



Online Authentic Assessments

3-Part Series

- How to use them
- 5 steps to create them
- How to proctor and protect integrity

Online learning is evolving, and instructors are rethinking their approach to assessments. As a complement to traditional assessments, instructors are integrating authentic assessments into their courses.

During authentic assessments, students perform real-world tasks such as presentations, demonstrations, and other realistic projects.

While many think authentic assessments are best for in-person classes, they're just as effective in an online environment. **But how?**

In this eBook, we'll show you everything you need to know about online authentic assessments, real examples of how to create them, and how to protect academic integrity regardless of the format.

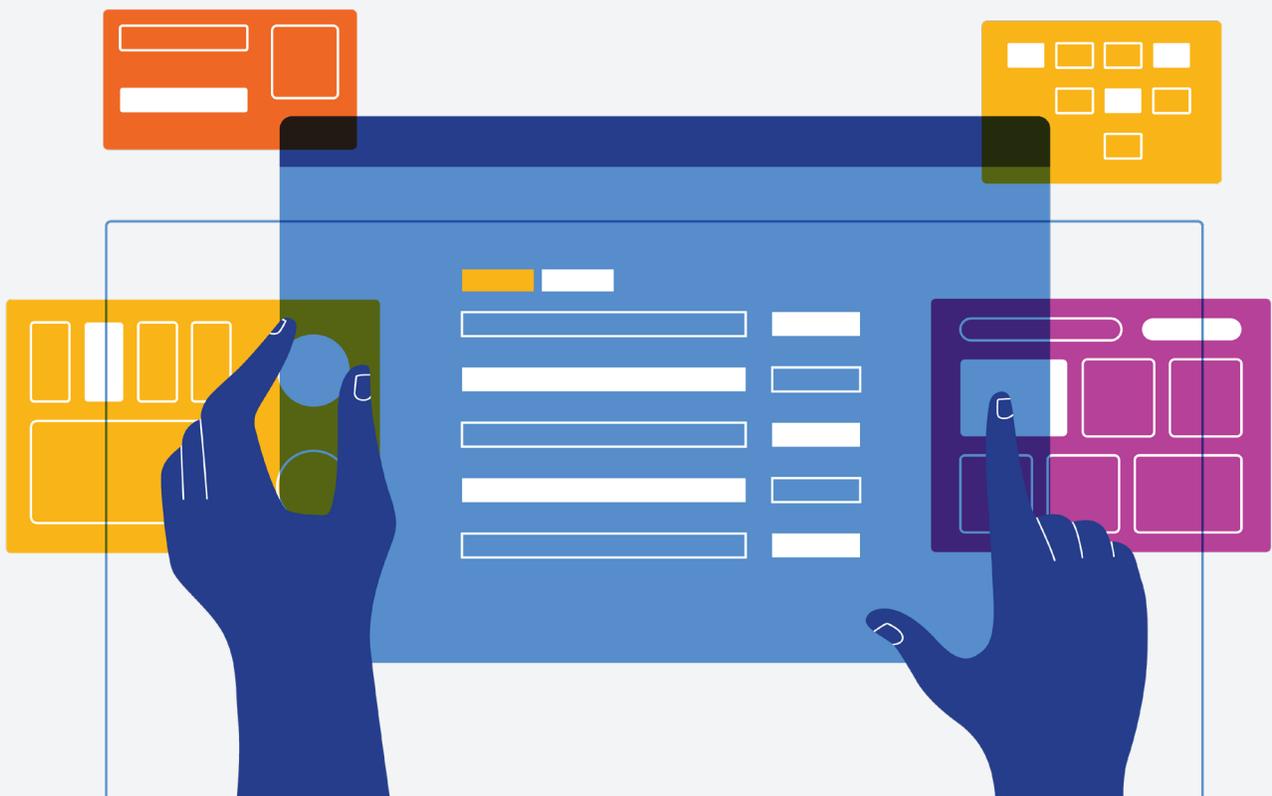


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Examples of how to apply online proctoring to these assessment types:

