

Cross-Network Collaboration on Ed.VoiceThread

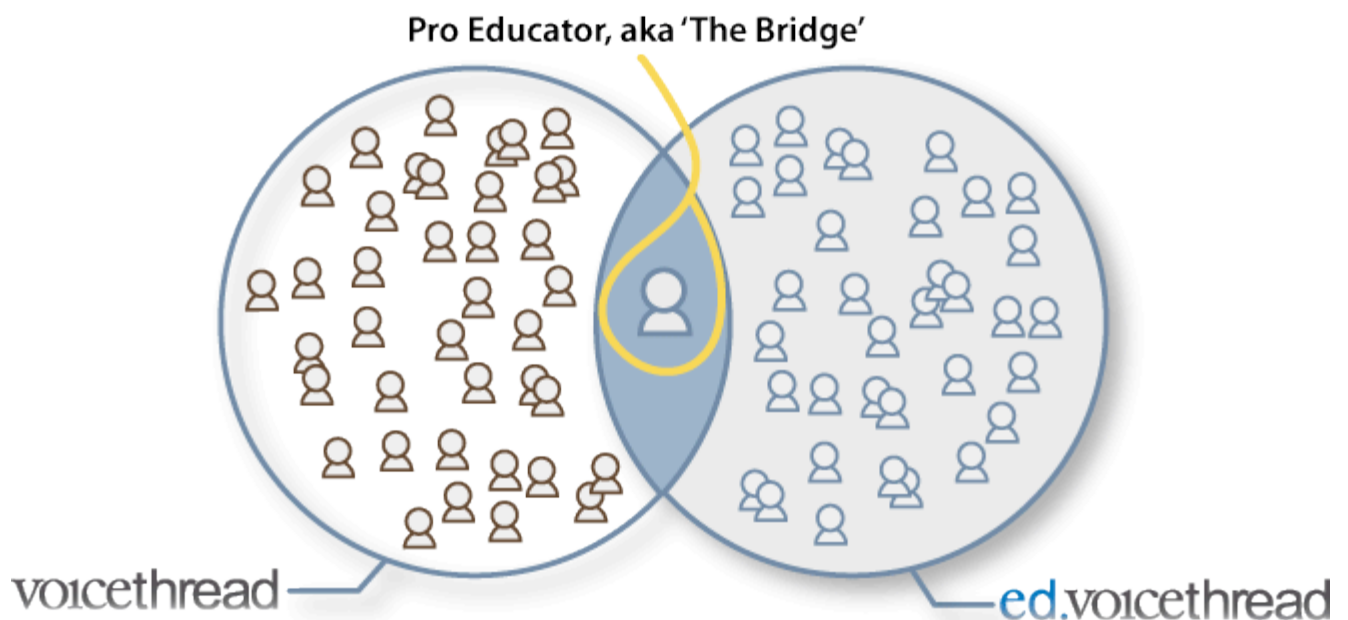
Ed.VoiceThread is a collaborative network of verified K-12 users. The key to maintaining this vibrant and secure community is that all users are known users, and all content and commentary is traceable. Ed.VoiceThread is growing quickly, and we believe this foundation of accountability and transparency has proven its effectiveness. In the first 1 million comments on this network, only 8 were reported as inappropriate, and each incident resulted in an appropriate intervention by VoiceThread and school staff. We think that's a record that few school buses could match, and it proves the effectiveness of this security model.

Occasionally, Ed.VoiceThread educators and students want to collaborate with other classes and schools that are not yet part of Ed.VoiceThread. Such collaboration is quite possible and takes place every day, but the workflow is a bit different than intra-network collaboration on Ed.VoiceThread. For this reason, we've developed this guide to Cross-Network Collaboration.

First, the foundational rule of Ed.VoiceThread security is:

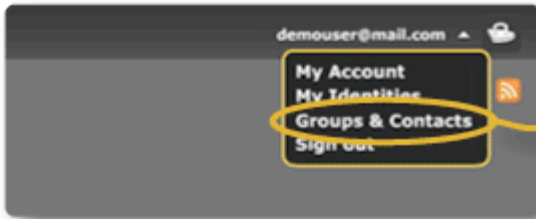
Student accounts cannot accept commentary from, or collaborate with, anyone who is not also part of Ed.VoiceThread and therefore is not a known K-12 user.

If this is the case, how can students collaborate outside of this network? Answer: the educator acts as the sharing "Bridge" to all student work involving "outsiders." While students are restricted by the above rule, Pro-Educators are not and therefore can invite anyone to view, comment, and edit student work. When working with classes that are not part of the Ed.VoiceThread network, the Pro-Educator must take charge of all sharing decisions and become Bridge and Sheriff all rolled into one.

