Transcript for Edtech Sandbox Series: Exploring Animaker for Teaching and Learning BCcampus EdTech session hosted on February 26, 2025 Presenter: Maryam Safa Schneider Host: Britt Dzioba

BRITT DZIOBA:

Great. All right. Welcome, everyone. Thank you for joining us for our latest installment of the EdTech Sandbox Series. This is actually our last installment just for a little while, and we will be running the series again starting up in September. But I'm very pleased to welcome Maryam Schneider here today to introduce us to Animaker for teaching and learning. But before we get started, I just wanted to locate myself and let you all know that I live on the traditional and unceded territory of the həndəminəm and Skwxwú7mesh sníchim-speaking peoples, which is so-called Burnaby, B.C. There are several Indigenous nations who share territory in Burnaby and all speak həndəminəm or Skwxwú7mesh sníchim. The central Coast Salish nations who share this territory are the Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish, Musqueam, Sto:lo, and Qayqayt. Now I'm going to hand it over to Maryam.

MARYAM SCHNEIDER:

Thank you very much, Britt, for that introduction. Hello, and welcome, everybody. I'm going to share my screen and start. Yes, once again, thank you for joining me to explore Animaker for teaching and learning together today. My name is Maryam Safa Schneider, and I'm from University of Canada West. I teach communications and psychology there. I would like to also just go through the land acknowledgment. This is where I live. This is the area I am right now in Vancouver, Close to Granville Island. Vancouver is located on the territory that was never ceded or given up to the Crown by the Musqueam, Squamish or Tsleil-Waututh People. I just want to also expand on the meaning of these groups, Musqueam, the people of the inlet, Squamish, mother of the wind, and Tsleil-Waututh people of the river grass. These groups have been living here for thousands of years and have deep cultural, spiritual and historical connection to this land.

Let's dive in. I really want you to have fun with this presentation, this workshop, I should say, because it is really interactive and what is really Animaker? Animaker is a very intuitive, easy-to-use, online tool for creating professional looking animations. You don't necessarily need to have any background in video editing. There are some key features in Animaker that I want to highlight. It's really user-friendly. They have drag and drop elements. The entire thing is a drag and drop interface. You have access to extensive characters and elements. You can actually customize characters and change them for free even if you don't have a pay plan. There are many AI-powered elements. Today, for instance, I'm definitely going to give you instructions on how to create an AI-powered background. There is a bank of elements including background images. Some of them are still some of them are moving images, but you can also put keywords and create a background yourself. There are also AI-powered subtitles that you can add to your videos. I love this function because it really helps us create content and that is more accessible to a wide range of learners. If you consider accommodating learners, depending on their needs,

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the subtitles are really useful, especially as if you do have a narration, the words get highlighted as they're set. There's also, as I've just said, with voiceovers or narrations, there's natural sounding AI voiceovers. Essentially, you can have a script in there, type in whatever you want and get it, you know, at the narration basically a voice over. I just want to also say that with the natural sounding, because this is an app that is continuously being developed, at the moment, you do have many voices that you can choose from. There is an enhanced feature that makes the AI sound more natural that is part of the paid plan, but I find that even with the ones that we have now in the free plan or account is good enough. But one of the things that I've been using Animaker for recently is creating explainer videos. Today, I'm going to help you create two different types of explainer videos. There is one function that is completely AI generated and is super easy. You can create an explainer video in seconds. But we can also look at how we can create some scenes from scratch and then add more AI-powered elements to it.