- Presentations and demonstrations (Individuals and groups)
- Essays (handwritten and typed)
- Math problems using pen and paper
- Use of real-software

Part 1:

Authentic Assessment Overview

- What is an authentic assessment?
- Can authentic assessments be used in an online course?
- Traditional vs Authentic Assessments
- Pros & cons

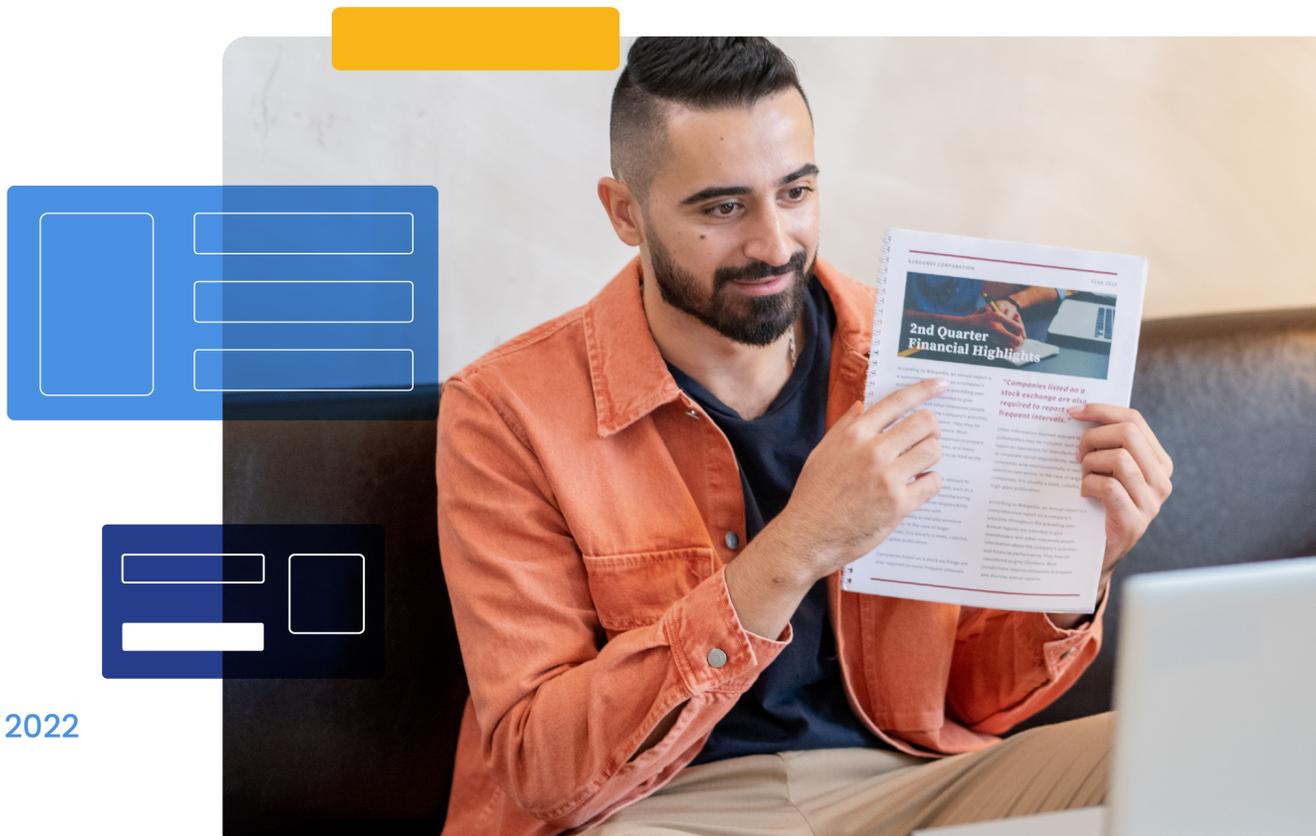
What is authentic assessment?

Authentic assessment means that students are assessed by their ability to complete real-world tasks that demonstrate their skills and knowledge.

Ultimately, authentic assessments prove that students can – not if – perform real-world tasks.

