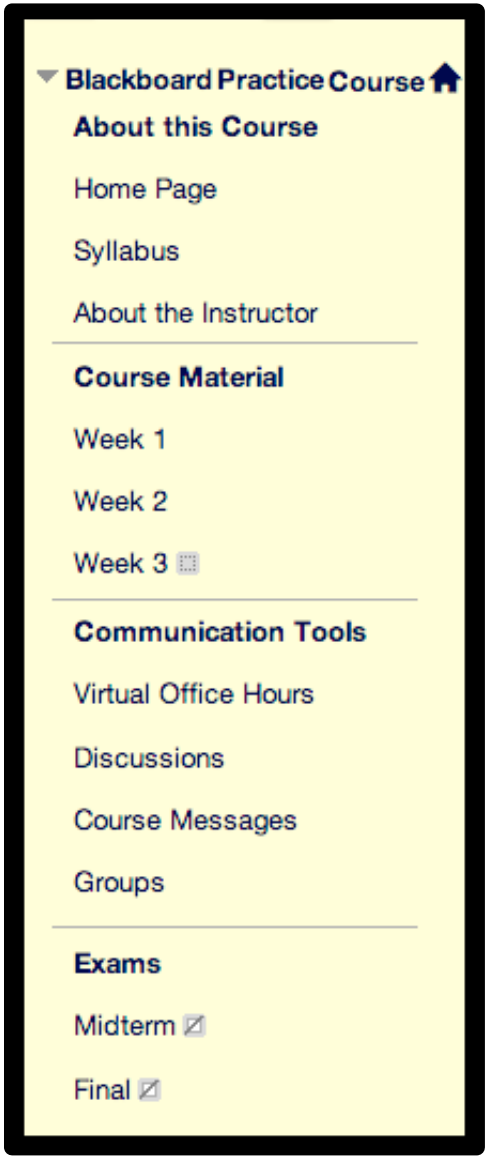
1. Change the **Course Structure**.
   (**Course Management > Customization > Teaching Style**)

2. Bonus: Modify the **Menu Style**.
   (Same location as course structure).

COURSE MENU

Let's Explore the Course Menu

What do you notice about this Course Menu?



ADDING ITEMS

In every Learn course, there will be the menu similar to the one you see on the left.

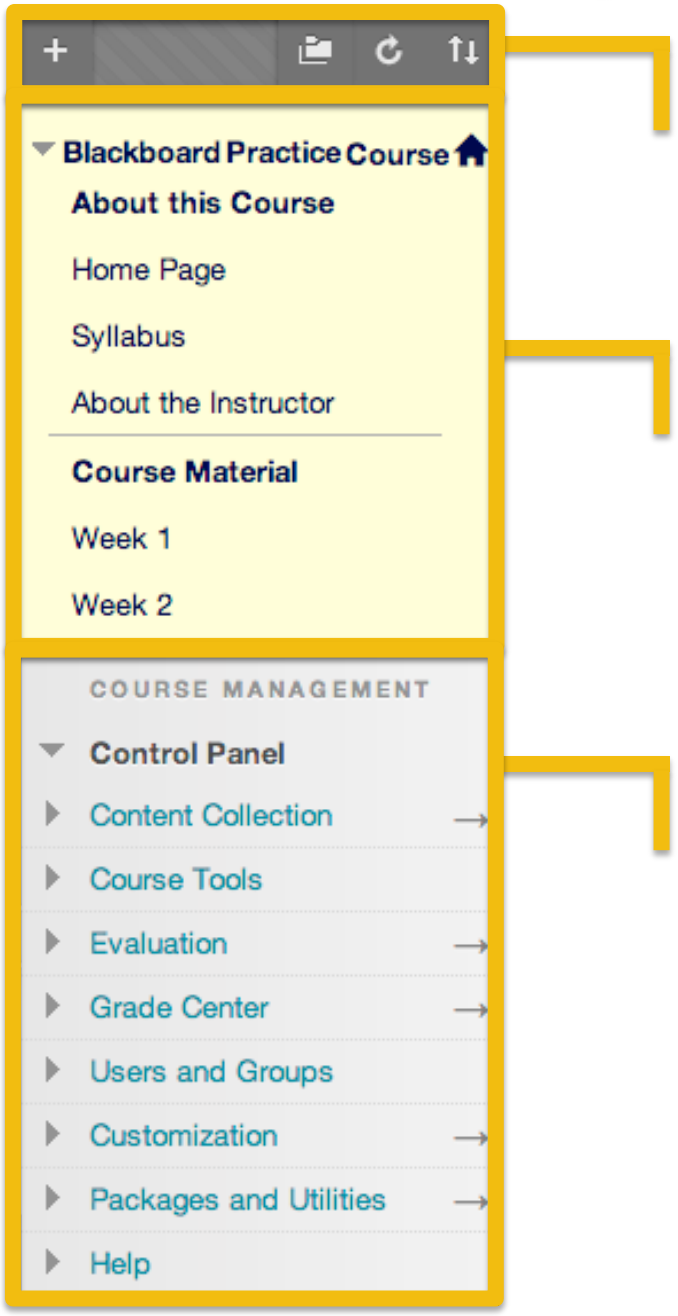
Can you identify the three areas highlighted?

Course Menu Edit

Course Menu

Course Management

Add interactivity



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Course Menu: Must Haves

No matter the discipline, every course should have these three items in their course menu.

What do you think they are?

1.

2.

3.

Course Menu: Must Haves

1. **Clear navigation.**
    - Remove unused buttons.
    - Intuitive sections
2. **Intuitive organization.**
    - Subheader to identify section.
    - Dividers to contain each section.
    - Group by content,
3. **Introductory materials.**
    - How to start and where to get help.
    - Information about the instructor.

You Try!

You will have five minutes to complete the following actions in your course:

1. Change the name of one of the items in the Course Menu. (Contextual menu of course item).

2. Bonus: Hide items that are not ready.

ESSENTIAL COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Which tools are you using today?

Use the Select Tool to move a checkmark to the communication tools you are currently using in your courses.

