

# Using Rich Internet Applications in Your Classroom

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Using CLEAR's RIA toolset, incorporating speaking and listening into your language class is easier and more flexible than ever. The tools can be used in many different ways: for in-class activities, student projects, homework, or assessment. Because they are tools, not completed materials, they will work with your textbook, language, and level. RIA is a way to help you easily integrate technology into your language class.

The programs are free to use. The project is funded by a US Department of Education grant, and managed by the Center for Language Education And Research at Michigan State University.

The Rich Internet Applications tools run in your web browser. The programs run under Windows or OS X, in Internet Explorer or Firefox. You do not have to download or install anything. Audio recording and playback happens through the Flash plugin, which is free and available for all common platforms and browsers. All you need is a web browser and a fast Internet connection.

To record audio, you will need a microphone, and to record video, you will need a webcam. Your computer's speakers will play back the audio.

The program can be accessed from this URL:

<http://ria.clear.msu.edu>

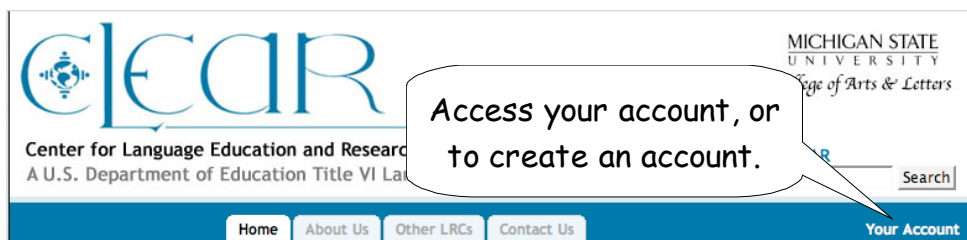
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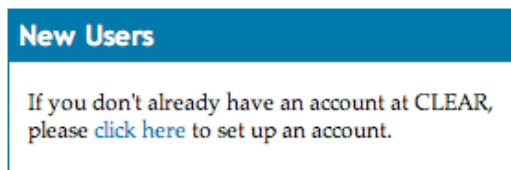
## Your Account:

The tools are free, but you must have an account in order to use them. Having an account will allow you to save, edit, share, and maintain control over your own materials.

To get an account on CLEAR's system, go to CLEAR's website (clear.msu.edu). On the home page there is a link labeled "Your Account." Click that link.

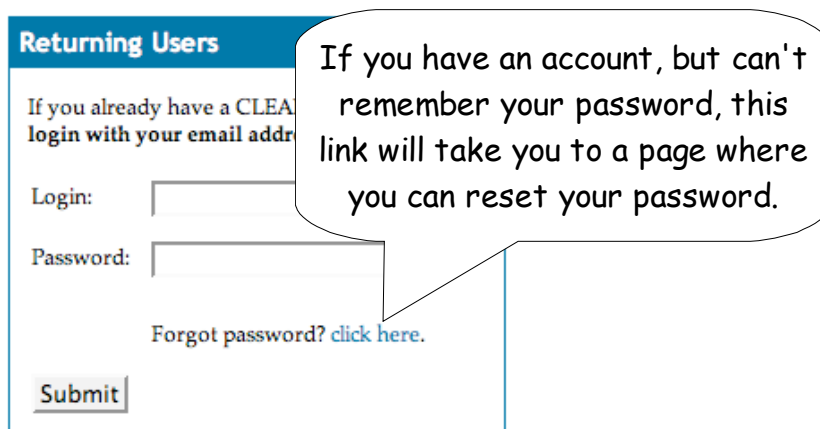


If you don't have an account yet, click the link in the "New Users" section. There is a short form to fill out.



**IMPORTANT! After you create your account, you must activate it.** The system will email you confirmation email with a link in it. You must open the email message and click on the link in the email to activate your account before you can log in.

If you already have an account, but you forgot your password, there is a link in the "Returning Users" section for forgotten passwords. Click on the link, and you will be prompted to enter your email address. The system will email you a link that you can use to reset your password.



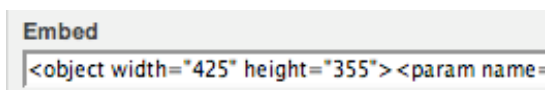
## ACTIVITY: Putting YouTube video into context

Introduction: You can embed YouTube videos into your own web pages, which can include your own content. This way, you can use the video resources that are available on YouTube in a pedagogically-sound way.

