

Monitoring Student Activity

What are "Blocks?"

Blocks are part of the Moodle Course Page. These areas give the user information at a glance. Courses are created with a default set of blocks enabled. There are additional blocks available. Blocks can be repositioned on the course page, or they may be deleted.

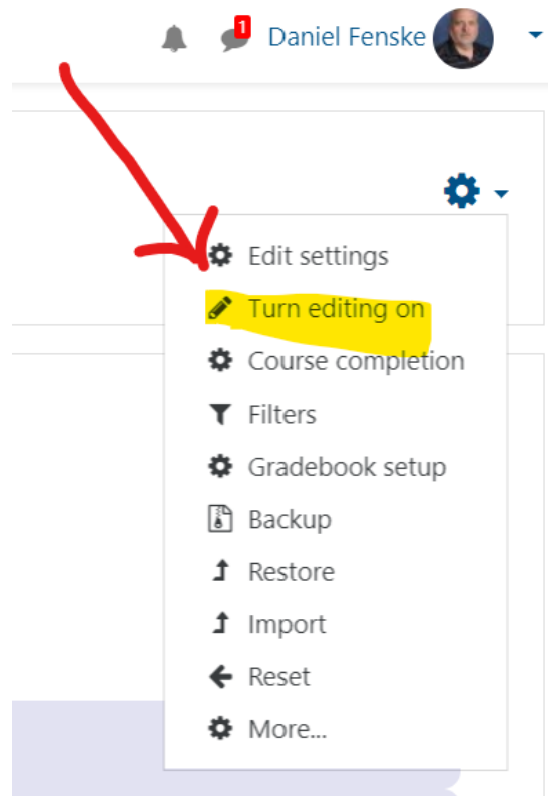
The screenshot shows a Moodle course page titled "Sandbox Course for Daniel J Fenske". The page is divided into two main sections. On the left, under "General Course Content", there is a list of sections: "Chapter 14", "Section 2", "Section 3", "Photosynthesis" (marked "Hidden from students"), and "Section 5". On the right, there is a sidebar with several blocks: "Online users" (showing 1 online user, Daniel Fenske), "Search forums", "Latest news" (with a link to "Add a new topic..."), and "Upcoming events" (showing no upcoming events). Handwritten red annotations are present: "Blocks?" is written in the top right corner, and "Content Area" is written in the center, with a red arrow pointing from the "Content Area" text to the "Online users" block.

There are two Blocks that are very useful for monitoring what is going on in your course. Those Blocks are the recent Activity Block and the Online Users Block. Recent Activity is displayed by default. As things happen in the course, this block will display that for you. You can also get a report by clicking on the link that appears in the Block "Full report of recent activity...".

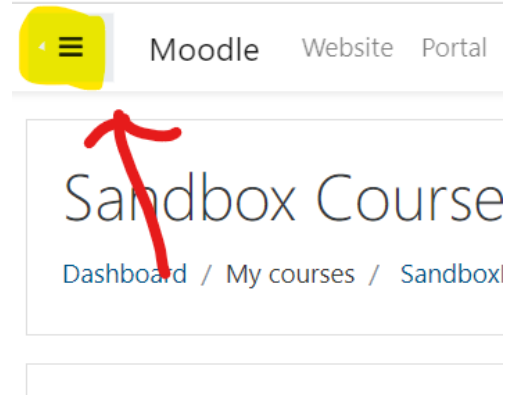
The Online Users block displays a list of students who are currently logged in to your course. This Block must be added if you wish to make use of it. The instructions for adding this Block follow.

Add a Block

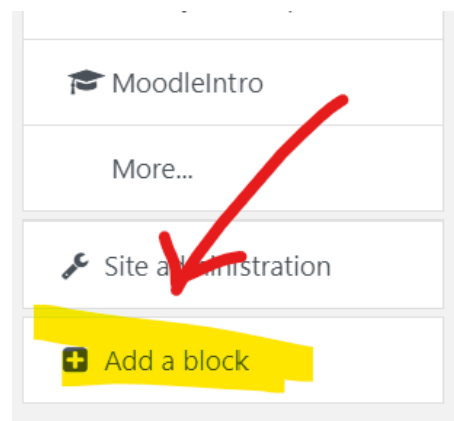
1. Navigate to your Course Page. Turn Editing on.