Announcements

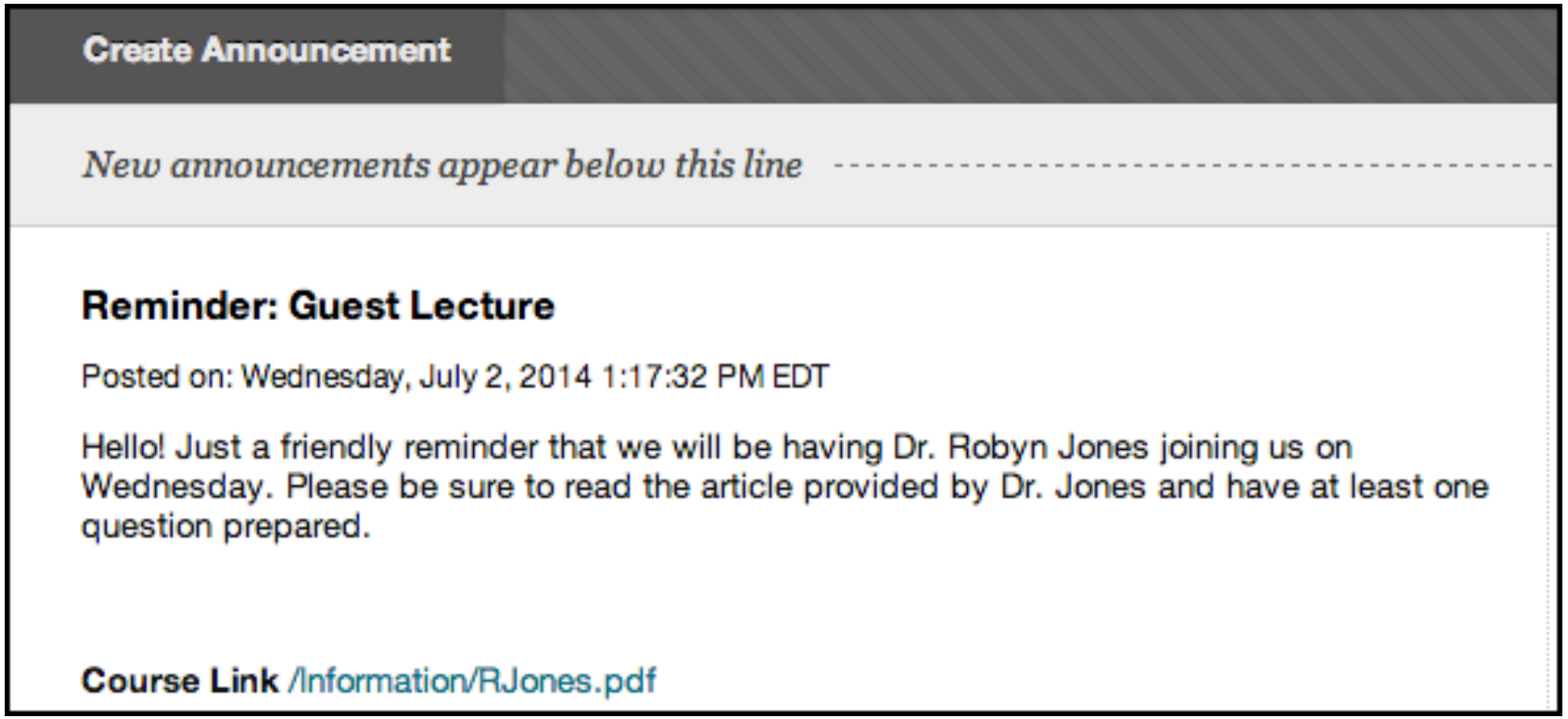
Calendar

Course Messages

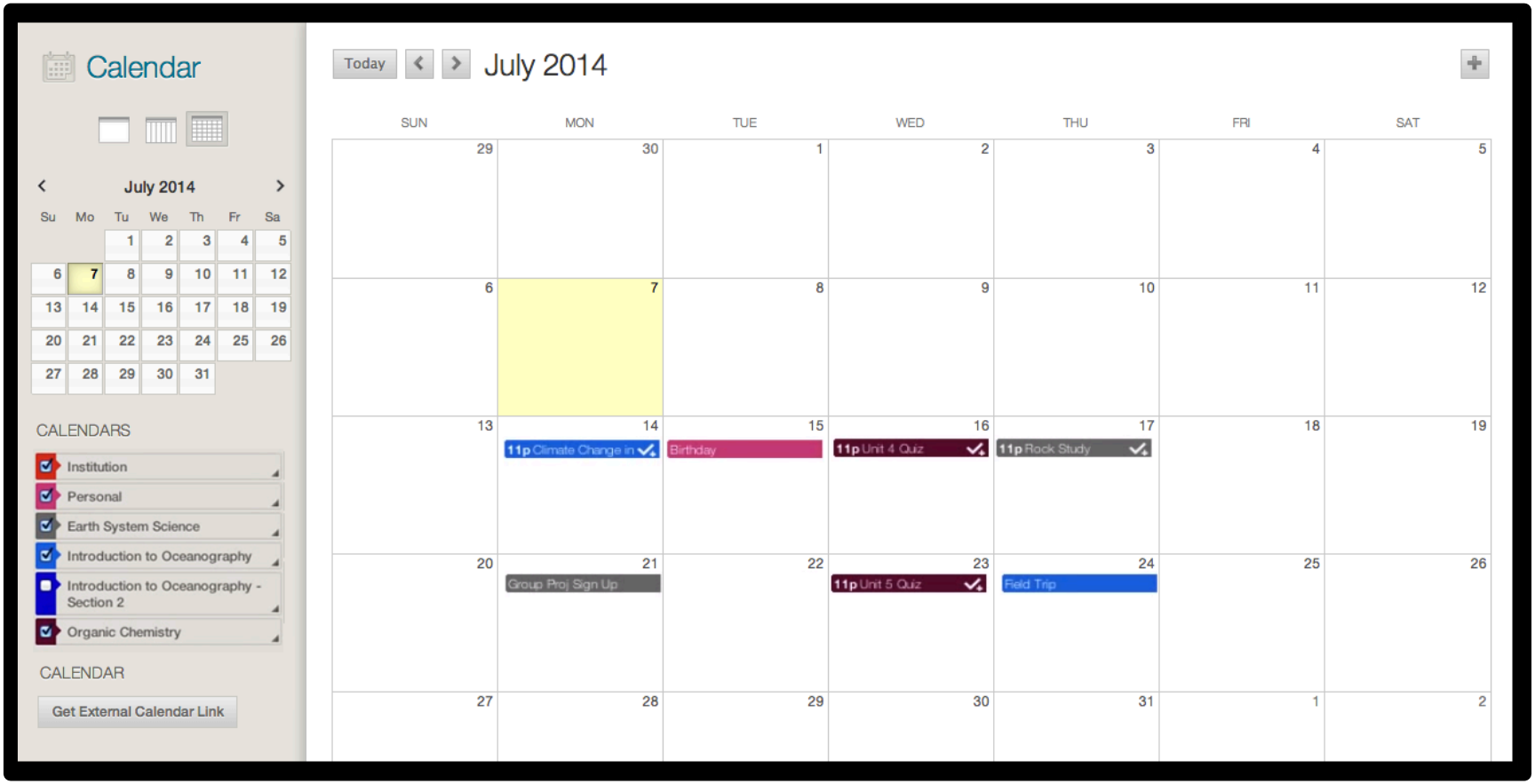
Email

Instructor Contact Information

Announcements



Calendar


Calendar
Today
July 2014
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
July 2014
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
CALENDARS
Institution
Personal
Earth System Science
Introduction to Oceanography
Introduction to Oceanography - Section 2
Organic Chemistry
CALENDAR
Get External Calendar Link
11p Climate Change in
Birthday
11p Unit 4 Quiz
11p Rock Study
Group Proj Sign Up
11p Unit 5 Quiz
Field Trip

Course Messages vs Email

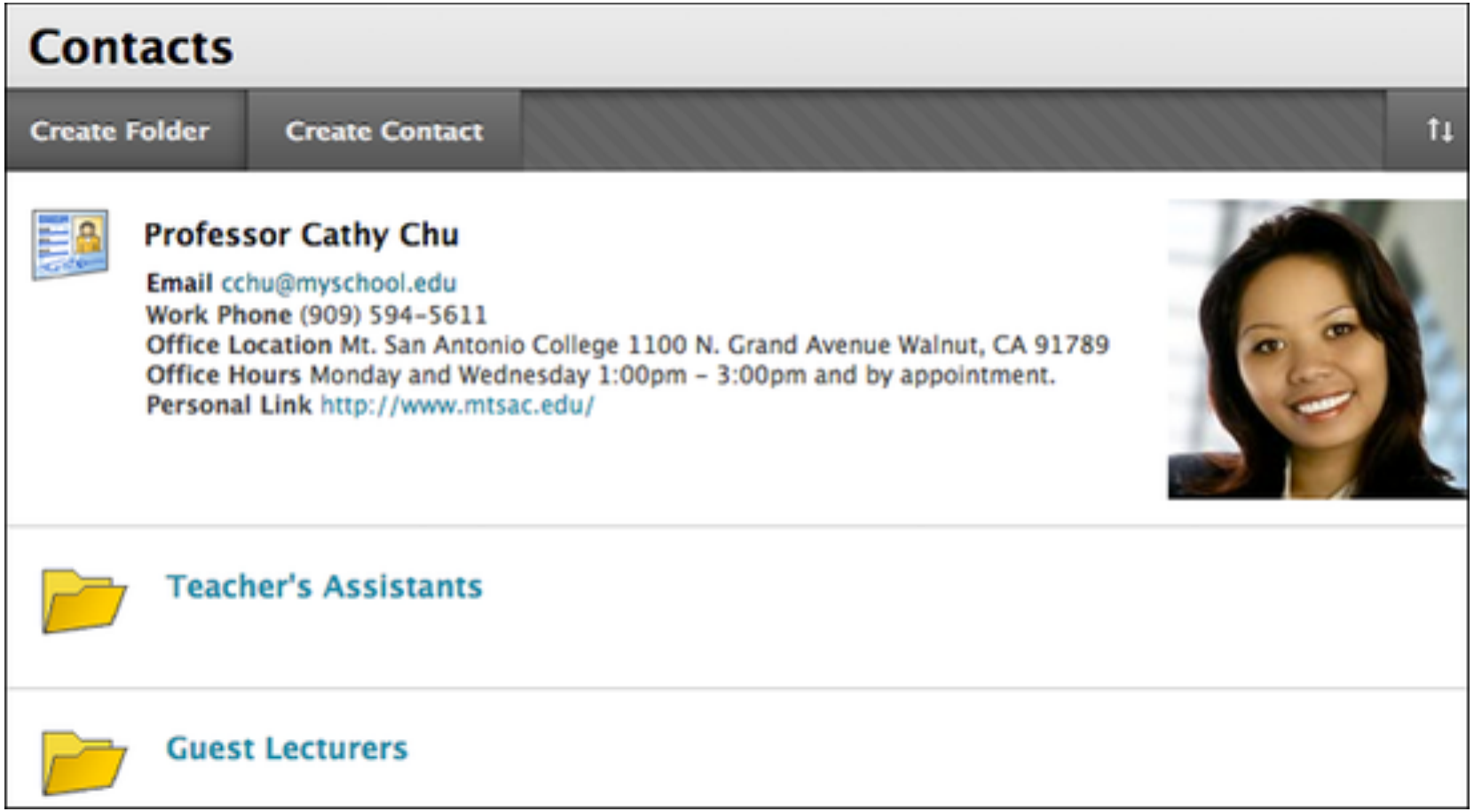
Essentially, both allow you to send email to one or more people.

Biggest Difference:

- **Course Messages**: sent and received messages are saved within the course.

- **Email**: sent and received messages will be found in the external email account.

Instructor Contact Information



You Try!

You will have ten minutes to complete the following actions in your course:

1. Add the **Contacts Tool** to your **Course Menu**.
2. Create a **Contact** with your information.
3. Create a new **Announcement** sharing that you've updated your contact information.

Session Wrap-Up

How to Get Help!

- **Visit us online!**
  - http://help.blackboard.com
- **Ask Dr. C!**
  - Free question-and-answer service moderated by an international group of your peers (and fellow Blackboard clients)!
  - http://discussions.blackboard.com
- **Each Other!**
  - Before you leave, identify a study buddy.
  - Have at least one meeting outside of the session to review the topics we've discussed today.

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Presenting Dynamic Content

Education Services

Blackboard

Session Outline

- Review the Course Menu.
- Define at least three different ways to show course content.
- Uploading Content.
- Summarize key tools from the Content Editor.
- Align Course Content to Goals.
- Build Achievements to course delivery.
- List the best practices for presenting dynamic content.

Keep in mind...

- We're going to explore a number of topics today about organizing and presenting course content.
- You don't have to use all of what you see today.
- It's about discovering the possibilities and deciding what works best for *you* and *your course*.

Presenting Dynamic Content Steps

1. Create your Course Menu.

REVIEW: COURSE MENU

What is the Course Menu?

Share your thoughts!

ADDING ITEMS

In every Learn course, there will be the menu similar to the one you see on the left.

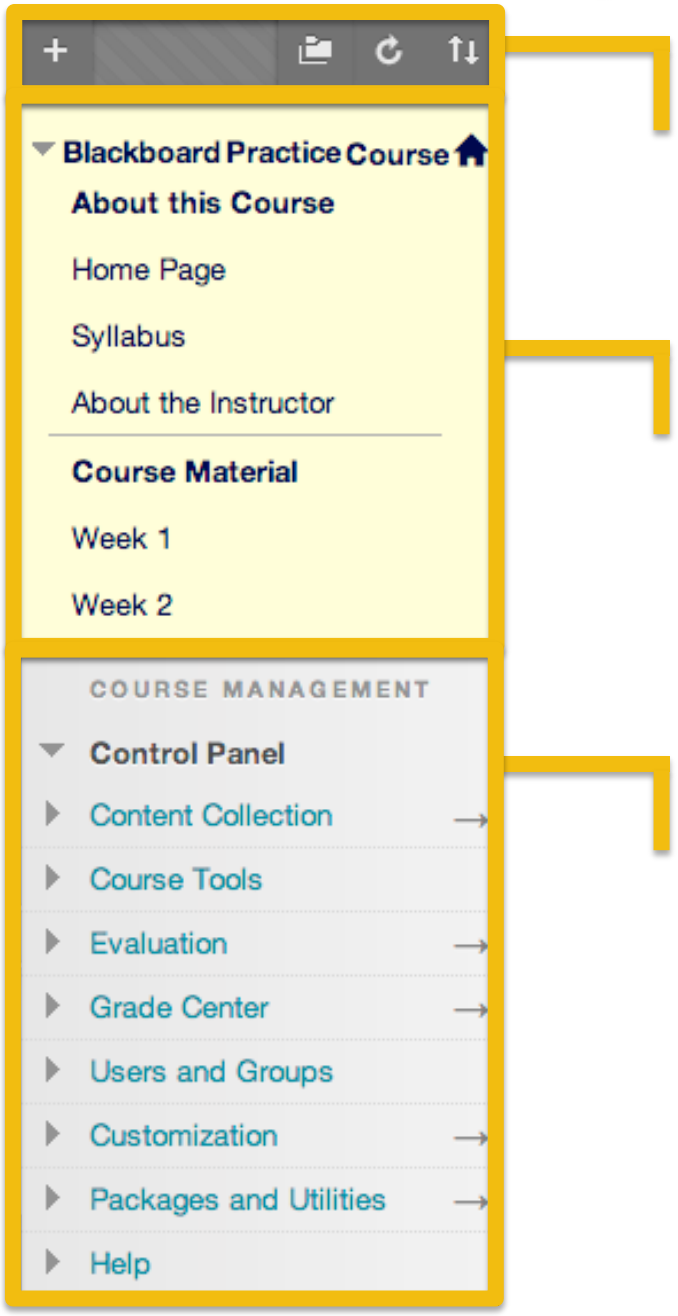
Can you identify the three areas highlighted?