Authentic assessment examples

- Presentations and demonstrations
- Projects using real software and hardware
- Game-based activities
- Mock interviews and other role-playing scenarios
- Portfolios of work
- Debates and discussions
- Reflective writing and self-assessments



Traditional vs Authentic Assessment

Traditional Assessment	Authentic Assessment
Standardized question types such as multiple-choice questions, true/false, etc.	Flexible ways to demonstrate learning such as portfolios of work, hands-on projects, and more.
Students memorize and recall answers.	Students apply skills and knowledge to real-world situations.
Involves teaching a subject and then testing.	Assessments occur throughout online course activities and instruction.

Pros and cons of authentic assessment

Pros

Prepares students for real-life work situations

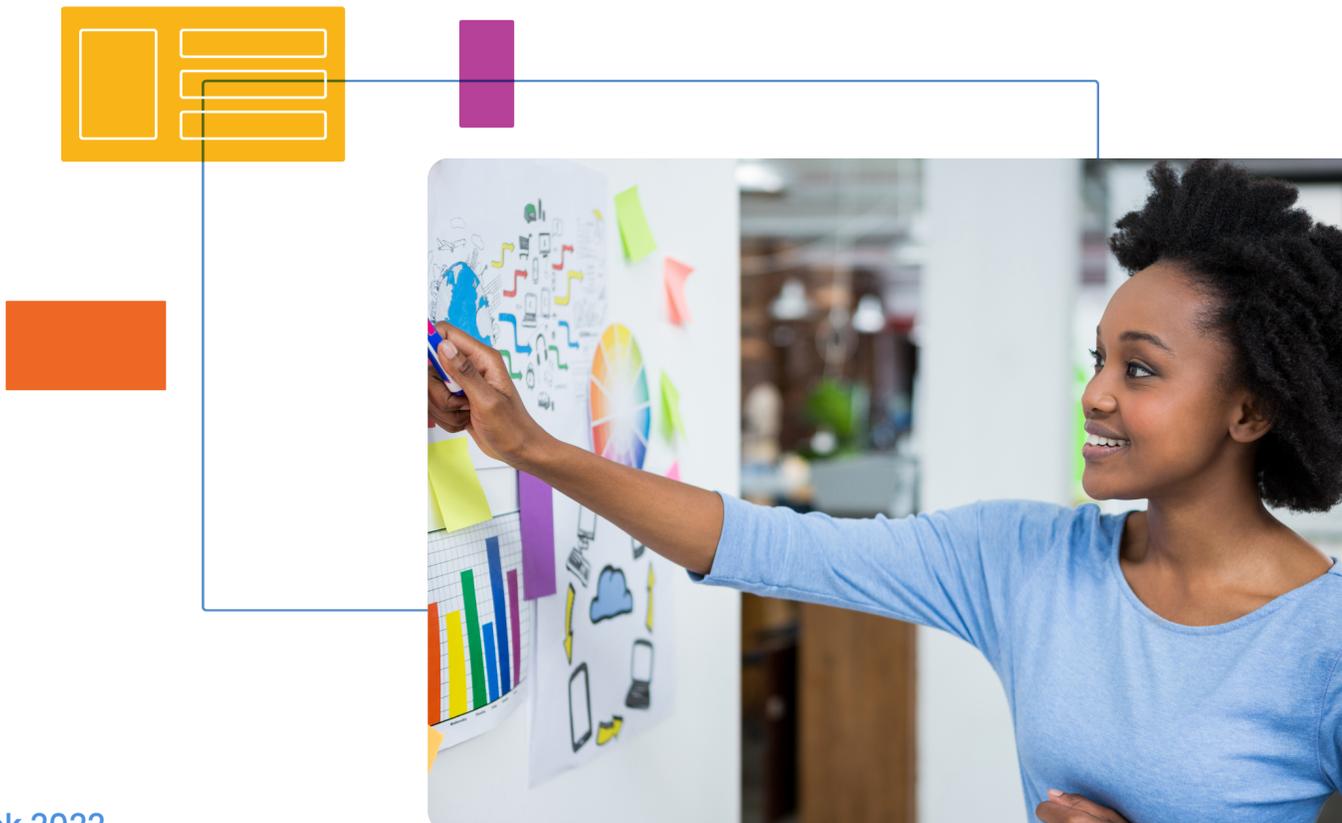
The key benefit of online authentic assessments is that students are applying their skills and knowledge to real-world situations.