The tool that you use to combine resources from multiple sources is Mashups.

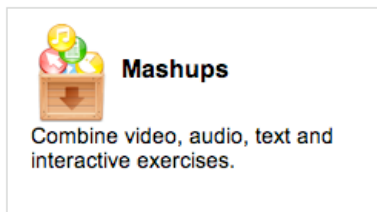
A Mashup is a combination of data and content from several different sources into a single web page. Creating a mashup is easy using CLEAR's mashup tool.

**Step 1: Find a video.** When you find a video that you want to use, look to the right of the video window and find the text field titled "Embed."



Copy all of the text in that text field to the clipboard.

**Step 2: Create a mashup.** Go to the RIA home page (<http://ria.clear.msu.edu>), and click on the Mashups box.



Log in if necessary, then click the "New Mashup" link.



Click the pencil icon to edit the content of the mashup.



You should give the mashup a meaningful name. Edit the title.

**Mashup Details:**

**Title:**

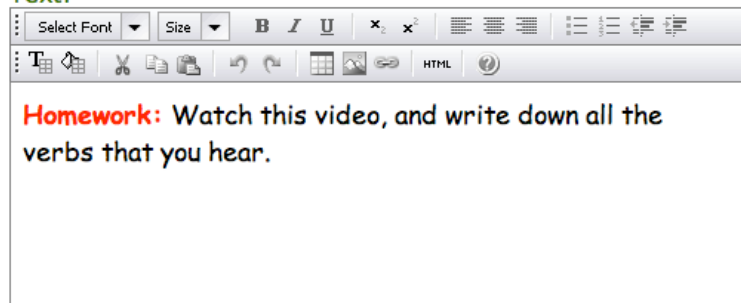
Scroll down to the selection category labeled “Media Embed Code” and paste the text into the text field.

**Media Embed Code:**

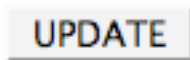
```
<object width="425" height="355" value="http://www.youtube.com/v value="transparent"></param><em src="http://www.youtube.com/v/E type="application/x-shockwave-f height="355"></embed></object>
```

**Step 3: Add some text.** Mashups includes a rich text editor that allows you to format text in a WYSIWYG format, similar to a word processor. You can change the font face, size, color, and layout of the text. In the rich text editor, type and format some introductory text.

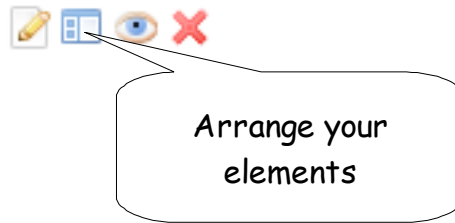
**Text:**



Scroll down to the bottom and click the UPDATE button.

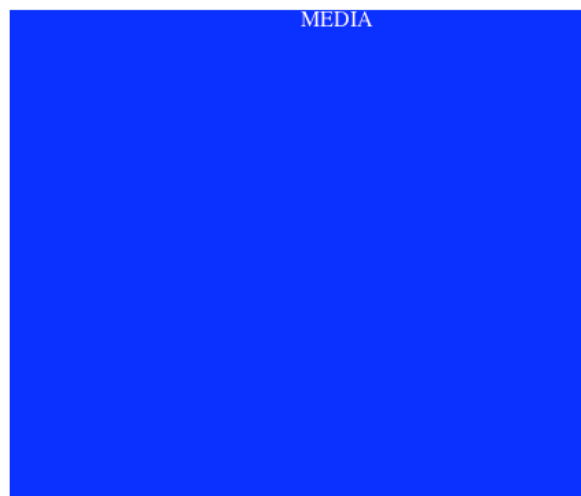


**Step 4: Arrange your elements on the screen.** Click the blue icon next to the pencil icon.



Your mashup will open in a new window, where you can drag and drop elements around the screen.

**Homework:** Watch this video, and write down all the verbs that you hear.



Note that although the text is visible, there will be only place holders for the video clip. In addition, the text will not be editable on this screen. This screen is only for positioning elements.

When you are done moving the elements around, click the red SAVE link.

**SAVE**

Your changes will be saved, and you'll see this message

Mashup updated.