Course Menu Edit

Course Menu

Course Management

Add interactivity



Course Menu: Must Haves

1. **Clear navigation.**
    - Remove unused buttons.
    - Intuitive sections
2. **Intuitive organization.**
    - Subheader to identify section.
    - Dividers to contain each section.
    - Group by content,
3. **Introductory materials.**
    - How to start and where to get help.
    - Information about the instructor.

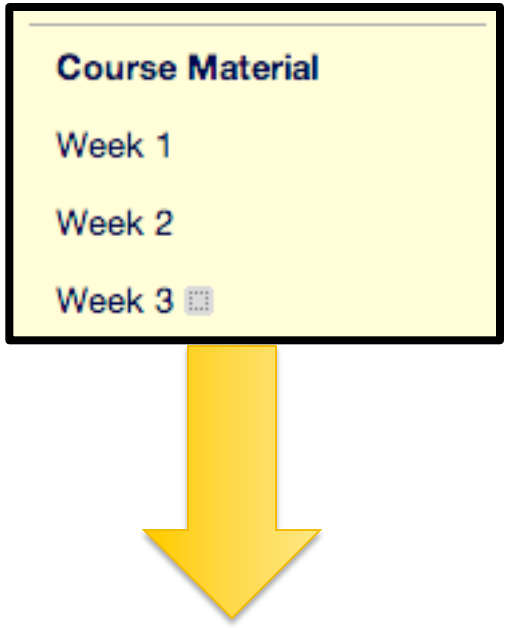
DISPLAYING COURSE CONTENT

How are you organizing your course content today?

A. Everything is located from the course menu.
B. I create content areas and organize my content into folders.
C. I use lesson plans or learning modules.
D. I’m new and have not thought about how to organize my course content.
E. How ever my designer sets it up for me.

Different Ways of Organizing

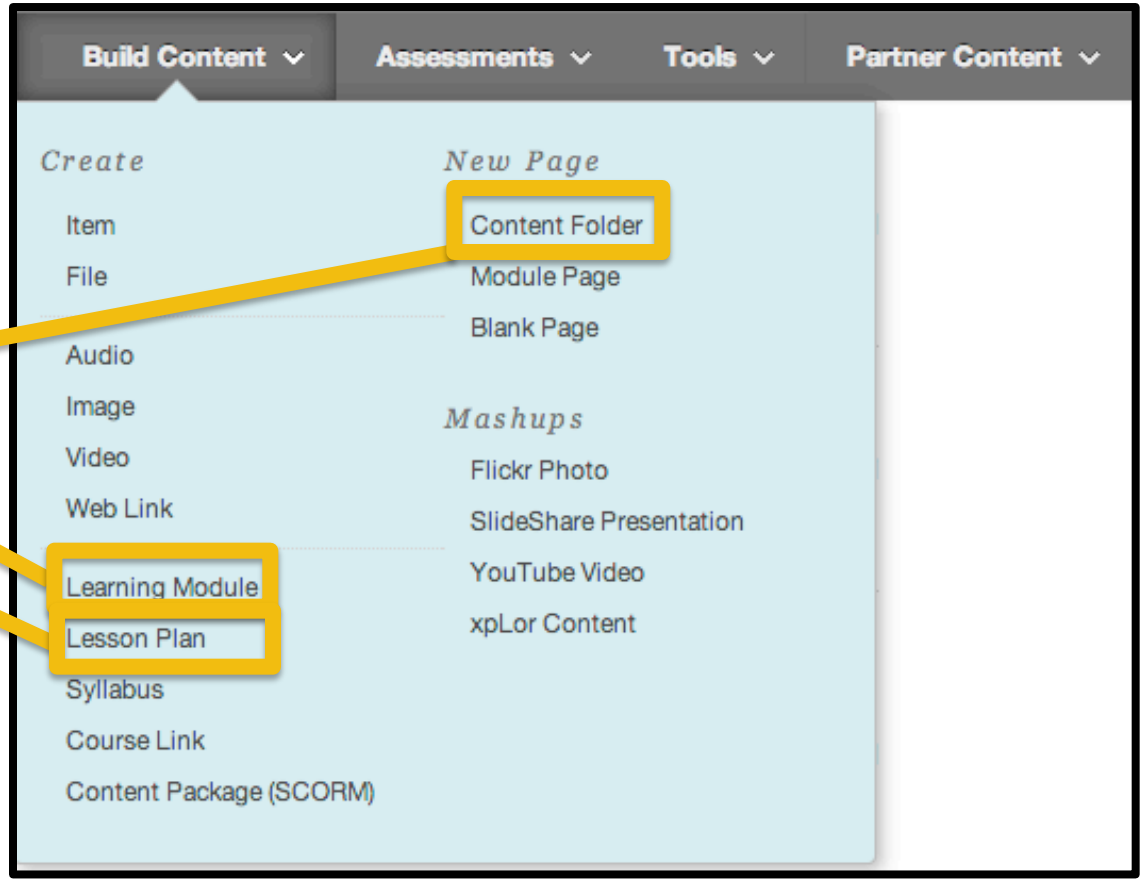
As we already explored, organization begins at the **Course Menu**.



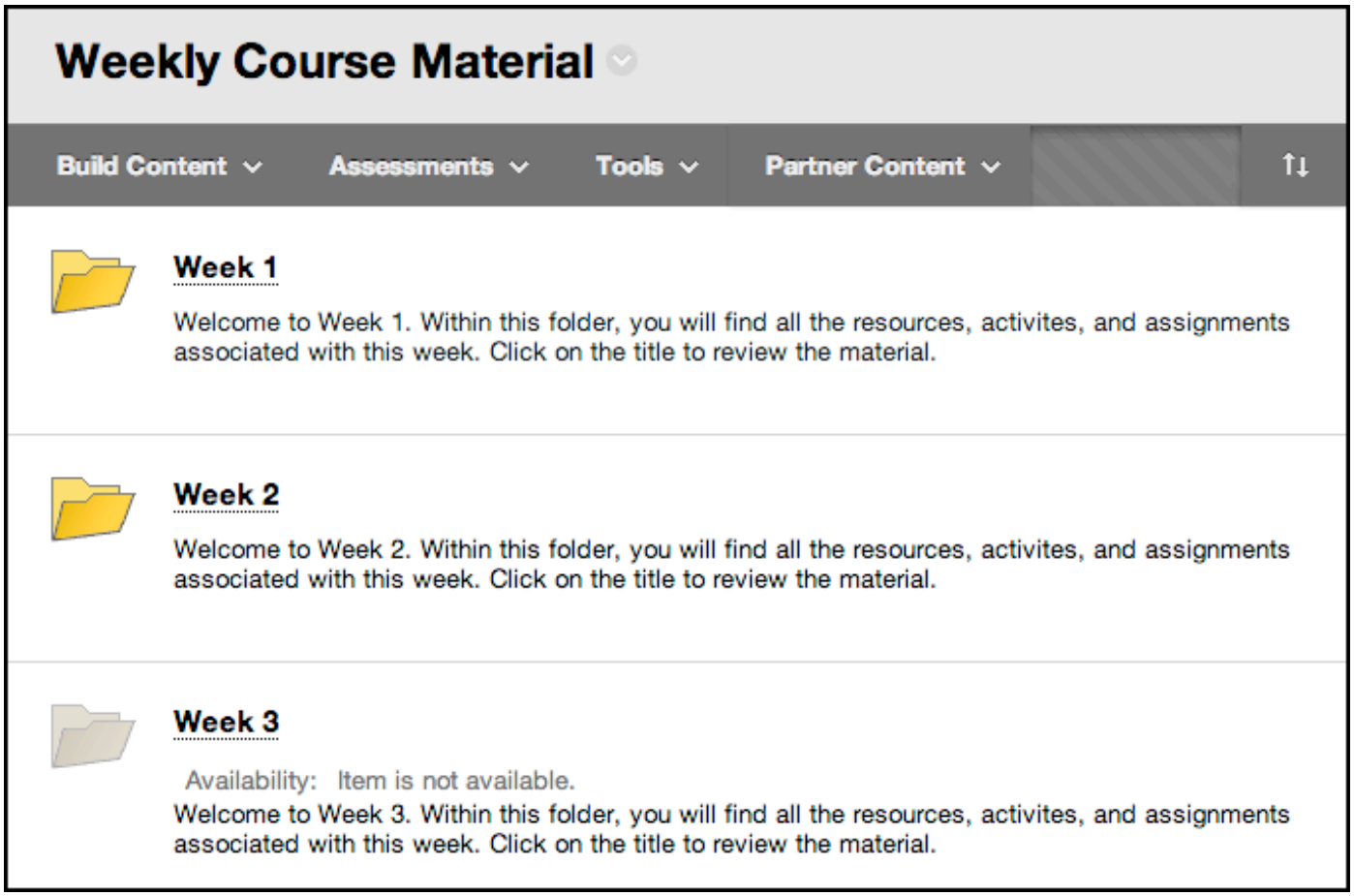
Individual weeks link directly to that week's content.