Involves a complex range of assessment strategies to test knowledge

Authentic assessments provide students with a variety of ways to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. Instead of picking a multiple choice answer or choosing true or false, students are performing real-world tasks that require the comprehensive application of what they've learned.

Assessments are typically more active and engaging

Generally speaking, completing hands-on, real-world tasks will be more engaging for students than a multiple-choice assessment.



Cons

Takes extra time

Traditional assessments usually require less time to grade because students are completing standardized questions while authentic assessments, such as conducting a mock counseling session, may require more time.

Protecting academic integrity is tricky

Another concern that instructors have with assessments, especially online assessments, is making sure that students aren't able to get an unfair advantage by using cell phones, notes, books, and the internet. Authentic assessments typically require more than standardized question-types, so it's important to use technology that helps create a fair testing environment for students, whether it's a hands-on demonstration or writing an essay.

Grading can be more complex

Authentic assessments can be more complex to grade in some situations because students are completing a task instead of selecting a correct answer.

Can authentic assessments be used in online courses?

Many believe authentic assessments are best for in-person classes, but they're just as useful in online courses.

Examples of how different programs can use online authentic assessments

Nursing

Video recorded demonstration showing how to take blood pressure and naming the parts of a stethoscope.

Accounting

Prepare a cash flow statement in Excel based on mock data.

Instructional Design

Create an accessible online course within a common LMS based on mock student profiles describing individual disabilities and conditions along with other course technology requirements.

Counseling

Review a client-patient case study and conduct a mock video counseling session based on details from the case study.

Data Security

Create a disaster recovery plan based on a case study that details the company's business activities, technologies, and past incidents.

Graphic Design

Use industry design software to create a series of advertisements based on spec requirements for various social media platforms.

Part 2:

How to create an online authentic assessment

Online authentic assessments are a great way to make sure that students can apply what they've learned in class to real-world situations. While there are many benefits, there are also key things to consider as you create them for your online courses.

We'll show you:

- 5 steps to create online authentic assessments (with examples)
- How to build an effective rubric

5 steps to create an online authentic assessment

1. Write a 1-2 sentence summary with key assessment objectives
2. Break the summary sentence into specific sections
3. Make a list of what students should know for each section
4. Write down different authentic assessment activities that allow students to demonstrate their knowledge
5. Choose your assessment activities and create a detailed rubric with descriptions

Step 1: Write a summary sentence with key assessment objectives

Use one or two sentences to keep the assessment focused.

Example

Students will demonstrate understanding of three process improvement methodologies and the ability to determine which best applies to specific businesses, industries, and situations.

Step 2: Break the summary into individual sections

Example

Section 1: Demonstrate understanding of three process improvement methodologies

Section 2: Ability to determine which methodology best applies to various situations

Step 3: Write a bulleted list of what students should know for each section

Example

Section 1: Demonstrate understanding of three process improvement methodologies

- Foundational elements of each methodology: how it works, and when and why it was created
- Common terms and definitions for each methodology

Section 2: Ability to determine which methodology best applies to various situations

- Why and how each methodology should be used for different businesses, industries, and situation



Step 4: Write down how students can demonstrate their knowledge for each item on the bulleted lists

After you determine what students should know for each section, create a list of how students can demonstrate knowledge for each.