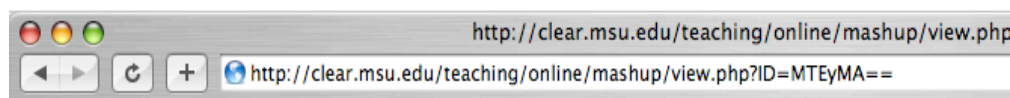
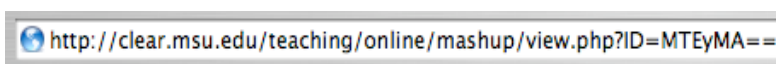
Click [HERE](#) to view it, or [HERE](#) to return to the main menu.

Click the second link, to return to the main menu.

**Step 5: Give the URL to your students.** Click the eye icon to view the mashup in a new window.



Each mashup has its own URL. Give this URL to your students, either by emailing it to them, making a link in your web page, or simply printing it out and having them type it in the browser's address bar themselves.



**Homework:** Watch this video, and write down all the verbs that you hear.

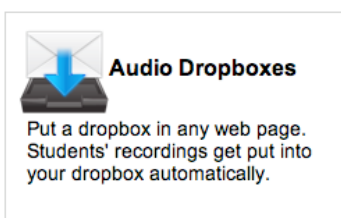


## ACTIVITY: Collecting Audio from your Students

**Introduction:** The Audio Dropboxes program allows you to place a small program on any web page. Students use the program to record themselves. The audio files are automatically sent to the teacher's dropbox. Teachers can access the audio files at any time from anywhere.

An Audio Dropbox must be placed on a web page. You can embed a dropbox in a standard web page, or in a blog or wiki. All that is necessary is that you can paste the HTML code into the source code of the page.

**Step One: Log in.** Go to the RIA home page (<http://ria.clear.msu.edu>), and click on the link in the "GO" link in the Audio Dropboxes box.



If you are not logged into the CLEAR website, you will see a login form.

Please Log In:













Username:

Password:

If you are logged in, then you will see a list of all of your existing dropboxes. You can have any number of dropboxes. Each dropbox can hold any number of submissions. You can create a dropbox for each class, and put it on any number of web pages.

## Audio Dropboxes

My Drop Boxes:

-     Drop Box 1
-     SPN 101 1st hour
-     中文 1 0 1

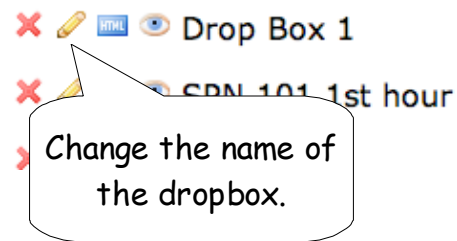
**Step Two: Create a dropbox.** To create a dropbox, click on the “New Drop Box” link.

 **New Drop Box**

**Step Three: Name your dropbox.** After you have created the dropbox, click the pencil icon next to it to change the name.

## Audio Dropboxes

My Drop Boxes:



Title:  [OK](#) | [CANCEL](#)

Server:

(only change this if you know what you are doing)

Make changes to the dropbox's title, then click the OK button to save your changes.

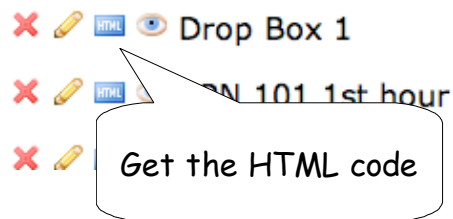
You are now ready to embed the dropbox into your web page.

## Step Four: Embed your Dropbox in a Web Page

### Option 1: Embed the dropbox into an existing web page

## Audio Dropboxes

My Drop Boxes:



Putting a dropbox in a web page is as easy as copying and pasting. Click the blue “HTML” icon next to the name of your dropbox. The code then appears.

```
<object classid="clsid:d27cbee-ae6d-11cf-96b8-444553540000"
codebase="http://fpdownload.macromedia.com/pub/shockwave/cabs/flash/sw
width="215" height="150" id="collector1" align="middle"><param
name="allowScriptAccess" value="always" /><param name="movie"
value="http://clear.msu.edu/teaching/online/ria/audioDropbox/collector1.swf"
/><param name="quality" value="high" /><param name="bgcolor"
value="#ffffff" /><param name="flashVars"
value="bankID=18&myServer=rtmp://elips-lang.elp.s.k12.mi.us/ria/audioDropB
/><embed
src="http://clear.msu.edu/teaching/online/ria/audioDropbox/collector1.swf"
quality="high" bgcolor="#ffffff" width="215" height="150"
FlashVars="bankID=18&myServer=rtmp://elips-lang.elp.s.k12.mi.us/ria/audioDr
name="collector1" align="middle" allowScriptAccess="always"
type="application/x-shockwave-flash"
pluginpage="http://www.macromedia.com/go/getflashplayer" /></object>
```