Weekly Course Material links to a content area that contains multiple folders.

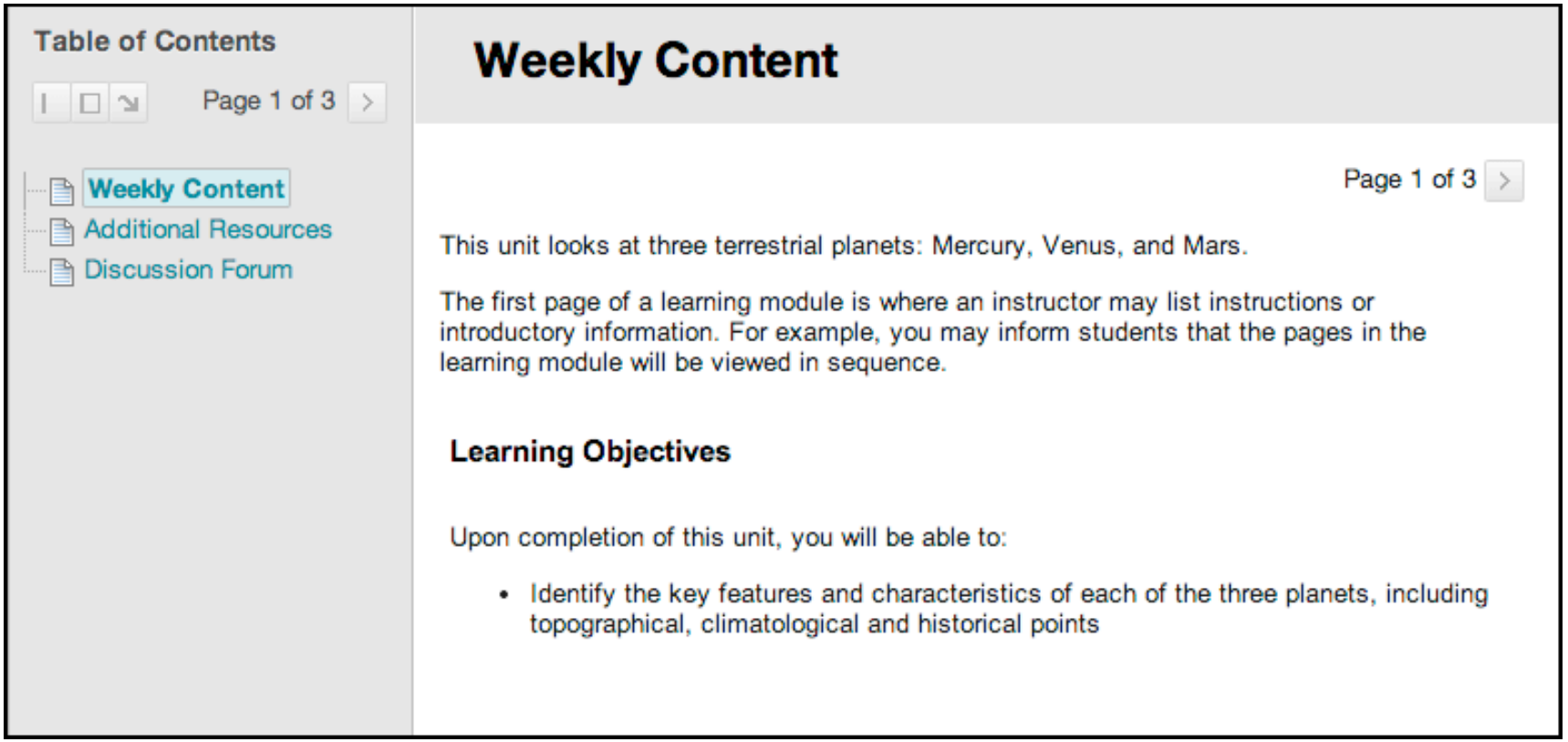
Content Area: Build Content



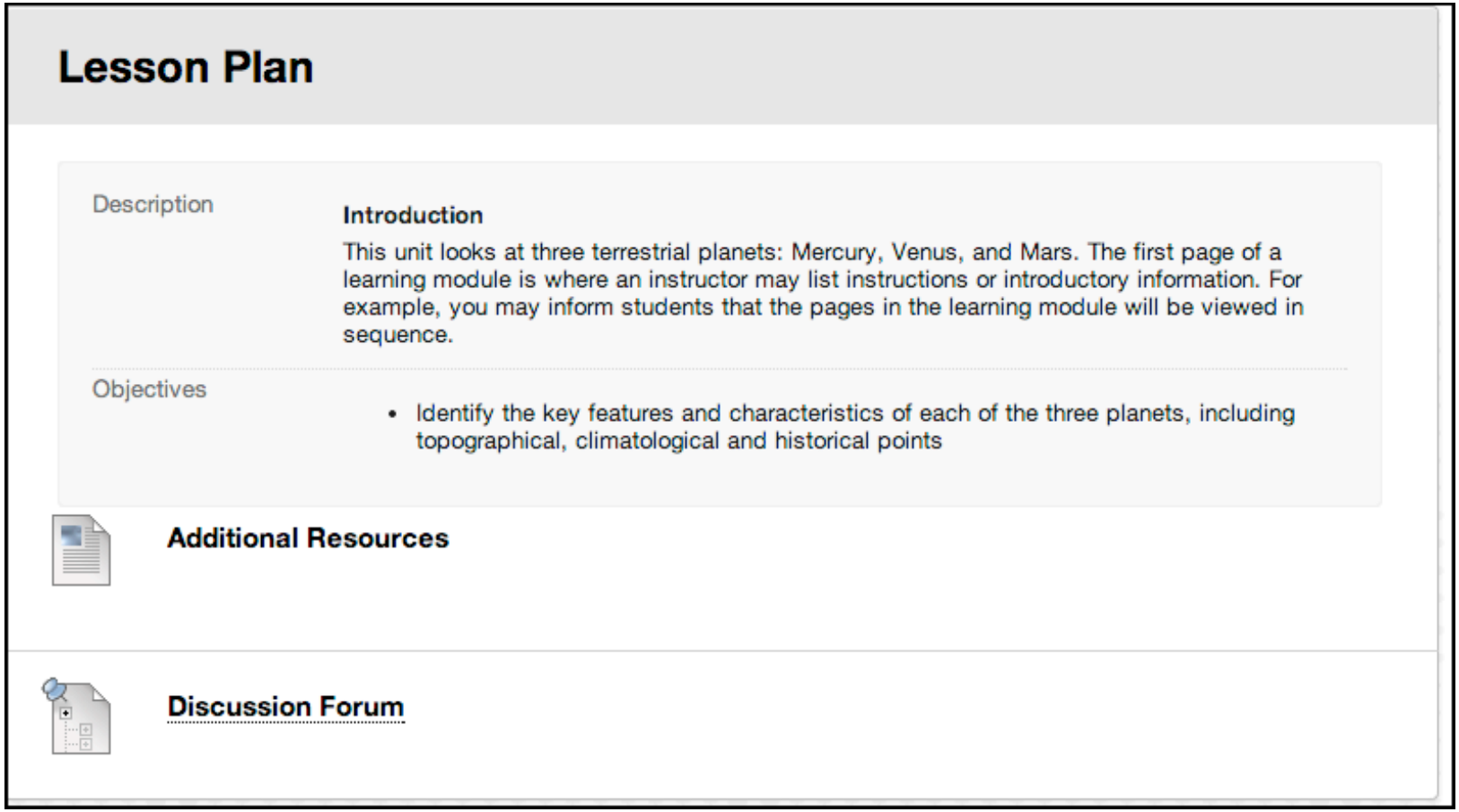
Content Folder



Learning Module



Lesson Plan


Lesson Plan
Description
Introduction
This unit looks at three terrestrial planets: Mercury, Venus, and Mars. The first page of a learning module is where an instructor may list instructions or introductory information. For example, you may inform students that the pages in the learning module will be viewed in sequence.
Objectives
• Identify the key features and characteristics of each of the three planets, including topographical, climatological and historical points
Additional Resources
Discussion Forum

You Try!

You will have five minutes to explore the three different ways to display content.

1. Click **Content Examples** from the **Course Menu**.
   (**Course Management > Customization > Teaching Style**)

2. Identify at least one benefit for each display option.

3. Identify which method you will most likely explore further or use.

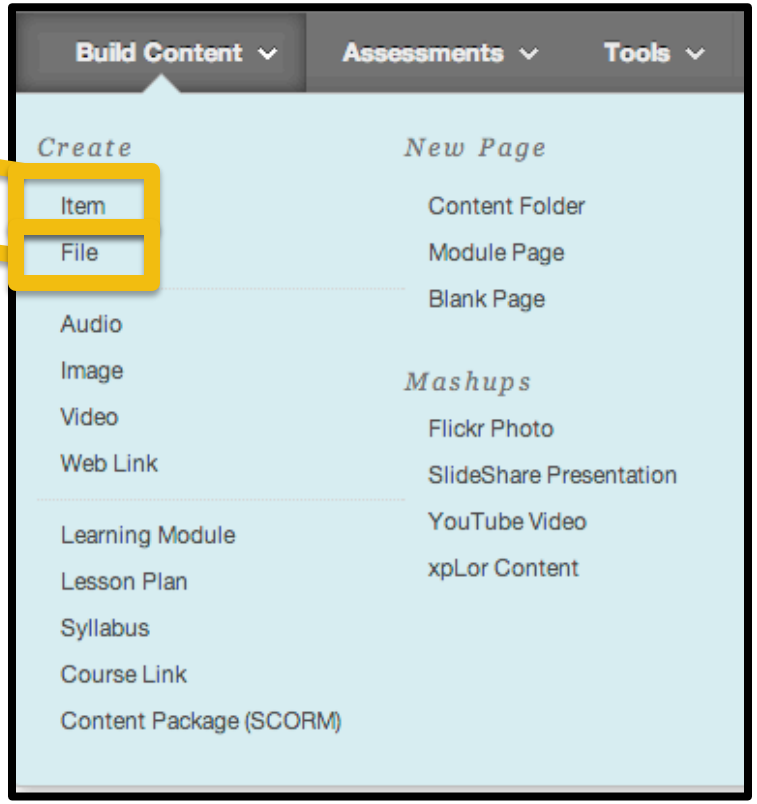
Presenting Dynamic Content Steps

1. Create your Course Menu.
2. Identify how you will display your Course content.
3. Identify the type of content you will use.
    - Upload existing content.
    - Create new content.