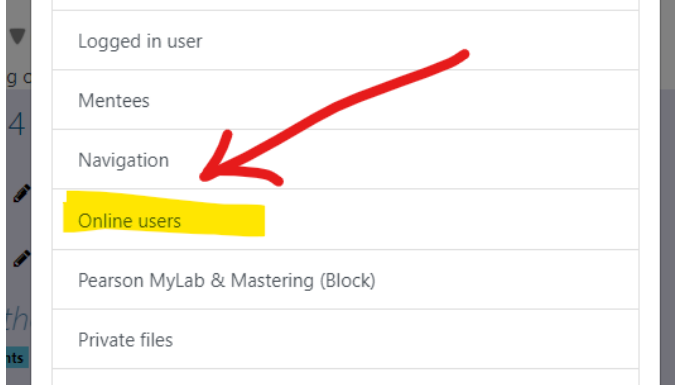
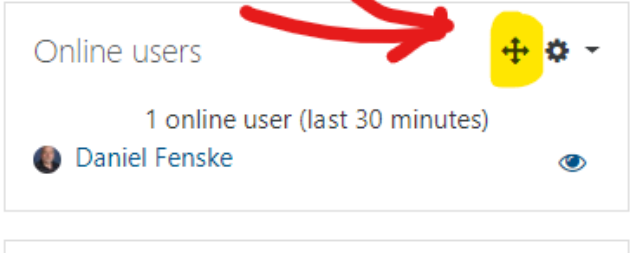


2. At the upper left corner of the page, find the 3 horizontal line button (the "hamburger"). Click on that button to expand the left side pane.



3. When the left side pane opens, scroll to the very bottom of the pane. You will see a box, "Add a Block". Select that button.

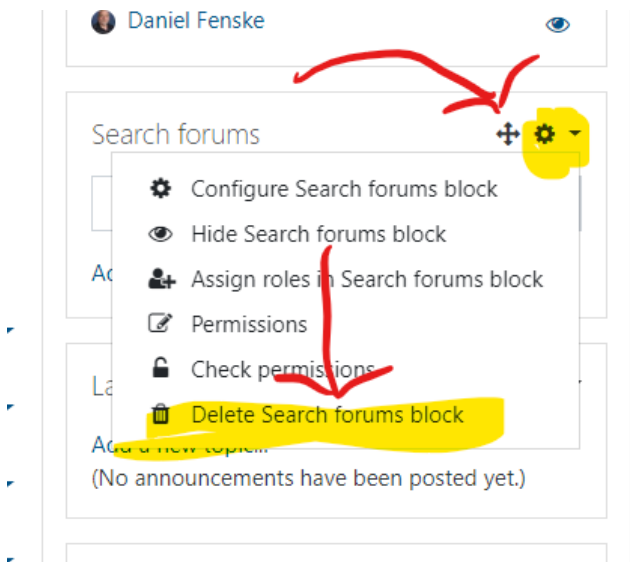


4. For our purposes, we'll add a Block that tells us which users are currently logged in to our course. Scroll down the list of Blocks to find "Online users". Select that Block.	
5. The Block will appear in the right pane of your course. You can change the position (up or down in the pane) by clicking and holding on the crossed arrow icon. Your cursor changes to the crossed arrow. You can drag the Block up or down to your desired position.	
Turn your editing off, your block is in place.	

Delete a Block

You may decide that you do not wish to use a Block, and want to remove it from the Course Page. Directions follow:

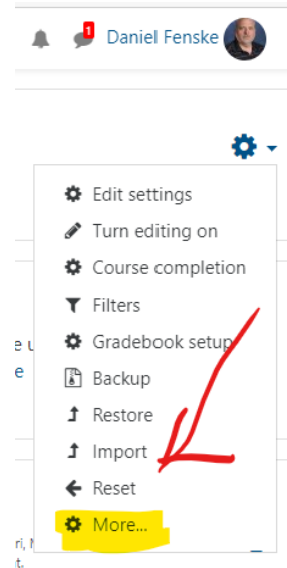
1. Turn Editing on (refer to step 1 of the directions above).
2. Locate the Block you wish to delete. Click on the "gear" icon. From the menu, select the last item "Delete ___ block".
3. Accept the confirmation dialog that appears. The Block is deleted. It may be re-added at any time.