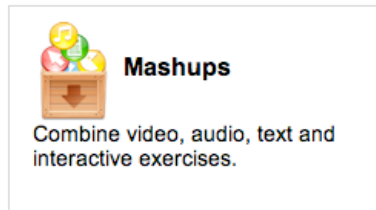
Highlight the code, then copy it to the clipboard.

Now edit the web page that you want to put the dropbox in. Paste the HTML code in the source code. Be sure to save your changes. The next time someone loads the web page, the dropbox will load in the web page.

## Option 2: Put the Dropbox in a Mashup

A Mashup is a combination of data and content from several different sources into a single web page. Creating a mashup is easy using CLEAR's mashup tool.

First, create a mashup. Go to the RIA home page (<http://ria.clear.msu.edu>), and click on the link in the “GO” link in the Mashups box.



Log in if necessary, then click the “New Mashup” link.

**NEW** New Mashup

Click the pencil icon to edit the content of the mashup.



You should give the mashup a meaningful name. Edit the title.

### Mashup Details:

Title:

Scroll down to the selection category labeled “Audio Dropbox.” There will be a dropdown list of all of your dropboxes. Choose the dropbox that you want to put in this mashup.

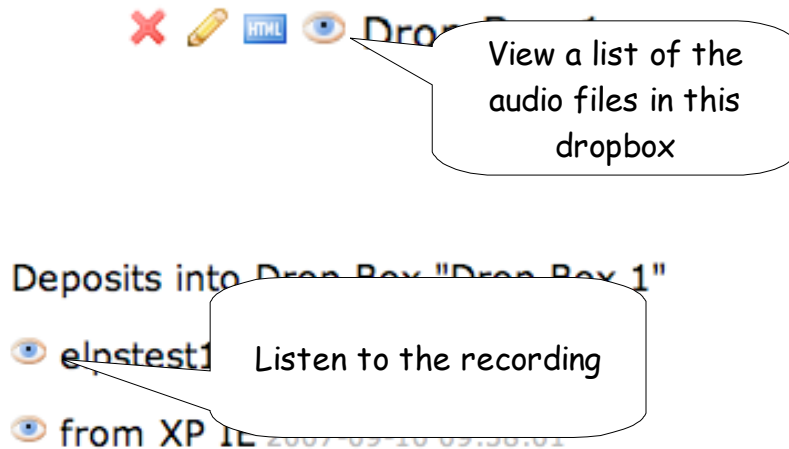
Include an Audio Dropbox?  ▼

Click the UPDATE button.

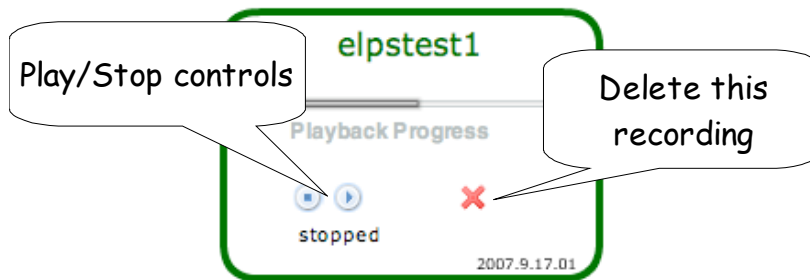
Follow the directions beginning on page 5 to position elements on the screen and make the Mashup available to students.

## Listening to Audio that was Collected with a Dropbox

Click the eye icon next to the name of your dropbox to view the deposits into the dropbox.

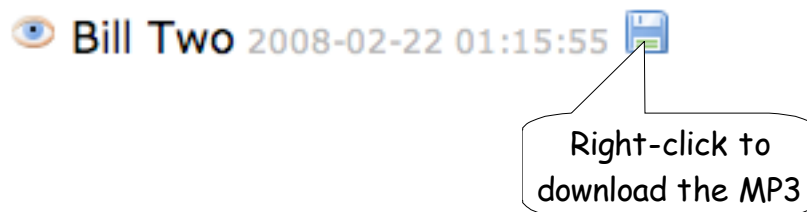


Click the eye icon next to a deposit to listen to it. When you click to listen to a deposit, a player will appear. Click the play button to play the recording.