UPLOADING CONTENT

Two Methods to Upload Content

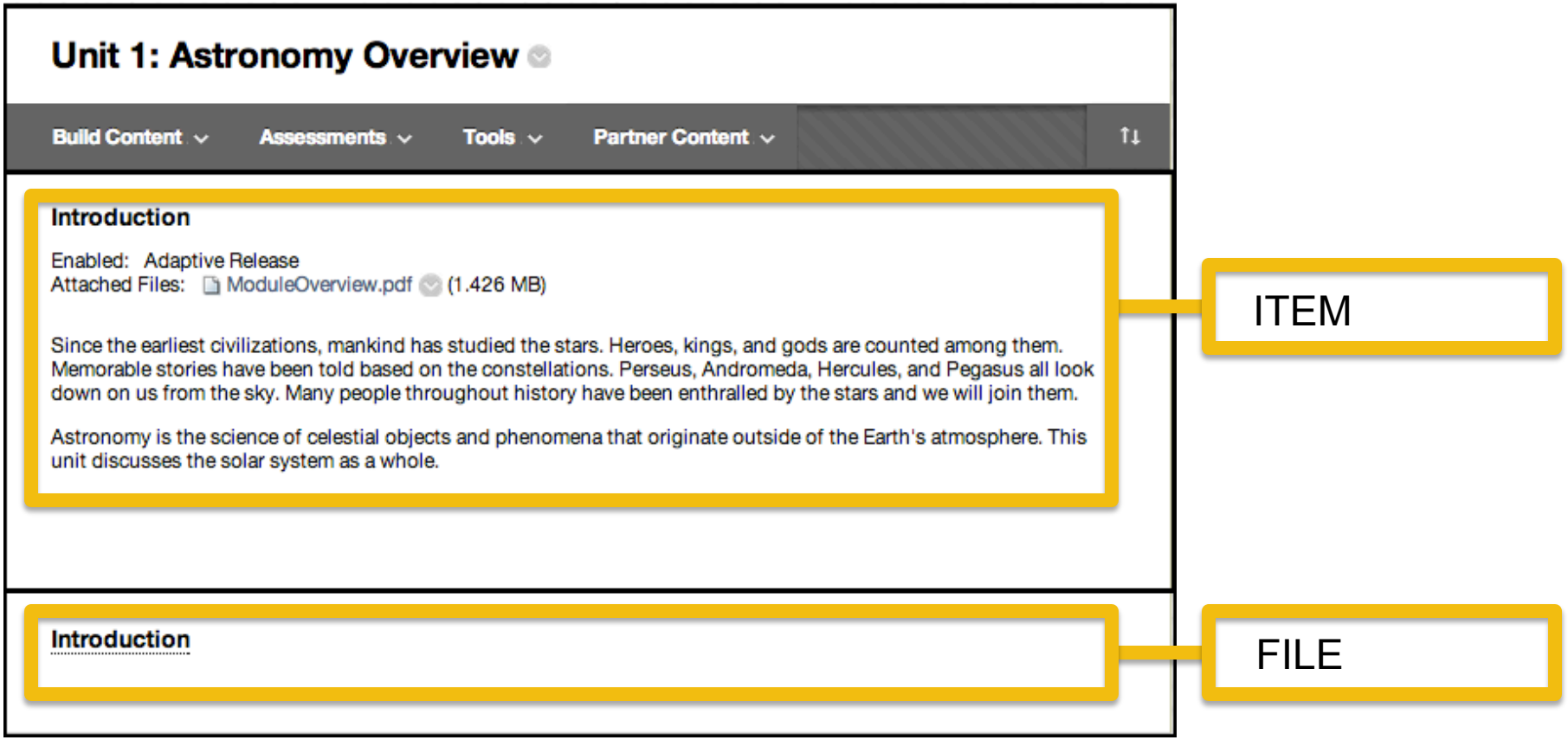
1. Item
2. File



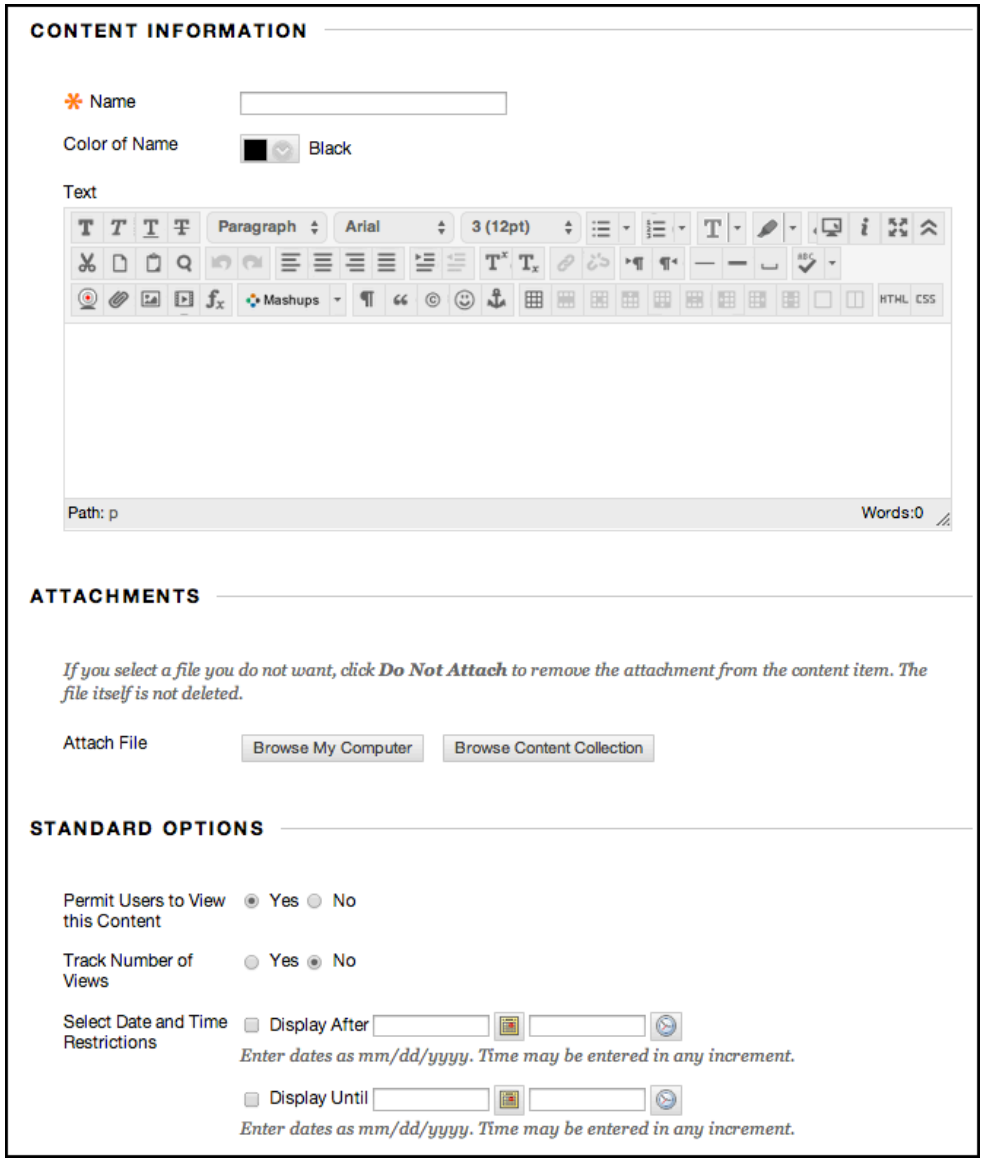
Any ideas or guesses what the difference is between the two methods?

- How the file is displayed.

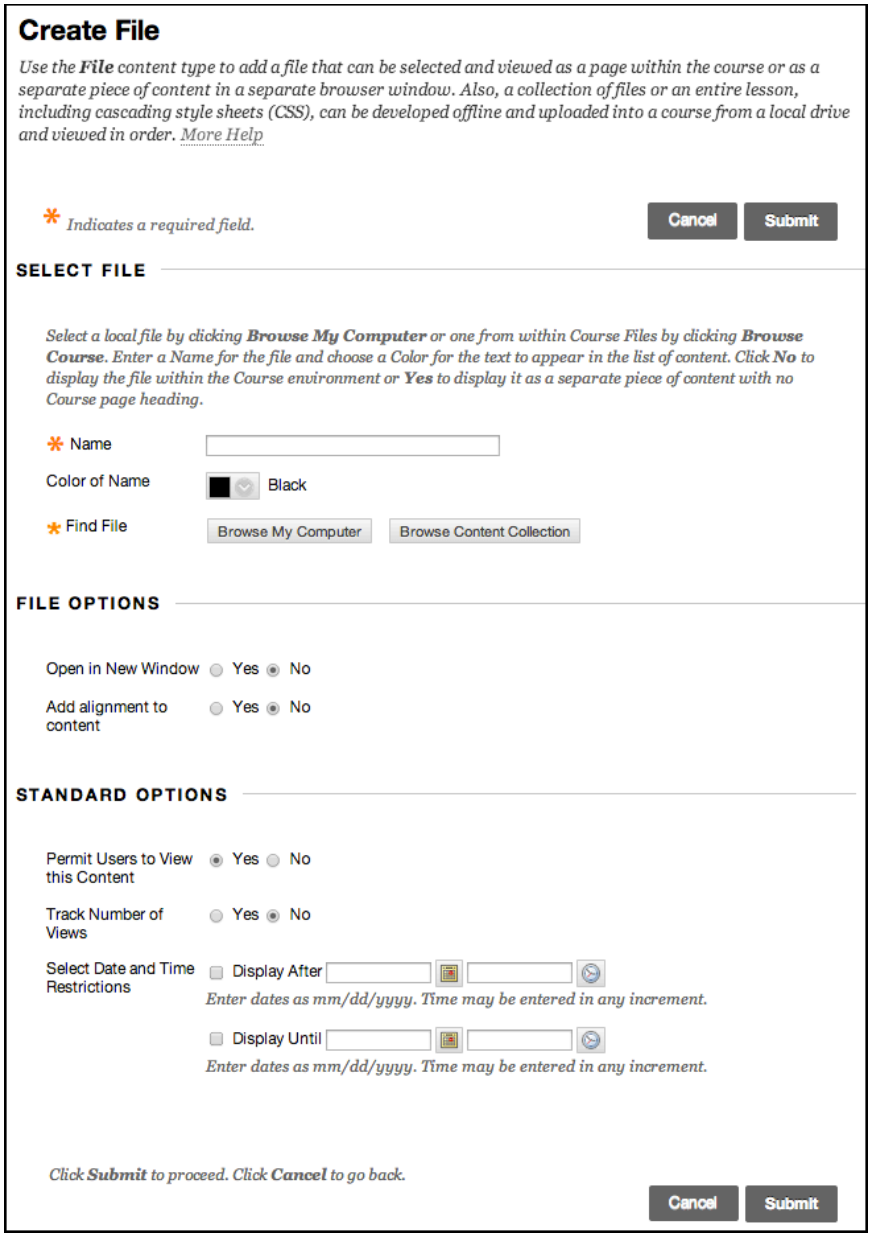
In the sample below, one Introduction was added as an Item and one as a File. Move the labels below to the location.