Why as educators, I'm sure we want to know the reason why we use different types of technology and content. Why animation and Animaker? I think the most important reason is we want to support multiple means of representation, and this is in line with universal design for learning or UDL principle. We know that about 60% of visual learners, learners or visual learners. We want to engage visual learners for sure. With animation, you get all that dynamic action on the screen. About 30–35% of learners are auditory learners. If we're adding narration, that is also going to help these types of learners. One other reason why I first started using animation and Animaker was provisional storytelling and scenario-based learning. I'll just tell you what happened about two years ago, I was teaching a social psychology class and I really started thinking about, well, what would be a way in which I can make sure that cognitive biases that I'm teaching to my students are understood correctly because there are many different types of cognitive biases and some of them are similar, some of them overlap. What happened was the first video I made with Animaker and then I created an assignment for my students to create their own animation was basically on the fundamental attribution error. And maybe some of you know this, but it's one of those things that it's great to get students to think about their personal experiences and reflect on us. It's like if you have, let's say, an observer, you are looking at the action of an actor who in your view, perhaps normally would say doing something wrong, so you would label that, maybe use a descriptor or personality description to label that individual, for instance. Completely disregard the external environment. For instance, if you're on the road driving and someone is driving recklessly and they cut you off and you may say, Well, the guy that person is a reckless driver and not really consider maybe there is an emergency situation, someone's in the car and they have to rush to the hospital. That's like the fundamental attribution bias. Doing that, I felt like it really helped my teaching. Then I got students to work together and think about when they have experienced that and create videos. This actually led to the final point I want to mention here. This tool really promotes creativity and collaboration. And when I used this tool for this particular assignment, there was an option where students could actually collaborate even remotely. They didn't have to be in the same classroom sitting next to each other. Now, we still have that and I'm going to show you where this is housed in Animaker, but it is part of one of the pay plans.

Before I begin, I would like to ask you how familiar are you with Animaker or animation tools in general. Very familiar. You maybe use it sometimes or not. All right. So, 69%, not familiar at all. It's your first time. Great. We're going to learn a lot. So about 23% somewhat and 8%, use it regularly. Wonderful. Okay, I'm going to continue on here. Okay. All right.

So I just want to say something very important. Again, with this tool right now, one thing to be cautious of is the number of minutes that you have. You at the moment, can have videos exported and downloaded if they're under 2 minutes. When you go over 2 minutes, then you basically have to opt for one of the paid plans. Of course, there are elements there that are for free, but any element, and by element, I mean, if the characters you're choosing from the character bank or elements, like a backgrounds, if they have these stars, could be green, yellow, blue, or purple. That means that you are not going to be able to export your final piece and download it unless you remove that element from the video or pay for one of these plans. I just want you to have a look at underneath each plan. You can see that it tells you what features you can use. Again, for the purposes of today, for example, right now, I have maxed out the number of Al-generation elements and videos for the month of February. If you are using it for free, it will give you, I think, five. If you are on the basic plan, if you look at the green one, it gives you 10 of those, and you can go up to 5 minutes and you can see if you jump to the next one as you increase the price of the plan, it goes into 20 AI generated content, 15 minutes, and so on. For today, whatever you create, keep an eye on sort of the minute and I show you on the timeline, it should be under 2 minutes. And one of my suggestions is, if it's like 2, maybe aim for like 8 sorry, 1 minute 60, not 2. Sometimes the final scenes may not be exported if it's exactly 2 minutes. So that's something that I learned just by trialing this.

As I mentioned, if in the future, I would definitely suggest that you explore this once in a while to just see if it gives you this shared function because it did in the past for free for a short period of time. This is where you can actually have collaboration on this platform. Just something for you to know. We're not going to really do this today, but it's good to know, and I think it's going to be super useful to create assignments for students using that. If you go to Projects, there is a tab that says Shared with me and then you can see Invite people, and then, essentially, you can put the address, email address of different members and invite them. And this is how you can create groups and collaborate on projects.

So this is our plan today. We're going to look at Animaker AI tools in particular. But first, I do show you everything in PowerPoint. How does the storyboard look like? What are different sections that you can essentially use to change the elements, the time, adding different AI power, let's say, for example, Voiceover subtitles. I will talk about everything, walk you through everything, and then we will practise together. To get you more familiar for those who've never used it, we'll have a very short scavenger hunt where you have to basically put a character with the AI-generated background and make the character dance to a music. Also, something cool about this tool is that you do have some free tracks you can use. There are, of course, many, many songs and different types of music. If you are a subscriber, if you have a plan, but there are enough also background sounds and music tracks, essentially that you can use. But one of

the things I want to just again emphasize is the plan really is to learn how to make explainer videos in two different ways. One would be completely with generative AI. It's super easy, like ChatGPT where you put a prompt in. It has to be complete to get a good video out of it. The second one is, it's still an explainer video, but we learn how to create it from scratch and then add AI voiceover, and then add subtitles to that. I see how we can tweak things because when we do these things, it's never perfect with AI and we have to go back and refine it.