Example Description

Section 1: Demonstrate understanding of three process improvement methodologies

- **Foundational elements of each methodology:** how it works, and when and why it was created
 - **Written portion:** Explain each methodology (1-2 paragraphs)
 - **Timeline:** Create a timeline for each methodology that emphasizes key dates
 - **Video self-recording:** Explain each methodology in 1-2 minutes
- **Common terms and definitions for each methodology**
 - **Fill in the blank for terms/definitions**
 - **Written:** Write a brief summary of each term that describes when and how they're used in a real-world effort

Section 2: Ability to determine which methodology best applies to various situations

- **Why and how each methodology should be used for different businesses, industries, and situation**
 - **Presentation:** Apply one methodology to a specific case study and explain why and how it was used.
 - **Case study and recommendation:** Review a case study and provide a recommendation on which methodology should be used to improve efforts.

Tip: Keep accessibility in mind as you choose assessment activities

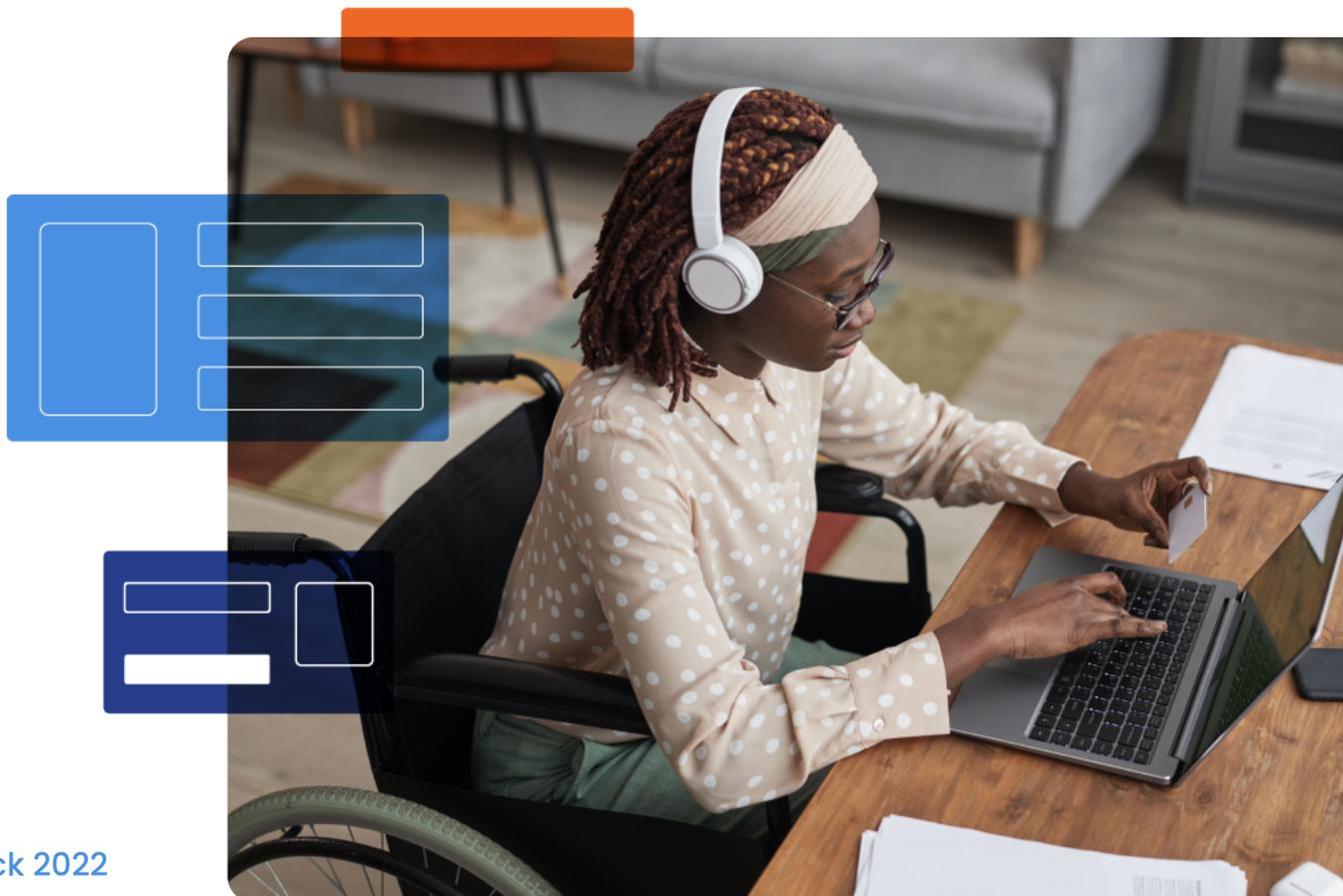
When considering assessment activities, keep web accessibility and compliance standards in mind to help create a fair test environment.