Create an Item - Settings



Create a File - Settings



Let’s See it in Action!

- Create an Item.
- Create a File.

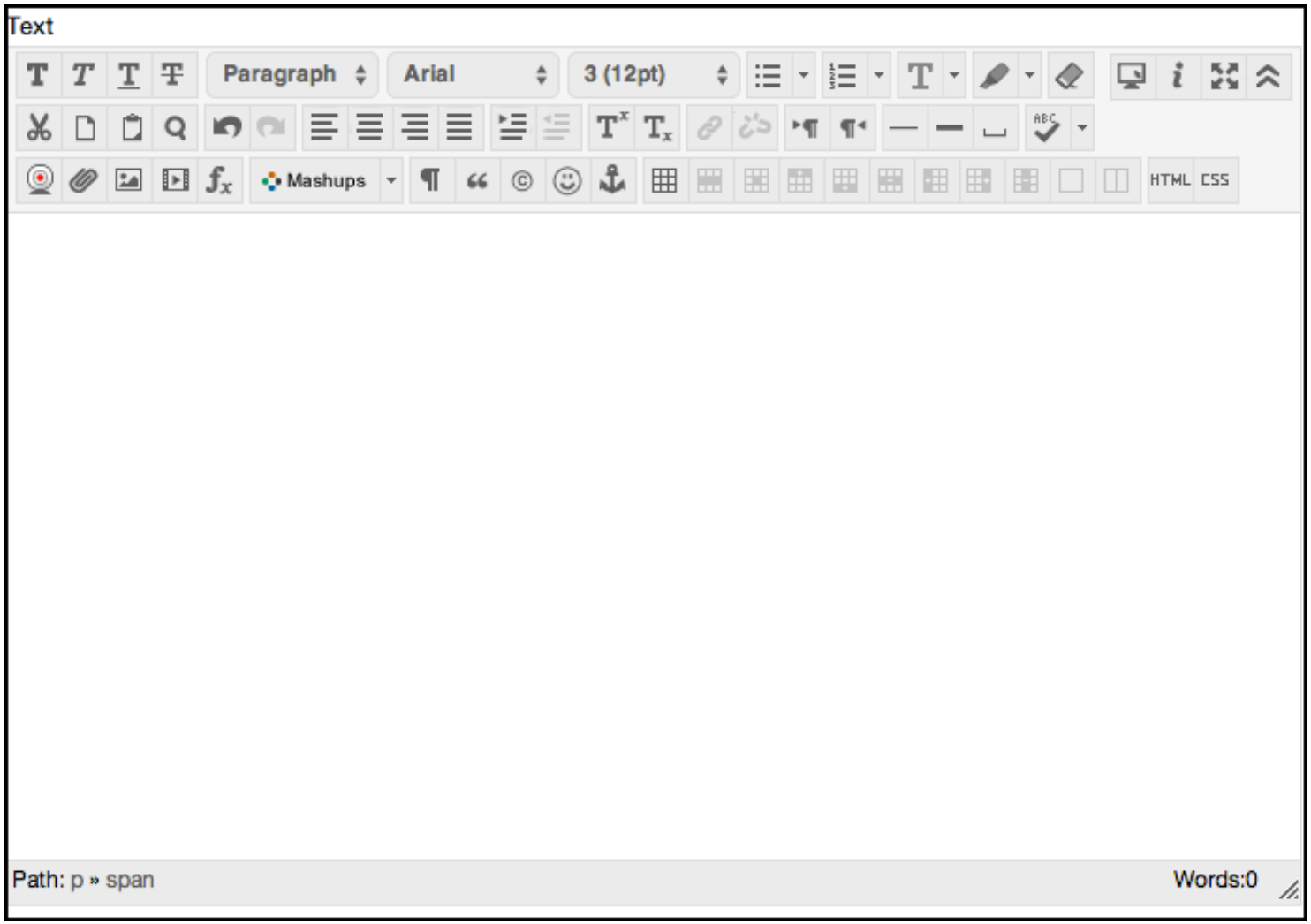
You Try!

- Create a new item or file.

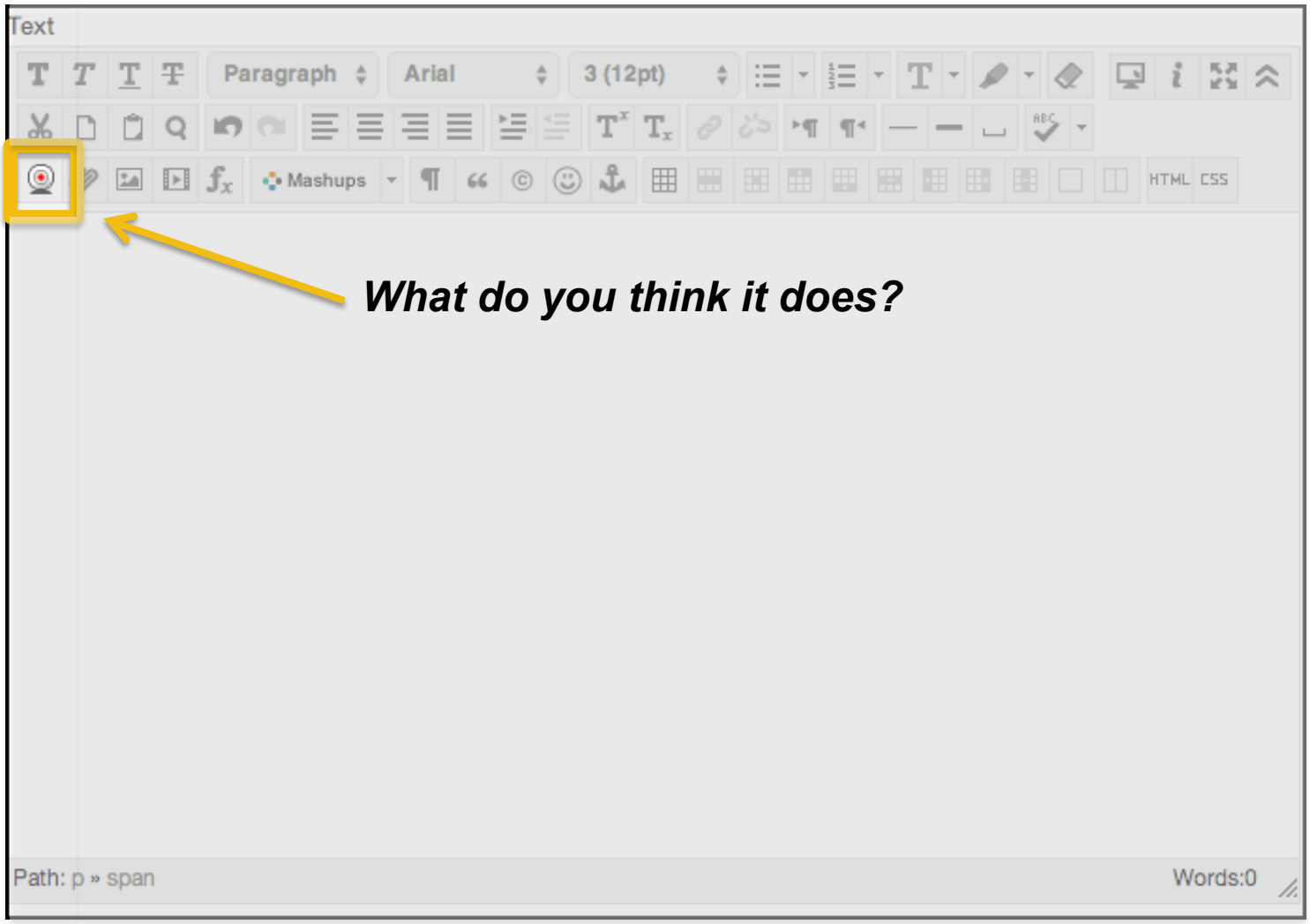
- Share your results!