When we are on this platform, I just want to show you, these are the things that I just mentioned. We're going to learn the big purple one. This is the easy explainer video because it literally, it's no exaggeration. It builds your animation in seconds. And one thing to keep in mind, it does generate the video, but then you have to export it, and then if you want to keep it on your computer, you need to download it. It usually takes, depending on how long your video is, I would say minimum 2 minutes to could be 15 minutes to export and then download. That's one of the features that I think is super useful for everyone to try out. Then we're going to the second explainer video, look at what you see on top, create from scratch, generate AI subtitles and generate voiceover.

So I'm going to start with the easy one. When you're on the platform, this is what they're currently working on. In the past two months, they have actually added a lot of new things here. This is the Animaker AI Explainer page. What you can see is they essentially have different types of explainer videos and they have also categorized them by just explainer video or training, promo, or personal. Today, I want to show you if let's say you want to create a course video, how would you basically put your information in? What prompt you get, how could it turn out? I created one for this workshop. I want to highlight that it's not perfect because you may, for instance, in my case, I didn't want to really call different parts of this workshop modules, but it told me that they are different modules. You can see that the first time you export or you create based on a prompt, it's not going to be perfect and you may want to go back and change a few things. One thing I want to mention to you, what you see right on top of the course overview, they are working on a general explainer that in the past, they used to have and I'm sure that they're making it better. Keep an eye on that. I think that will be a very generic, useful one for different types of classrooms. But again, right now, we can't use it.

So they keep going back and forth between what you see on my screen and also what you may see right now today as just a box like when you go to ChatGPT, it's just a box where you put a prompt. For these explainer videos, you may have to put the description of what kind of video you want. Or they may ask you these questions, or they may do both. This is my experience. They've been exploring these two different ways of asking questions and getting data from their users. For instance, the title of the video, what is the title of the video training? Here I put Exploring Animaker for teaching and learning. You can put the name of the trainer, provide a short intro about trainer, experience, company, all that.

One way would be essentially answering these questions. And if you do, this is what you make it. Exploring Animaker for teaching and learning.

[VIDEO VOICEOVER]

Hi. I'm Maryam Safa Schneider, an assistant professor of communication and Psychology at University, Canada West with extensive experience and education technology. I'm here to guide you through our Animaker training. This training includes the following modules. Module 1, Introduction and overview of Animaker. Module 2, Signing up for Animaker. Module 3, Animaker Scavenger Hunt. Module 4, Creating a short animation. Module 5, Evaluating Animaker together. Module 6, Q&A, and closing remarks. Why this training matters. Animaker enhances teaching through engaging animation. Learn to create professional-grade animation easily. Enhance your teaching methods with multimedia. Boost student engagement and information retention. Ready to create engaging content? Start creating dynamic animations today to captivate your students. Let's dive in and transform your classroom with the power of animation.

[VIDEO ENDS]

MARYAM:

Okay. So I just wanted to highlight that. This was done. I did not tweak it. So this was done with maybe in 5 minutes or so. So it's really as easy as, you know, putting in that information that I just shared with you and getting something like that. I did not change anything. And when you basically see if you go after creating this video, if you go click on the video, you will see the storyboard. This is where the magic happens. This is where you can essentially change things. Now you may be satisfied with what you have and just use that, but maybe you want to tweak things. Here, I would like to talk to you about what are the things that you can use, modify. Here, the red square, the rectangle shows you the frame that essentially is your video.

There are two things, two styles of projects in Animaker. What I used and I'm going to keep using this style is the cartoon style. But as you can see on the right side of cartoon, it says Whiteboard. You can also create Whiteboard animation videos. I'm sure you've seen these types of videos on YouTube where essentially you see a hand drawing the animation and then writing. So that would be if you're interested in that, you could definitely use Whiteboard. What I have found is there are limited functions or elements there in Whiteboard and a lot more you can do with the Cartoon. Normally, with the frame, depending on where you're using your animation, if most of you are using your work, your animation, basically on learning management systems or LMSs like Brightspace. I would say go for the horizontal video. What you just saw, the aspect ratio is 16 to 9. But again, if you're using it for social, different types of social media, you may shoes square or have a given custom size. But I say to start off, Cartoon would be a lot more fun. Also the horizontal video is what I would recommend.