Is each activity possible for every student regardless of disability or condition?

e.g., If the activity involves a spoken component, how will students with speech impairments complete it?

Are all technologies used in the online course compatible with assistive devices?

Does the LMS, online proctoring platform, and third-party software integrate with assistive technology?



Step 5: Create clear descriptions and an effective rubric

After you pick the activities students will complete to demonstrate knowledge, you'll create detailed descriptions and rubric. The descriptions and rubric should be detailed and easy to understand so that students know exactly what's expected of them.

Example Description

Use your webcam to record a video where you'll verbally explain the pros and cons of each process improvement methodology. The three process improvement methodologies are Six Sigma, Project Management, and Agile.

For each methodology, you'll provide:

- **Three pros and cons for each methodology**
 - For each pro/con, provide clarity on the positive or negative impact and how it affects other areas of the business.

Example:

- **Good Example:** Six Sigma reduces waste by spotting defects in manufacturing processes, which reduces labor costs because it saves time.
- **Bad Example:** Six Sigma saves time and money.

Example Authentic Assessment Rubric

Points	Item	Time
40	Provides 3 advantages for each methodology	2 minute or less for each methodology
40	Provides 3 disadvantages for each methodology	2 minute or less for each methodology
10	Clear and easy to understand audio and video	N/A
10	Video is 10 minutes or less	Less than 10 minutes
100 points total		

Part 3:

How to proctor online authentic assessments

We'll show you real examples of how to apply proctoring to these online assessment activities:

- Presentations and demonstrations (Individuals and groups)
- Essays (handwritten and typed)
- Math problems using pen and paper
- Use of real-software
- Open-book format

For each example, we'll assume the instructor is using an online proctoring solution, such as Honorlock, that combines AI software and live proctors.

Online presentations & demonstrations

In this example, students use their webcam to record themselves:

- Holding a tool and identifying the parts
- Demonstrating how the tool actually works
- Presenting one idea they have to improve the tool

Example

A nursing student identifies the parts of a stethoscope, demonstrates how it works, and presents one way they believe it can be improved.



How to use proctoring for online presentations & demonstrations

Detect voices and get a transcript what was said

The AI proctoring software can [detect voices](#) and provide the instructor with a transcript of what the student said during the assessment presentation. This can help save time when checking for certain topics without watching the whole video.

The AI software also listens for specific keywords or phrases, such as “Hey Siri” or “OK Google,” and words from a custom list provided by the instructor, such as “help me,” or “what’s the answer?”

If the AI detects any potential dishonesty, it alerts a live remote proctor to pop into the online assessment session to intervene and redirect the student.

Scan the room and monitor student behavior

If the instructor wants to make sure that students aren’t using any notes or resources during the assessment, they can require students to complete a room scan and the AI proctoring software monitors student behavior throughout the assessment to detect potential dishonesty.

Record the presentation/demonstration

The AI proctoring software records the entire presentation for the instructor to watch. The recording also includes timestamps of any suspicious behavior to review.