You own the recordings. When you are done listening to them, click the red cross icon to delete the recording.

You can also download individual recordings. The disk icon next to the submission date is a link to the recording in MP3 format.



## ACTIVITY: Creating a Prompted Response Program

**Introduction:** A common assessment method is to present students with a picture or video clip, and ask them questions about it. Using RIA, you can present rich media to students, and collect their oral responses.

An example is shown here. Students are presented with a picture, an audio clip, and text. Their task, as presented on the screen, is to record themselves reading the Chinese text. An Audio Dropbox is included on the screen for them to use.



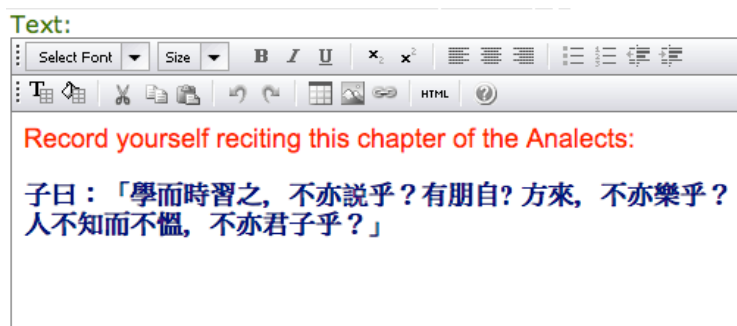
In order to create a prompted response page like this, follow these steps:

**Step 1: Create an Audio Dropbox to collect student recordings.** Follow the procedures on pages 3 and 4 of this document.

**Step 2: Create a Mashup that will be a framework for your program.** Follow the procedures on page 6 of this document

**Step 3: Add instructions and media to the mashup.**

**Adding rich text:** Mashups includes a rich text editor that allows you to format text in a WYSIWYG format, similar to a word processor. You can change the font face, size, color, and layout of the text.



**Adding media:** You can also add media from external sources to a mashup. Popular sites for hosting video, like YouTube, often provide the HTML code necessary to embed the video clip in an external web page.

```
Embed | <object width="425" height="353"><param name="movie" value="http://www.youtube.com/v/...?fs=1" /><embed src="http://www.youtube.com/v/...?fs=1" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" width="425" height="353" /></object>
```

[customize embed](#)

Copy that embed code to the clipboard, and paste it in the textbox labeled “Media Embed Code.”

Media Embed Code:

```
<object width="223" height="20"><param name="movie" value="http://clear.msu.edu/viewpoint/audioplayer.swf" /><embed src="http://clear.msu.edu/viewpoint/audioplayer.swf" type="application/x-shockwave-flash" width="223" height="20" /></object>
```

You can also include media clips from CLEAR's ViewPoint program using the same technique.

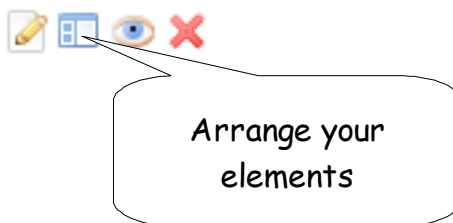
**Adding Images:** You can add an image that is already on the Internet (i.e., that has a URL and is accessible via a web browser) by pasting it's URL into the box labeled “Picture Embed Code.”

Picture Embed Code:

```
http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2d/Confucius_02.png
```

When you have added all the elements that you want to include in your mashup, click the “UPDATE” button.

**Step 4: Arrange your elements on the screen.** Click the blue icon next to the pencil icon.



Your mashup will open in a new window, where you can drag and drop elements around the screen.

Note that although the picture and text are visible, there will be only place holders for the media elements and the dropbox. In addition, the text will not be editable on this screen. This screen is only for positioning elements.

When you are done moving the elements around, click the red SAVE link.



Your changes will be saved, and you'll see this message

Mashup updated.

Click [HERE](#) to view it, or [HERE](#) to return to the main menu.

Click the second link, to return to the main menu.