Reports

Moodle provides several tools for giving you feedback about student activity. Moodle's Reports offers some useful information about student activity. Directions to access the Reports follows (clicking on an image will bring up a larger view in a new tab):

1. In your Course page, select the small arrow next to your picture. From the drop-down menu, select "More".



2. The Course Administration page appears. Note that the middle section has the Reports options.

Course administration

Course administration

Users

Reports

Logs

Question bank

Questions

Edit settings

Turn editing on

Course completion

Filters

Gradebook setup

Backup

Restore

Import

Reset

Live logs

Activity report

Course participation

Event monitoring rules

Categories

Import

Export

3. Selecting "Activity Report" brings up a Report of all activity on every item in your course. This report may take a few minutes to generate. It allows you to see which items are accessed. You have the option to Filter the Report by date range.

Faculty Sandbox Course

Filter

Computed from logs since Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 3:06 PM.

Activity	Views	Related blog entries	Last access
Items from Workshop Sessions			
Academic Integrity	4 views by 3 users	-	Thursday, March 19, 2020, 11:33 AM (1 day 1 hour)
Announcements	168 views by 24 users	-	Thursday, March 19, 2020, 4:47 PM (20 hours 11 mins)
More descriptive name	2 views by 2 users	-	Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 7:18 PM (1 day 17 hours)
Intro to Big Blue Button	130 views by 33 users	-	Thursday, March 19, 2020, 4:44 PM (20 hours 14 mins)
General Questions	120 views by 24 users	-	Thursday, March 19, 2020, 4:45 PM (20 hours 13 mins)
US Geological Survey	2 views by 2 users	-	Wednesday, March 18, 2020, 7:18 PM (1 day 17 hours)
Page of Text	5 views by 5 users	-	Thursday, March 19, 2020, 4:46 PM (20 hours 12 mins)
Class for 3-17-2020	3 views by 3 users	-	Friday, March 20, 2020, 9:10 AM (3 hours 48 mins)

4. Selecting "Course Participation" allows you a very detailed report about activity in your course. You select which Activity you are interested in, how far back to look, and which actions you are interested in. When you click "Go," Moodle displays the requested information.

Faculty Sandbox Course

Dashboard / My courses / FacultySandbox / Reports / Course participation

Activity module: Choose Look back: Choose Show only: Manager Show actions: All actions Go

Groups: All participants

5. In this example, the Announcements Forum is selected, for the last 4 days, by Students, and All actions. The result is displayed. One user accessed this activity, some did not.

Activity module: Announcements Look back: 4 days Show only: Students Show actions: All actions Go

Group: All participants

Forum Views

Forum Posts

89 Student

First name: [A-Z] Last name: [A-Z]

First name / Last name	All actions	Select
Tyson Zarnstorff	Yes (5)	☐
Mark Zarleng	No	☐
Kathryn Wurster	No	☐
Miles Wurster	No	☐
Jeffery Wiechman	No	☐

Logs

Moodle keeps logs of all activity in your course. You can view these logs. Logs enable you to see very granular information, and you have many options for viewing logs. Generally, the logs are used when you want information about a specific student for a specific reason. Directions:

1. Select Logs from the Reports section (refer to the directions above.)
2. You will see a dialog box where you have quite a few options. Note all the menus to select from. Make your selections. You will never hurt anything by viewing logs. However, Moodle will take more time to process logs when you leave selection criteria broad.

Faculty Sandbox Course

[Dashboard](#) / [My courses](#) / [FacultySandbox](#) / [Reports](#) / [Logs](#)

Choose which logs you want to see:

Faculty Sandbox Course ▾	[more]	All participants ▾	All days ▾	All activities ▾	All actions ▾	All sources ▾	All events ▾		Standard log ▾
Get these logs									

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/Je5ppW49d3o>

Revision #4

Created 20 March 2020 16:21:44 by Dan Fenske

Updated 29 September 2026 21:18:46 by Rachel Feld