Online group presentations

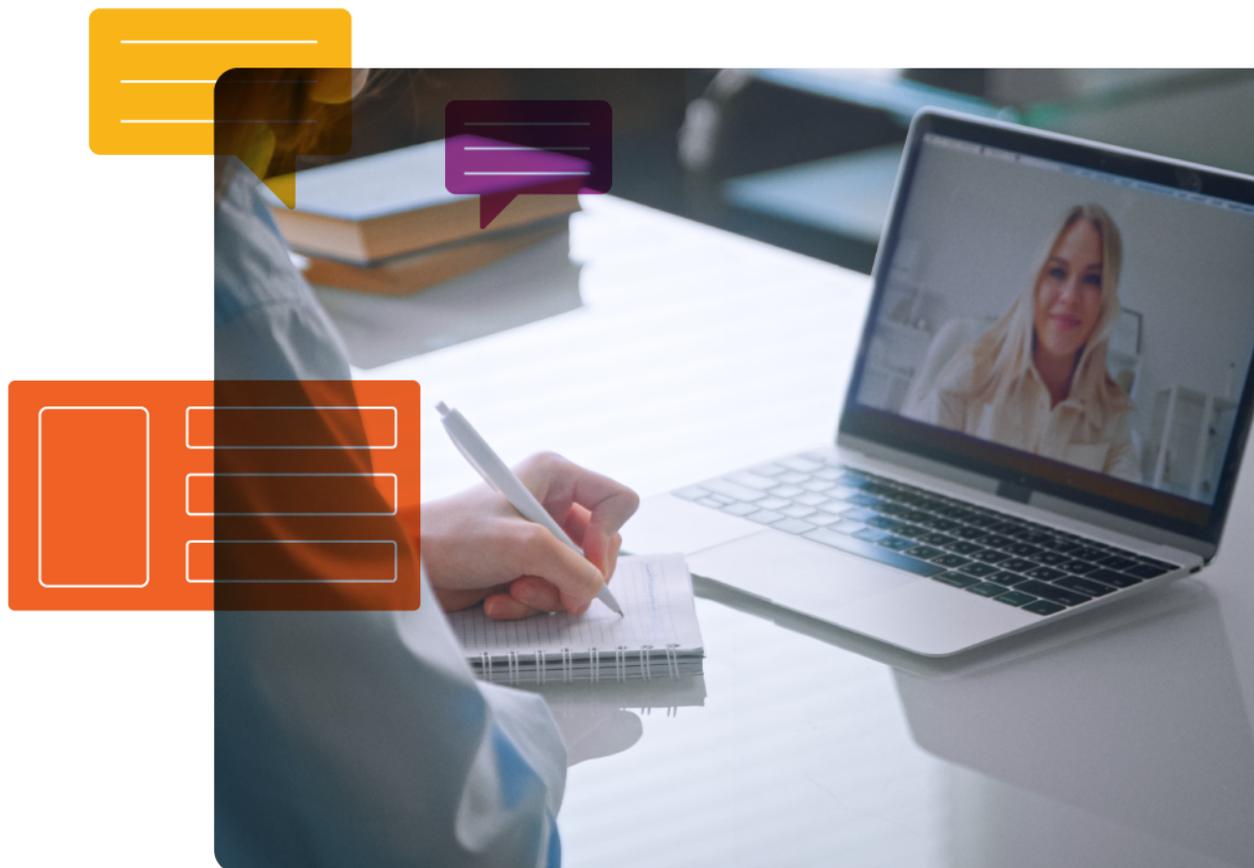
Example

Three students in different locations record a group presentation using a video conferencing platform.

How to use proctoring for online presentations & demonstrations

Much of this process is the same as recording an individual student's presentation. Instructors can use remote proctoring to verify each student's ID, scan the room for additional notes and resources, record the presentation video, and to get a transcript of what the students said during the presentation.

The instructor would just review the audio and video of the presentation from one student in the group.



Essays (typed & handwritten)

Example

Students write an essay by hand or they can type it in an online word processor, such as Google Docs or Microsoft Word.

How to use proctoring for essays:

Allow handwritten essays

Some students may be more comfortable with handwriting their essay. Hand written essays can be allowed by providing the live proctor with specific settings, instructions, and test rules.

Proctoring setting

The instructor turns on Scratch Paper Allowed and the AI won't flag a student for looking down at their paper.

The student would simply show the blank paper before they start writing and upload the written essay after they complete it.

Test rules and instructions for students

The instructor provides [test rules and instructions](#) that require the student to use white paper and a black or dark blue pen.