Okay. The next thing you need to know is what you see highlighted on the left-hand side, the menu bar. This is where on top you see the style that I just showed you. On that style, you choose whether you want to create a cartoon style animation or a whiteboard style. You do have right underneath that template. I am not going to show you the templates, but essentially templates help you create really fancy powerboard presentations. If you have presentations,

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but you want to add some animated elements to it, you can use that. There are many different like Canva if you've used Canva. Then you have character. It's important to know this because that's one of the great features of Animaker. When you go on Character, what you see here, you do see different characters, different types that represent different types of people, and you can customize your character. You can change the clothes, hair, everything, facial features. That's one of the fun things you can do. Properties, I don't use... Right after Character, you see Properties. I don't use Properties a lot, but essentially a lot of shapes are found there. You can imagine if you listen to music, the frequency bars, if you have music and you want essentially an element that in real time can show the frequency, those are some of the things you get. I don't use it that often, but it may be something that fits your project, and you can use it. Text is, of course, very important because anything that you see as written form is used essentially from that Text button. BGs background. And we are going to use this shortly just stay a little bit longer when we go through these slides. But the background, you get some animated 2D backgrounds, but you also see realistic ones. You also have videos that are moving basically images. There I don't suggest using all those videos, and I'm going to show you a student example where they use the video background, but then that really impeded people from reading the text because the colours, the contrast of colours may actually not be really a good match if it's white on white, let's say. You can add, again, more images. You can embed videos. Talking about videos, I also want to say to those who like Canva, you can actually embed videos you create here in Canva if you use that a lot, let's say you create slides in Canva and then you create a video here with Animaker download, and then you want to add that to Canva that could be something that you may be interested in doing. Music, can add music, different effects. The effect is very similar to If you use let's say Instagram and you see the effects. It's like a layer on top of the image. You could use that to, let's say it's like snowing, for instance. You can upload your own images, your own videos and use them. Where you see the three dots at the end with more, you can for instance, add things like subtitle or a lot more. There's so much to explore that I won't be able to talk about everything, but you can explore this on your own. Again, one of the most fun you can have today if you're new to Animaker is just playing around with characters. The characters can express themselves so there is actually an action function. There are all different expressions, anger, crying, laughing. They can have different types of movements. If you are on character and then you go to action, you can see you can make them run, dance, jump, do different things. The next thing we're going to go all the way to the right-hand side. This is where your scenes are. One of the best things to always do if you're not using this quick generative AI for explainer videos, if you're doing things from scratch, is to actually prepare your scenes, like plan how you create scene one, scene two, scene three, just like creating storyboards. But if you're not familiar with that, no worries because ChatGPT can do that for you. And I'm going to show you how you can give ChatGPT a very clear prompt to give you ideas and break down basically what you want in terms of text, background, narration on different scenes. Here you can see on top it says, Add scenes, you can add more scenes. When is, for example, on scene one, right now, we are on scene two. For instance, you can see it in an orange box. If you have it on that scene, then you can modify that scene. If you're going to scene one, then the frame changes and then you can modify things on that particular scene. The last portion, which is it may look a bit daunting. If you haven't used

any video editing software before, you may feel like there's so much happening, but don't worry. It's the timeline, the timeline is really important. It basically shows you the layers from image to voiceover to music to any other element that you add. If you look right underneath the scenes, you can see the layer. If you go on that, you can actually go on different layers. But if you simply drag your cursor and click on some area that is showing one, two, three, and that is by the way, the same as scenes. It basically can help you. What you could do is if you want to make maybe change the length of a particular scene's music, you click on it and basically you drag it to the right. It increases the minutes and you bring it back, it will decrease it in minutes. What you see is the overall timeline right now. But if you want to look at individual scene timelines, you basically go to the other one that says scene timeline and it goes to scene one timeline only. A lot of what you see here will become clear once you give yourself enough time to just play around with it. So last thing you want to do, and I do suggest you publish your work and not just leave it on the Animaker website is because then you have it. You can have it and you can share it again wherever you want. How to export, you can see the Publish button right on top to your right. If you click on that, it basically takes you to another page. The things that you can do for free is you can export it as HT 720 P or SD 48 P. I use HD 720 P because I'm using most of my content on Brightspace, that's an LMS. But it is also suggested that SD 48 P is good for social media like Facebook. I have not used it, but those are the two things. Any other way of exporting it is not right now available for free accounts. If you pay for it, then you may actually be able to have a higher quality video. But at the moment HT 720 P, I think it is giving you a great quality animation. So that was.