**Step 5: Give the URL to your students.** Click the eye icon to view the mashup in a new window.



Each mashup has its own URL. Give this URL to your students, either by emailing it to them, making a link in your web page, or simply printing it out and having them type it in the browser's address bar themselves.



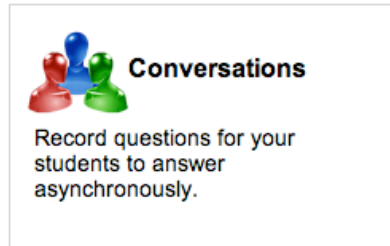
That's it! Follow the steps to monitor student recordings as discussed on page 7.

## ACTIVITY: Create a virtual conversation

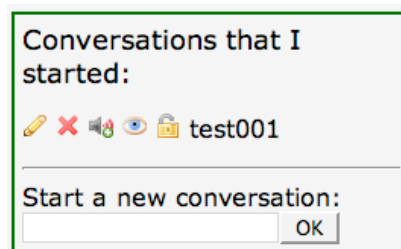
**Introduction:** Conversations is a program that allows teachers to record prompts or questions for their students to answer. Students record their responses. "Practice" and "live" modes allow students to get the most out of the program.

The program can be used to simulate conversations, roleplays, or for virtual interviews.

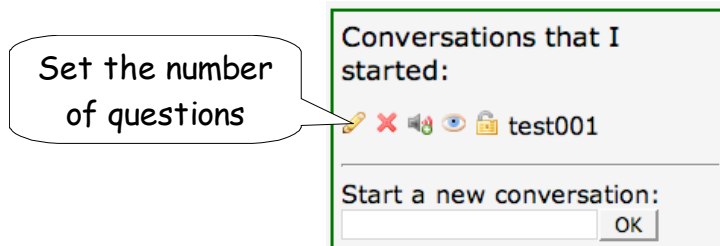
**Step One: Create a conversation.** Go to the RIA home page (<http://ria.clear.msu.edu>), and click on the link in the "GO" link in the Conversations box.



In the box labeled "Start a new conversation," type a descriptive name for your conversation, e.g., "FRN 1, 1<sup>st</sup> hour." Click the OK button, and your conversation will be listed.



**Step Two: Set the number of questions.** Click the pencil icon to go to the edit screen.



On the edit screen, type the number of questions that you want to include in the conversation. You can also change the name of the conversation, if you want.

Also make a note of the code that students will type to access the conversation. You will have to give this code to your students.

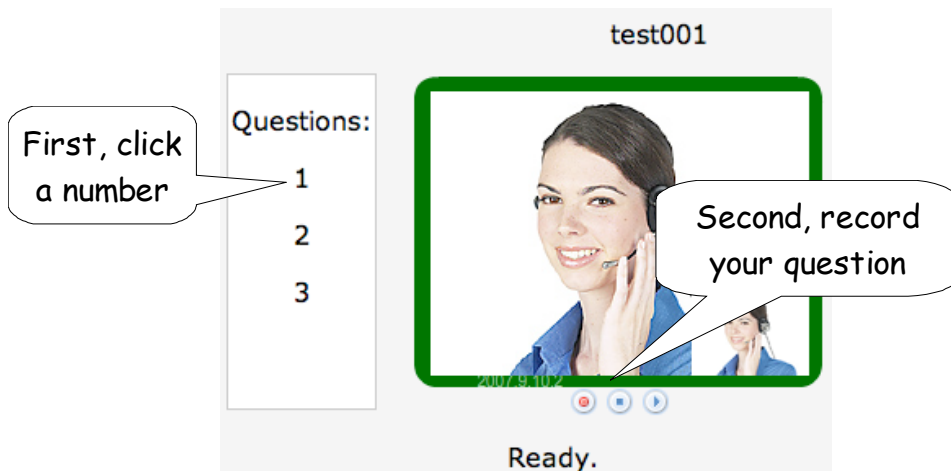
The screenshot shows the 'Edit Conversation' interface. At the top left is a green [BACK](#) link. Below it are several form fields: 'Conversation name: test001', 'Number of questions: 3', 'Allow students to practice?' with an unchecked checkbox, and 'Server information (only necessary for schools that host a Red5 server)' with an empty text box. A checked checkbox is labeled 'Check this box to allow students to add themselves to this conversation:'. Below this is a red text label: 'Students use this conversation code to register themselves: MzU=' followed by a horizontal line. At the bottom, it says 'Students currently participating in this conversation:' and an 'UPDATE' button. Three callout boxes provide instructions: one points to the 'Conversation name' field with the text 'Change the name of your conversation'; another points to the 'Number of questions' field with 'Type the number of questions here'; and a third points to the conversation code with 'Give this code to students. They will use it to join the conversation'.