Use a browser guard to only allow access to specific sites

The instructor provides a list of specific browser-based wordprocessors that students can access to type their written response, such as Google Docs and Microsoft Word.

After students complete the essay, there are workflows in the LMS for uploading written work, notes, and scratch paper.

Detect when students use their cell phones to look up test answers

Some online proctoring software can detect when [students attempt to use their cell phones](#) or other devices to access test bank content during the exam.

Verify student ID

The webcam is used to verify student ID in about a minute so that instructors can be sure that the student completing the assessment is the one getting credit for it.

Math problems using pen and paper

Example

Students read the math problems on the online assessment and use scratch paper to complete the math problem.

How to proctor math problems completed by hand using pen and paper

[Proctoring math problems](#) that are answered using pen and paper will be similar to the process for handwritten essays.

In addition to verifying ID, scanning the room, monitoring behavior, and detecting cell phones, specific settings and instructions can be used to proctor online math problems.

To help keep the review process organized, the instructor can provide specific instructions for students to follow such as:

- Only use black or dark blue pen and blank white paper
- Only answer one question per side of paper
- Before you begin answering the question, hold the blank paper up to the camera
- Clearly write the question number in the top left corner of the paper
- Show your work after you complete each question
 - To show your work, hold the piece of paper up to the camera for three seconds after you complete each question
- If you need to redo your work, hold the piece of paper up for the question you're redoing, crossout your answer, start your new work on a blank piece of paper and repeat the steps

Use of real-world software

Example

Accounting students must prepare their own balance sheet from scratch using Google Sheets or Microsoft Excel.

How to proctor students using real-world software

Use a browser guard to prevent access to other websites

A browser guard is a quick way to prevent students from opening new windows, tabs, or applications. It can also be used to only allow specific URLs during the online authentic assessment.

Record students' screens during the assessment activity for review

The students' screens can be recorded throughout the assessment activity and the instructor can watch the videos to see how students completed it.

Record audio for an "explainer video"

In addition to recording students' screens during the assessment activity, instructors can also record audio. This way, instructors can watch the student complete the activity and the student can explain what they're doing and why.

As previously mentioned, the audio recording also comes with a transcript of what the student said during the recording.

Similar to the authentic assessment activities mentioned earlier in this article, instructors can also verify ID, detect cell phone use, and complete a room scan.

Open Book

Example

The assessment, or parts of the assessment, allow students to use specific books and resources in physical and electronic formats.

How to use online proctoring for open book test questions

In addition to cell phone detection, voice detection, and other features described in this article, instructors can also:

Scan the room to ensure that only permitted resources are available

During the room scan, students can have instructor-permitted books in the testing area that they can use during the proctored authentic assessment.

Identify leaked test questions

Instructors can use technology to search the Internet to identify when test questions have been leaked. If any leaked test questions are found, instructors are given simple steps to take control of their exams' integrity.

Only allow specific digital resources

Instructors can allow students to access specific digital resources during the proctored exam. The instructor simply adds the exact URLs of permitted sites in the exam setup.

Honorlock provides a better way to proctor exams

While others simply try to catch cheating, Honorlock's approach to online proctoring is to do what's good for the institution and good for the learner. Honorlock combines the benefits of AI software with those of live proctors to make online proctoring simple, easy, and human.

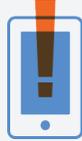
Our AI monitors each student's exam session and alerts a live, US-based test proctor if it detects any potential problems. This blend of AI and human review delivers a less intimidating and non-invasive proctored testing experience for the student.



Benefits and Features of Honorlock:



Combines AI & Human Proctors



Detects Cell Phones



Direct LMS Integration



**Available
24/7/365**



**Detects
Voices**



**Protects Test
Questions**



**Third-party
Proctoring**



**Quickly
Verifies ID**



**Streamlines
Review**



**Flat-Rate
Cost**



**Secures
Student Data**



**Accessible &
Compliant**

Online proctoring made better.

Simple and secure proctoring that empowers
faculty and students.



Honorlock.com
+1 (844) 243-2500