BRITT:

Sorry, Maryam. Just a quick question here from the chat. Just wanted to just add. Somebody was asking if you can use your own photographs for the character building, or is it all templates already created by Animaker.

MARYAM:

So you can have your own pictures where you see, I'm going to go back here. If you look at the bar on the right-hand side, on the left-hand side, where it says, Upload right at the end. You can upload your own pictures. Characters, not really because you can have an image of a character, but you can't animate it. Any image, any video that you have can be uploaded and can be used in your video. Again, if you have created a character, at least at the moment and with what I've tried, you cannot make the character do anything. It would essentially be used as an image. Does it answer your question?

BRITT:

So you could upload an image and have it like on the screen. Obviously, you wouldn't be able to animate that because that's part. So you couldn't make the mouth move per se on your own image?

MARYAM:

Well, if you, so let's say you have just like stop motion or animation, like real animation. So you would basically have several pictures, and then you are making one that mouth goes and then mouth slowly opens, different frames of that. You can control this like how fast the frames are going to show on the timeline. I haven't done that. It is doable. It's a lot of work. I'm not quite sure how it will look, depending on the quality of the image of the character and how you're considering how each frame is basically showing an action or a movement. It would be a lot of time, but I think it can be done, but it will take a lot of time.

BRITT: Thank you so much.

MARYAM:

Thanks for that Britt. Okay. Okay. So now we're still getting into the fun stuff where you will start creating your own animation, but I want to also show you this. Here, what you saw before, I didn't do anything. I just told Animaker to make it. Here, I want to show you what if you want to create an animation from scratch, here, I have a little less in characters, but more images because with this explainer video, what I essentially had to do. It was a snow day. I wanted to share the lesson with my students, but I didn't want to just have my slides and myself talk. I had one slide, I took that slide and I think, well, how can I create something a little bit more fun and still teach that lesson? Here, I want to show you a 2-minute video. Maybe I don't show the entire thing, but what you're going to see is I have an animated character in the beginning in the middle and towards the end. This is an explainer video on opinion writing in the course Writing for the Media. I've added voiceovers and I haven't added subtitles, but I'm going to show you how you can do this after. I've added a lot of images for background. And the thing that has helped me in this case was ChatGPT, creating different scenes. First, have a look and then I'm going to show you step by step what I did.

[VIDEO VOICEOVER]

Welcome to this presentation on opinion writing and columnists. Opinion writing is an essential part of journalism, and columnists play a major role in shaping public discussion. But how do you become a columnist? What can you write about, are there any restrictions? Let's break it all down. First, who gets to be a columnist? Columnists aren't just any writers. They're typically seasoned journalists, experts in a particular field, or individuals with a unique perspective or expertise. A columnist might be a political analyst, an industry expert, or a writer with a broad understanding of culture, economics, or social issues. Columnists are experienced writers, experts, or those with unique perspectives. What can they write about? Columnists can write on a wide range of topics. From politics and global issues to pop culture, lifestyle, science, and even personal experiences. The scope is broad. Columnists have the freedom to share their opinions, thoughts, and insights, things that reflect their unique perspectives on the world. Are there any restrictions? While columnists do have the freedom to express their views, they're not completely unrestricted. There are ethical guidelines, legal boundaries, and editorial standards that govern what they can say. For example...

MARYAM:

I think that's good enough and sort of get the idea. Everything that you saw, again, just because I had a question about uploading images, everything you see in this video is basically in the elements, videos, and character bank of Animaker.