Click the UPDATE button to save your changes, then click the BACK link to return to the main page.

**Step Three: Record your questions.** Click the record icon to open the screen to record your questions.

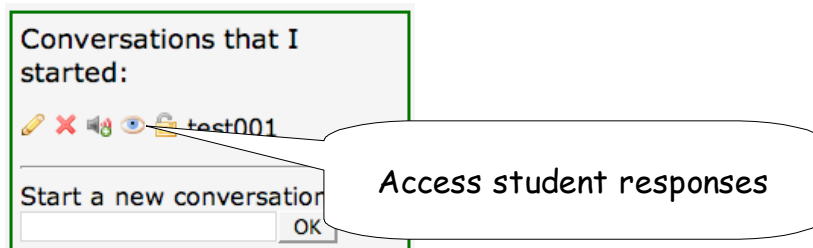
The screenshot shows a list titled 'Conversations that I started:'. The first item is 'test001' with several icons to its left: a pencil (edit), a red X (delete), a speaker (mute), an eye (visibility), and a lock (lock). Below the list is a 'Start a n' button. A callout box points to the speaker icon with the text 'Record your questions'.

First, click the number of the question you want to record, then use the recording control buttons to record.



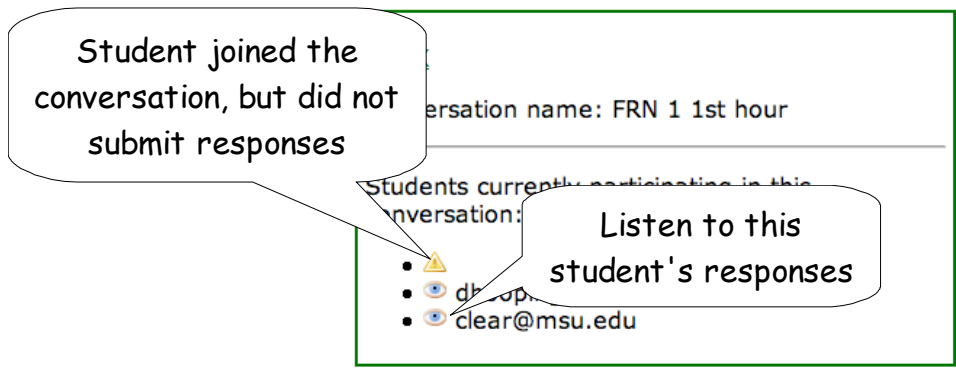
Record all of your questions, and you're ready to have your students join the conversation. (see page 15 for student directions).

**Step Four: listen to student responses.** After your students have recorded their responses to the conversation, you can listen to them. Click the eye icon next to the name of your conversation to view student responses.

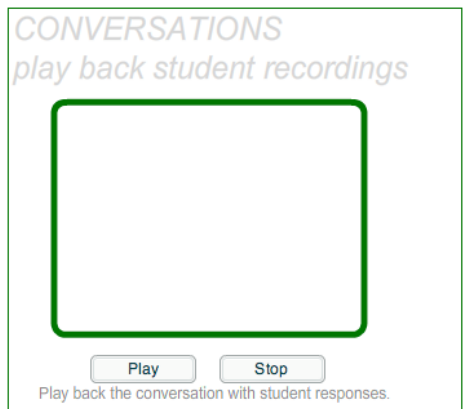


You will see a list of students who have submitted their responses to your conversation. Click the eye icon next to their email address to access their responses.

You may see a yellow icon with no email address next to it. This indicates that a student joined the conversation, and may or may not have recorded responses, but has not yet clicked the icon to make the responses available to the teacher.

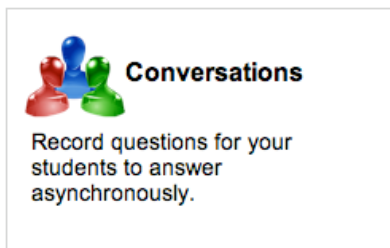


Click the "Play" button to listen to the entire conversation, complete with student responses.