CONTENT EDITOR

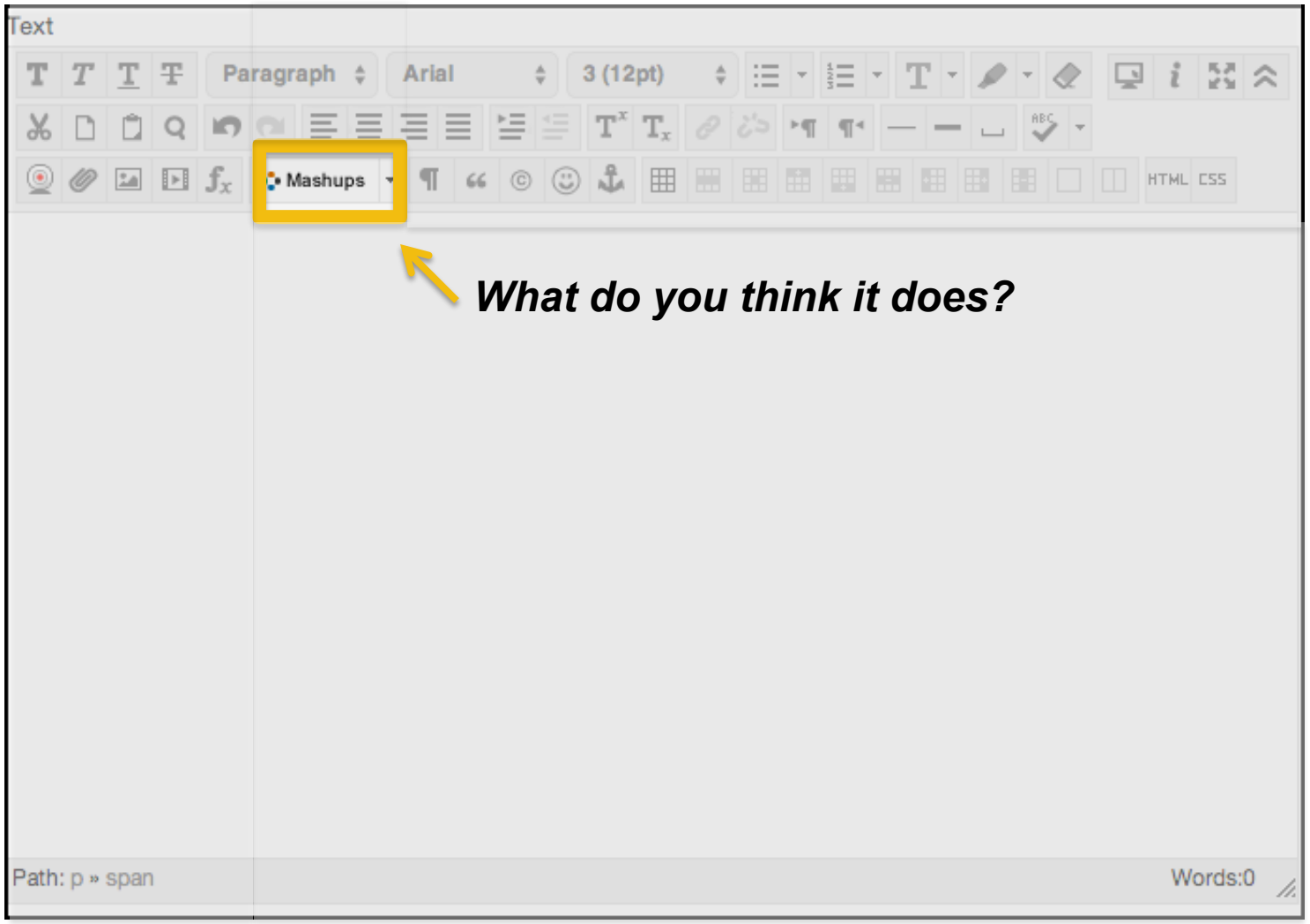
Content Editor View



Content Editor: Video Everywhere



Content Editor: Mashups



Let's See it in Action!

As a group, we'll interact with the **Content Editor** and explore some of the key features:

- Video everywhere
- Mashups
- Others

I'll be asking for volunteers... let me know if you want to help out!

Presenting Dynamic Content Steps

1. Create your Course Menu.
2. Identify how you will display your Course content.
3. Identify the type of content you will use.
   - Upload existing content.
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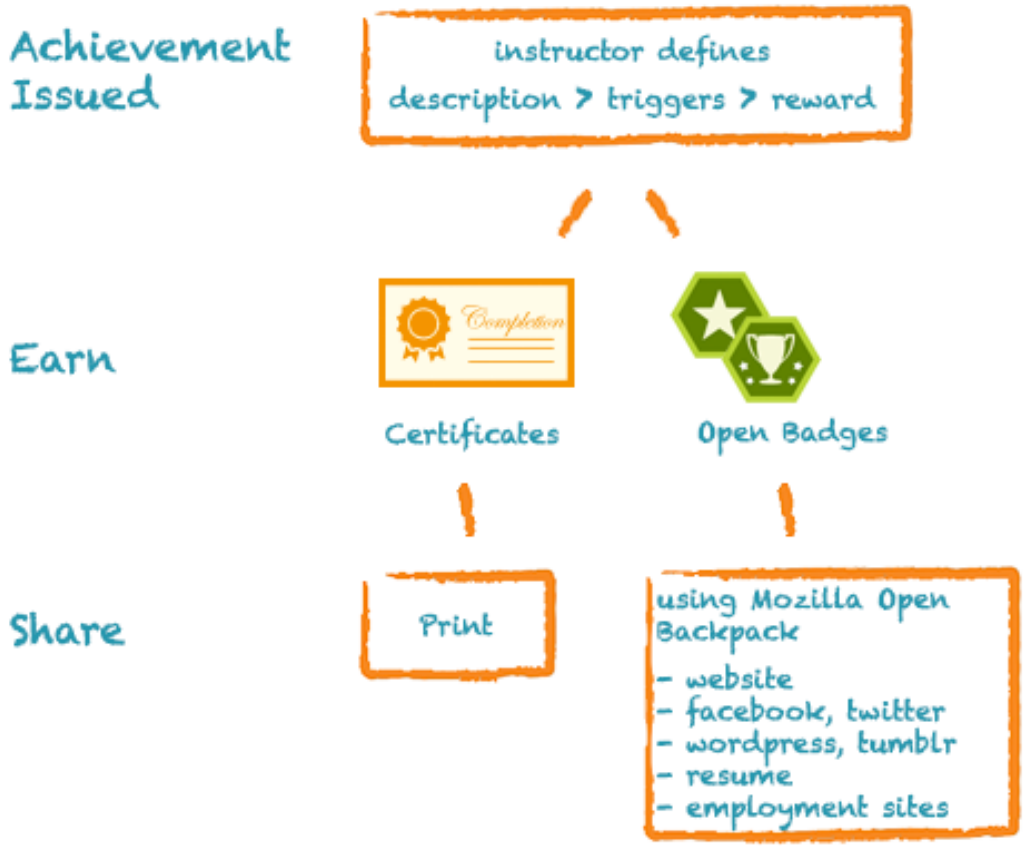
4. Align content with Goals or Achievements.

ACHIEVEMENTS

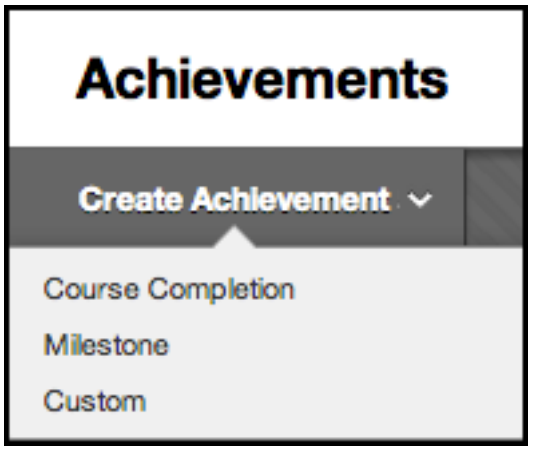
Achievement Tool

- Allows Instructors to reward students for work they've done.
- Rewards can be: Certificates or Badges.



Badges and Education

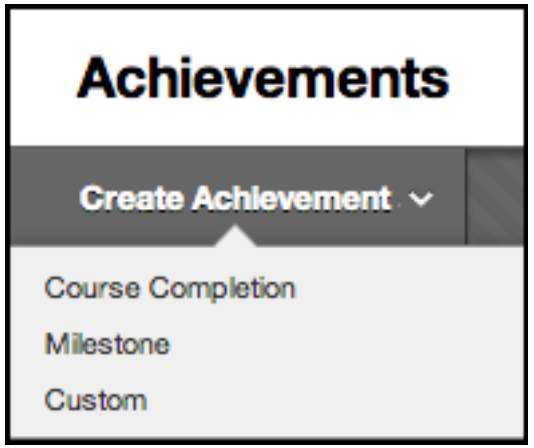
Do you think badges are a good motivator for students to learn?