How did I make this? Again, didn't take that long. I looked at my slide tag for that course, and this was one of the lessons. This was the slide, the topic, opinion writing columnists. These were again, the outline. Who gets to be a columnist? What can they write about, so on and so forth. What I did, I gave this prompt to ChatGPT. It's really really important to be clear, of course, in giving this prompt to ChatGPT so you get a really nice organized plan for an animation and different scenes. I asked ChatGPT: Create a script for an explainer video titled "opinion writing and columnist" and explain the following and I just numbered the bullet points here. The key is script. If you don't put the word script, you're not going to get what I'm going to show you.

This is what I got from ChatGPT. Again, of course, I didn't change anything just for the purposes of this workshop, but what you could do is get what you see here from ChatGPT, but then you can modify it, add to it, tweak it the way you like. What ChatGPT does for you is it gives you just like a script for a movie or a play. It gives you in brackets the scene. It gives you a title. It tells you what basically the narration can be. This is the intro, and this is where I had the character. This next scene that ChatGPT suggested is who gets to be a columnist. It tells you, for example, what you may consider using as visuals. Like diverse professional sitting at a desk writing with images of famous columnists. I didn't really find it or didn't want to maybe add images of famous columns or see it relevant, but I had professionals sitting at a desk. It in many ways, helps you um, with ideas. You decide whether you want to have that in your video or not. It gave me six or seven different scenes. Scene 2, for example, was, what can they write about? Again, you can see it tells you what visuals you may want to consider adding and what's the narrator saying. You can just copy paste what you see in double quotes in Animaker and Animaker can read that for you.

In terms of voiceovers. What you see and I'm going to go back and show you, so don't worry about this. There is right in the middle, right underneath the main frame, a little microphone icon. If you click on that microphone icon, you essentially can have an option of text to speech. You could also use your own voice. You can also upload a recording if you have. And they are categorizing their voices as like podcast voice, marketer, content creator, educator, narrator, and basically other. Here you can see on the right-hand side, some options. You have different accents. Let's say if you want to use English, it's a British English, American English, Australian English. By the way, you can also add other languages, not just English. As long as you choose a voice that doesn't have one of those stars, it's free and you can basically use it.

Once again, I want to show you where this function is. Let's say I created this video. What I essentially have done is on the right-hand side you see the scenes based on what ChatGPT

suggests that I created different scenes. You also see some of these backgrounds are videos. Some of them are just still images. Some of them are realistic images, some of them are 2D animated style images. One thing I want to do is I now want to add that voiceover. I go on that little icon that you see. It's like a microphone right underneath the character, and you will choose the text to speech to add the sentences in. Again, you can also record your own voice if you want to talk over that animation, or if you have a recording, you can upload that as well. This is how it is essentially. Here is where you copy paste your narration. On this side, on the right-hand side, you can also see that if you feel like to change the language to British English, Australian English, you want to change maybe male to female, all that is there. One thing, just going back to what I was saying earlier, remember was talking about natural sounding. As you can see on the right-hand side, the final word before the timelines, Auto enhance with a yellow star. If you click on that and if you have the \$25 per month plan, it changes the sound a bit. It sounds a bit more natural. But again, I think that what we have right now is also fine. What you do you have to do this, forget to do this, just add to timeline and once you click add to timeline, it is added to your video. So say you did all that.

Now you have an explainer video on opinion writing and then you have the voiceover, and you also want to make this more accessible to all students, say students who maybe can't hear what the video is saying. Maybe they actually want to watch this without sound. That's another thing. How can we make a wide range of content, and consider a wide range of audience. Adding subtitle is a great one.

Here is the same video with the subtitles. I have not again, tweaked it. You can tweak it. And when I say tweak it, the thing that happens sometimes is maybe the narration on that particular side is not matching all the words. Maybe there is one word at the end of a sentence that's better to go, for instance, to the next scene. Things like that. For these AI sounds, it's very rare that there's any spelling issues, meaning that the function is not detecting the right word. If you are uploading your own voice or someone that again, a different voice, then you may actually see errors like in words. It may not actually be that word. It could be a similar word, sound similar. Have a look and what I like about this is how it highlights every word.

[VIDEO VOICEOVER]

Welcome to this presentation on opinion writing and columnists. Opinion writing is an essential part of journalism and columnists play a major role in shaping public discussion. But how do you become a columnist? What can you write about? Are there any restrictions? Let's break it all down.