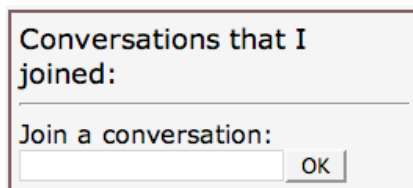


## Students: Joining a Conversation:

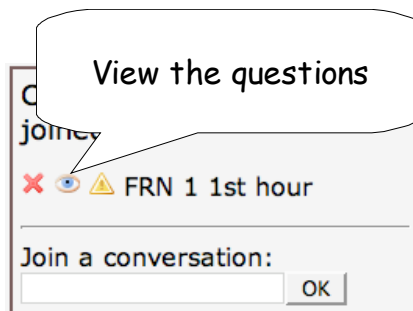
**Step One: Log on.** To use the Conversation program, you must have an account. Access the program from this URL: <http://ria.clear.msu.edu/>, and click on the “GO” link in the “Conversations” box.



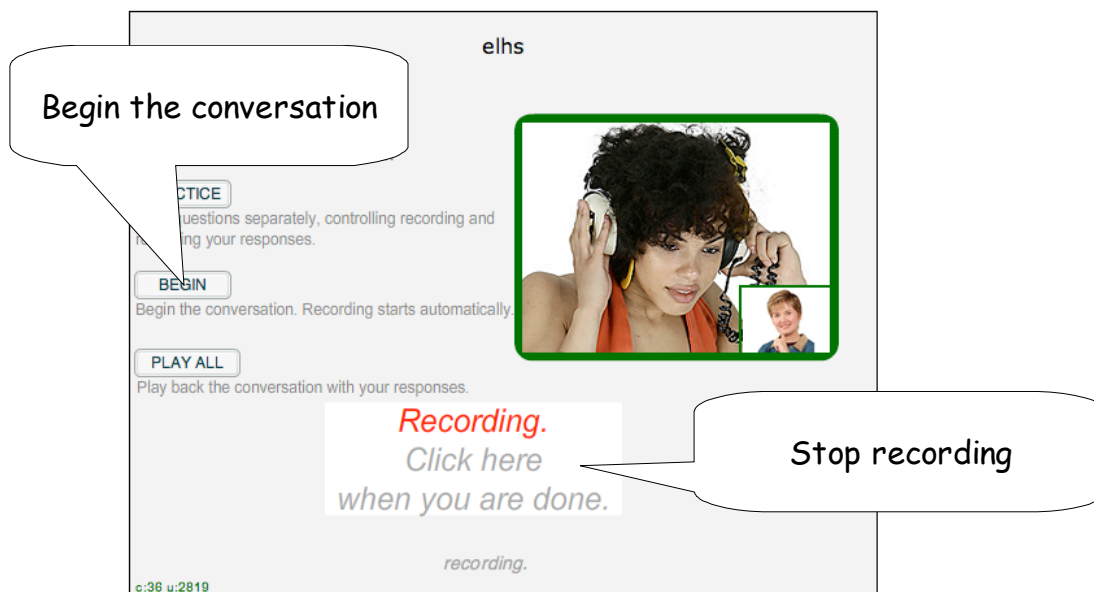
**Step Two: Type the code.** To join a conversation, type the conversation code in the “Join a conversation” box. The conversation code will be given to you by the creator of the conversation.

A screenshot of a web interface titled 'Conversations that I joined:'. Below the title is a horizontal line, followed by the text 'Join a conversation:'. Underneath this text is a text input field and an 'OK' button.

**Step Three: Access the conversation.** Click the eye icon to view the conversation questions.

A screenshot of the conversation interface, similar to the previous one, but with a callout box. The callout box is a rounded rectangle with a pointer pointing to an eye icon. The text inside the callout box says 'View the questions'. Below the callout, the text 'FRN 1 1st hour' is visible next to the eye icon. The 'Join a conversation:' text and 'OK' button are also present.

**Step Four: Listen and respond.** Click the “BEGIN” button to start the conversation. You will hear a question, and then recording will begin automatically. Click the link to stop recording and listen to the next question. When you are done with the conversation, click “PLAY ALL” to play back your conversation.



**Step Five: Make your recording available to your teacher.** It is important that you click the yellow icon next to the name of the conversation, turning it into a green check mark. Only if there is a green check mark will your teacher be able to listen to your responses.