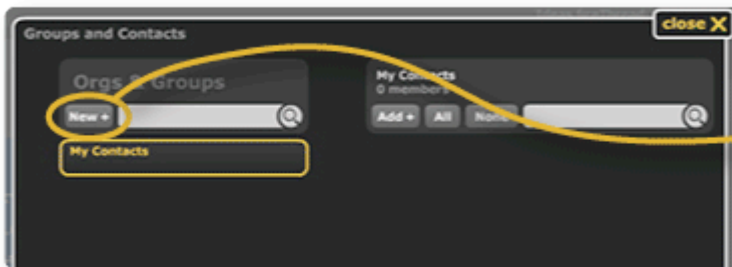


Here is an explicit roadmap to managing cross-network collaboration.

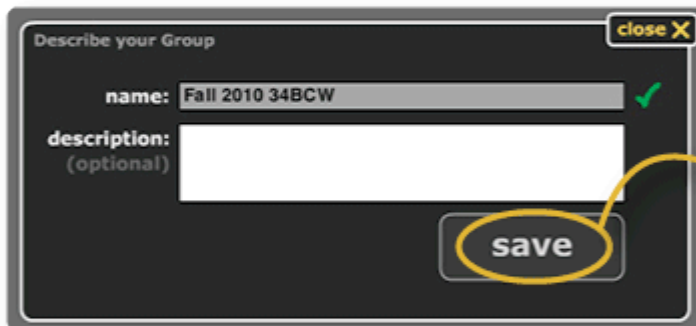
Step 1: Create a collaborative Group



Click on your email in the upper right hand corner of your MyVoice page and select 'Groups & Contacts'



Click on 'New +' at the top of your 'Orgs & Groups' list



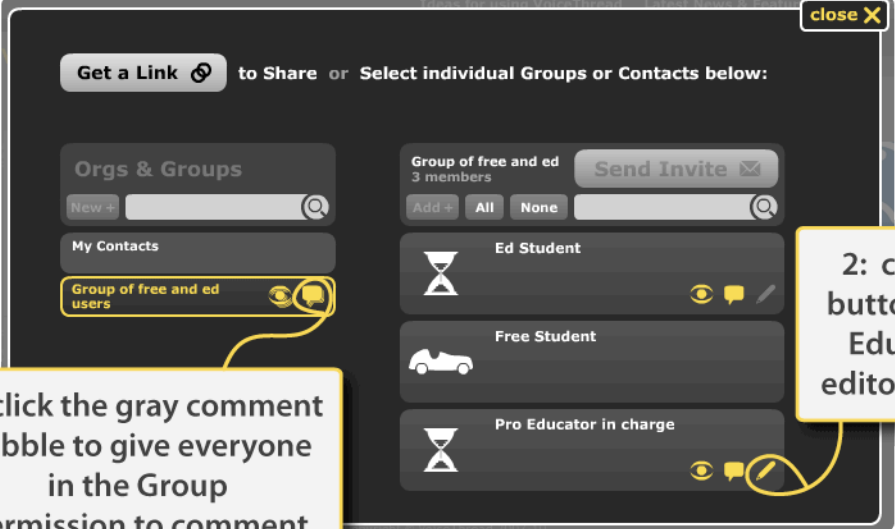
Add a name and description for this Group and then click 'Save'



Click 'Copy the link' and then paste the link into an email that you send to anyone outside of Ed.VoiceThread that you want to be added to this Group. Whomever clicks this link will be added to the Group.

Step 2: The Pro Educator takes charge of sharing decisions

Because the Pro Educator will make all the sharing decisions, it's important that every member of the collaborative Group share his VoiceThreads not only with the Group, but also make this Pro Educator an Editor of his work. This will require two clicks on the part of any Group member:



The screenshot shows a dark-themed interface for sharing VoiceThreads. At the top, it says "Get a Link to Share or Select individual Groups or Contacts below:". Below this are two main sections: "Orgs & Groups" and "My Contacts". The "My Contacts" section is highlighted with a yellow box and a callout bubble that says "1: click the gray comment bubble to give everyone in the Group permission to comment". The "Orgs & Groups" section shows a list of groups, including "Group of free and ed users" (3 members), "Ed Student", "Free Student", and "Pro Educator in charge". Each group has a "Send Invite" button and a search bar. The "Pro Educator in charge" group is highlighted with a yellow box and a callout bubble that says "2: click the gray pencil button to make the Pro-Educator in charge an editor of this VoiceThread".

Step 3: The Pro Educator makes sure everyone in the Group has the proper level of access to each VoiceThread.

If everyone in the collaborative Group performs the two sharing steps above, then the Pro Educator will be able to Manage access to each VoiceThread that is part of the collaborative project, inviting whomever they want to comment and even edit student work. This allows the involvement of students, educators, researchers, and parents who are not part of the Ed.VoiceThread community.

*Collaborative Tip

Most people in the world are still learning how to be good online collaborators, and some explicit instructions about what kind of involvement you want from people will go a long way toward capturing that rich and meaningful participation that everyone wants to see in an online project. Let people know what you want, and lead by example. Whenever the first few comments on a VoiceThread use voice as the medium and are thoughtful and evocative, the rest of the conversation will usually follow this trend and produce work that you can be proud of.