

Assessment and Feedback

You'll need to select between different tools depending on the type of assignment. The tools listed below have been broadly categorized into those for file upload assignments and those for which students would directly enter answers to specific questions into a platform.

In general, Gradescope has the most powerful features for both auto-graded and manually graded assignments, and makes it easy to grade efficiently. There are specific use-cases for which Canvas or Google Docs may be preferable, but in general faculty who have used Gradescope prefer it to other platforms.

File Upload Assignments

	Gradescope	Canvas Speedgrader	Google Docs
Can provide and apply a rubric	Yes	Yes (requires substantial setup)	No
Annotate submissions with comments on text or images	Yes	Yes	Yes
Facilitates back-and-forth discussion of submission	Limited	Limited	Yes
Grade is automatically added to gradebook	No (can be easily imported, though)	Yes	No

Direct Entry of Answers (PSets, Quizzes, Exams)

	Gradescope	Canvas Quizzes
Supports question banks (not all students see the same questions)	No	Yes
Auto-grade MCQ, numerical entry, and other problem types	Yes	Yes
Autograded questions can provide feedback targeted to specific answers	Some*	Yes
Manual grading of short-answer or essay	Yes	Yes

questions is possible		
Easily apply the same rubric item to many submissions	Yes	No
Manually graded questions can be grouped for grading & feedback	Yes**	No
Easily apply the same comment to many submissions	Yes	No
Ease of processing regrade requests	Very easy	Relatively easy
Students can answer questions directly in the platform or upload a file	Yes	Yes (though autograding is not possible in this case)
File upload submissions can be autograded	AI-assisted grading is possible for some question types	No
Grades can be automatically transferred to Canvas gradebook	Yes	Yes

*Gradescope “online assignments” cannot provide feedback targeted to specific answers, but you can provide a feedback comment that addresses all possible answers. For AI-graded questions in other assignment types, you can enter specific comments for each answer group.

**Answers can only be grouped in file upload assignments, not “online assignments,” and students’ submissions must all be formatted the same way, with answers to a particular question appearing in the same location on the same page.