Creating an Achievement

Three Achievement Types

- Course Completion
- Milestone
- Custom



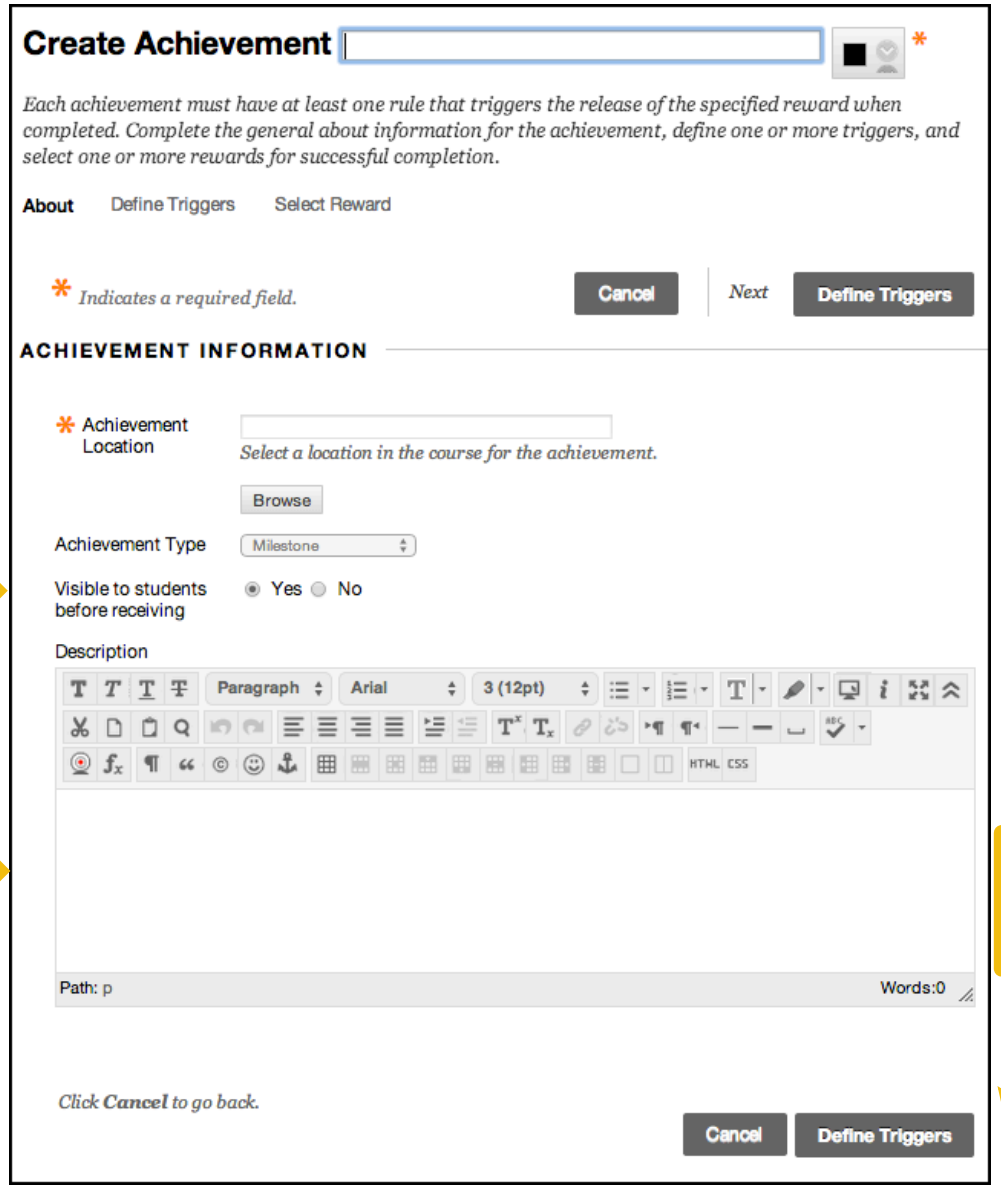
Creating an Achievement: About

Type Name

Select a Location

Define type and visibility

Type description



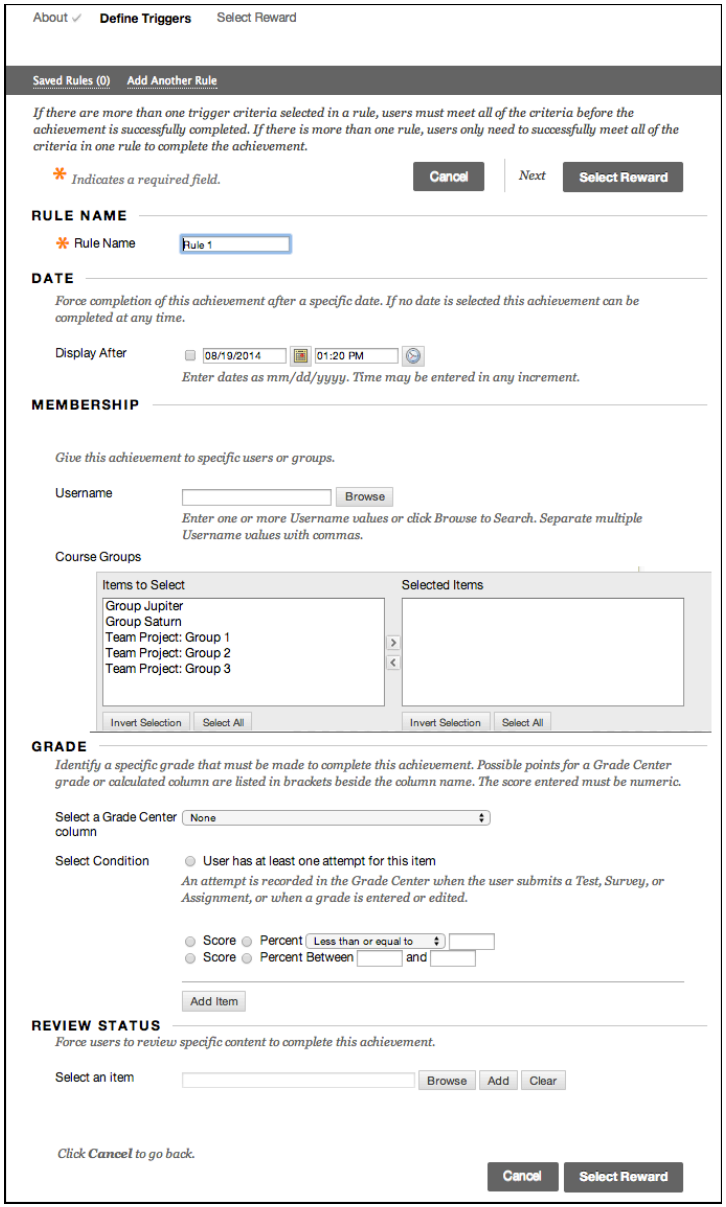
Define Triggers

Creating an Achievement: Define Triggers

Rule Name

Modify Trigger(s)

- Date
- Username
- Membership
- Grade
- Review Status

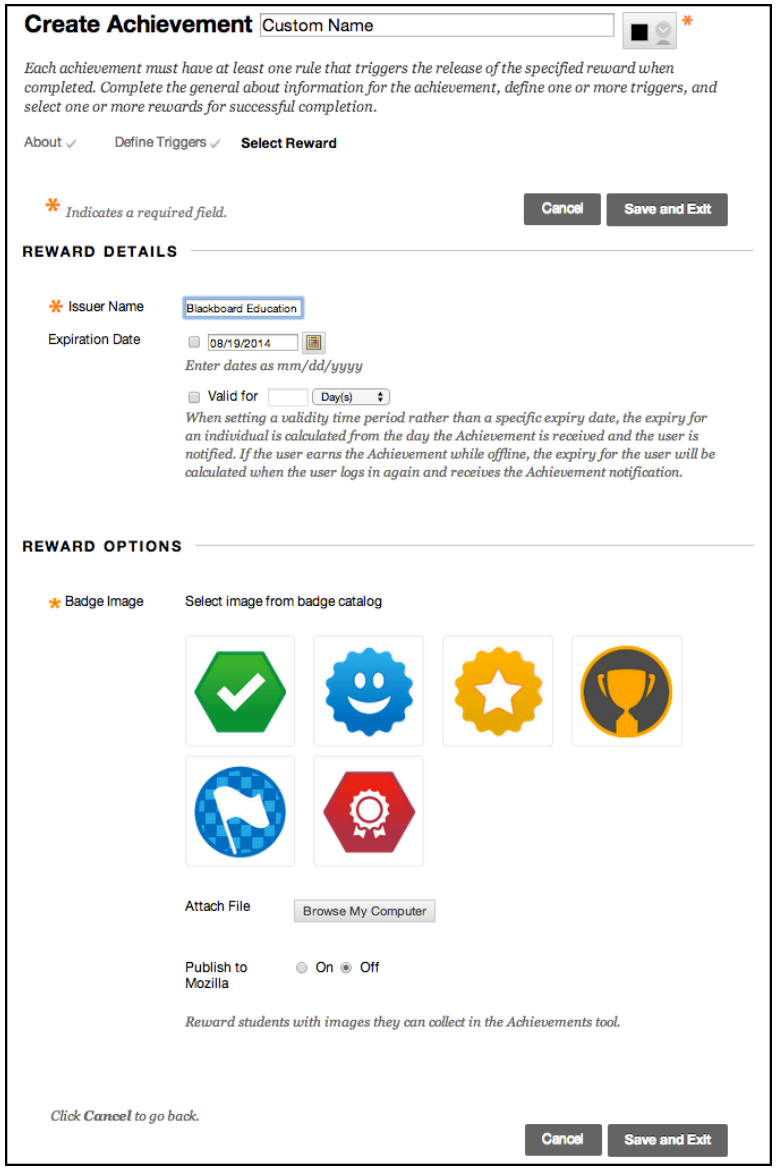


Select Reward

Creating an Achievement: Select Reward

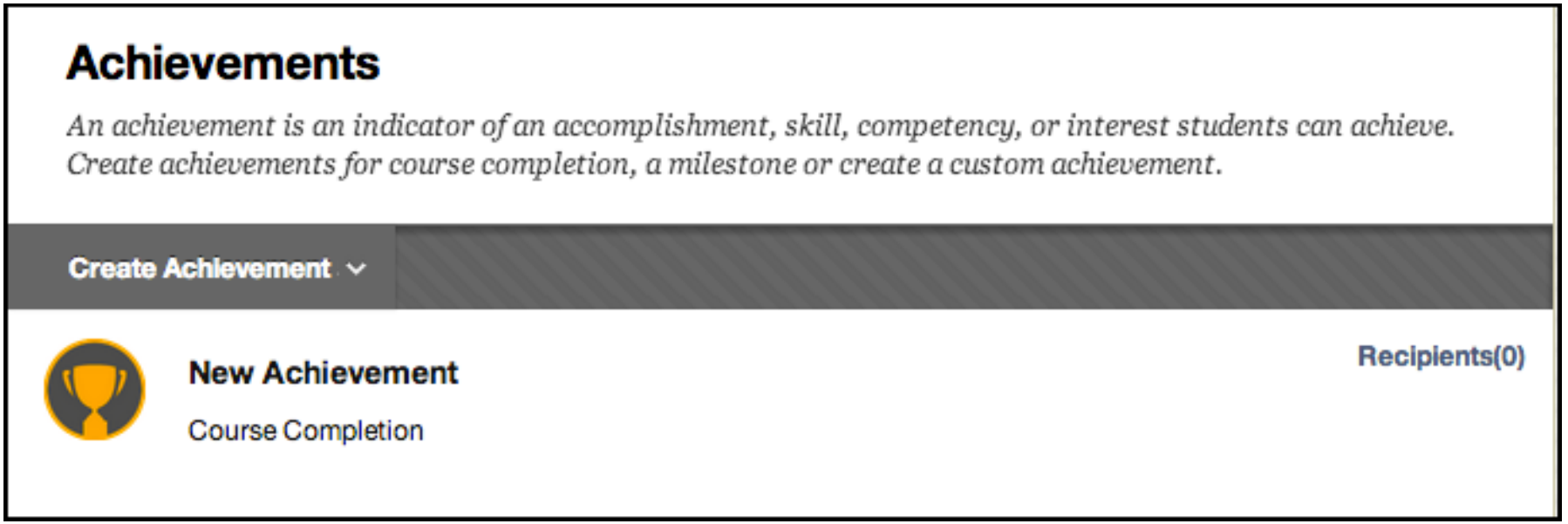
Modify Reward Details

Choose a default Reward or upload your own.



Save & Exit

New Achievement Created



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Session Wrap-Up

What's Next?

- **Save your Session Manual.**
  - Being sent to you via File Transfer... Here it comes!

- **Practice. Practice. Practice.**
  - In your manual, there are activities for you to complete.

- **Create Your Plan of Action!**
  - Identify how you will display content to your students.
  - Will it be aligned with Goals or Achievements?

How to Get Help!

- **Visit us online!**
  - http://help.blackboard.com
- **Ask Dr. C!**
  - Free question-and-answer service moderated by an international group of your peers (and fellow Blackboard clients)!
  - http://discussions.blackboard.com
- **Each Other!**
  - Before you leave, identify a study buddy.
  - Have at least one meeting outside of the session to review the topics we've discussed today.

Thank you!

Please complete the survey.