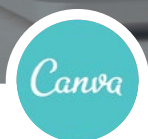


# Take Your Online Course from DRAB to FAB

Remember when your teacher decorated your classroom with inspiring elements? The same care is needed in the online environment. By adding eye-catching images, you can help provide memory anchors and background processing, right at the beginning of learning.

Here are two easy to use—and free—resources to create engaging design elements.



## Canva

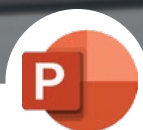
**STEP 1:** Set up your free account at [canva.com](https://canva.com) or download the app to your smartphone, tablet, or desktop.

**STEP 2:** Select one of the pre-built templates as a background and simply edit with your own words. If you can't find a background image that suits your needs, import your own or use an open source picture.

**STEP 3:** Download your image as a .png file and store it with your other course materials. Then, import the image into Canvas and start using!

### TIP

Canva is also a great tool to use for social media or digital abstracting.



## PowerPoint

**STEP 1:** Go to the **DESIGN** tab in PowerPoint and select "custom size" under SLIDE SIZE. Select the size that works for your needs.

**STEP 2:** Insert a background photo from your personal collection or open access website. Under the INSERT tab in PowerPoint, you could also select shapes to design your image.

**STEP 3:** Download your image as a .png file and store it with your other course materials. Then, import the image into Canvas and start using!

### TIP

Check out [pixabay.com](https://pixabay.com) for free, open access photos and illustrations.



Templates can be great timesavers and provide an easy-to-navigate flow to your course material, but make sure to add variety to them. Overused elements can lead to boredom for students.



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