[VIDEO ENDS]

MARYAM:

So you get the idea. How you do this when you want to add subtitles? One way is just on the first page you click add subtitles, but another way is, again, on that long menu that was on your left-hand side, the three dots that says More. If you click on it, there's also an option that says Add subtitles. Right now, the way that you can do this is if you export the video that I like the

video that we just saw, for example, the opinion writing, you export that and you have that and then you upload the file. For whatever reason I was unable to in the past week, use my content in my library. What you see right now in this square, it says Import or select video, it says Upload my exports and my library. All of them should work, but for whatever reason last week, I had issues using the existing videos on the platform, which basically means you can go to your library and use that. As long as your videos are in the formats, I don't know if you can figure this out, but the formats of your videos that are downloaded are mp4, mov, avi, flv and webm, you should have no problem uploading it. The size, of course, matters because it says maximum file upload size is 3 gigabytes. Now, if you are creating these videos on Animaker and using the free version, everything is less than 2 minutes, no problem. But if you can, for instance, I'll tell you something that I've used. I have created mini lectures on PowerPoint, where basically it's my voice. I'm talking and I'm recording myself, and I wanted to have subtitles. I uploaded those videos and I added subtitles. These are some of the things you could do. Just basically make sure that it's a compatible format. Once you add that, this is what you get.

Your storyboard, all of a sudden changes. As you can see in the timeline, there is now an added layer. The top orange layer you see is essentially your subtitle per scene. What you can do is if you click on it, right now, if you look at the left-hand side at the bottom, there's one solid orange scene that is basically the subtitle, that is reflected on top. Where you see the timestamp from 0 to 3.79, and you can actually click on these segments and change the subtitles. You can move forward. Like let's say I don't like how "what" on this screen is like it's not part of a sentence, just starts, but it goes to the next scene. Maybe I move the "what" to scene 4, and it's "What can you write about?" That the sentence is complete. If there are errors, again, in terms of the words, spelling and whatnot, you can change it here. Very easy. It may look like there are so many elements here, but that's it. Again, I want to show you on the lefthand side. You can also see that you don't have to stick to this default font or the way in which you have a white on black. You can change the font, the background. Also, translations; haven't used it, but you can see the last thing is translations. Now we are halfway through.

What I'm going to do is ask you this poll, this question for poll number two, if Kelsey can put this up. Then after this, we're going to take a quick break. Okay. So I have 15%, or are not sure yet. Let's see how you can convince you that this is a great tool, but many people definitely see how this can enhance their lessons, and maybe they need to explore it a bit more. After this, we're going to explore Animaker a bit more. I'm going to give everybody a 10-minute break and see you back at 11:00.

If everyone's ready, we're going to continue. I have actually talked a lot, but from basically after this poll, you can dive in and do a little bit of work on your end. So I want to see if we can get let's see. Did we go over this one? Let me go to... Okay. There it is. Okay. So is everyone back? All right. I'm going to also, yes. Perfect. Welcome back Lynn.

Some of you have more experience with animation tools and maybe you have already opened an Animaker account, but if you haven't, I would like you to now go to Animaker and sign up for free accounts. Basically, you can click on Signup and the way I have used it is through my Google account, but it does give you this easier way of signing up through Facebook or Google, but if you like to do this in a different way, please go ahead and do that. You may also see this big button at the centre that says Create for free, can also click on that. It's either on the righthand side on the top, sign up or right in the middle. Create for free. I'm going to give you a few minutes to basically go to the platform. And do that. Basically for me to understand whether everyone has done this successfully when you're ready because it's not going to take that long, especially if you're using Google or Facebook. Just let me know, through this poll: Did you successfully create an Animaker account? Yes. Most people. Awesome. Everybody. Seems like everyone. Fantastic. Fantastic, no problem. We're going to move on.

What I want you to do. This is our first activity. I want you to locate Create new project. That's just the button that says Create new project. It's basically Create new project from scratch. You've seen this before. I want you to add basically add a character to your project, not the whiteboard one, but a cartoon, and I want you to also choose the horizontal 16 to 9 ratio, the first option, and customize your character. You may have already done that if you want to play around with it a little bit more. Change the appearance, the clothing, hair colour, maybe move your character a little bit. One of the suggestions I have is, you can of course have different scenes, sometimes the character is in the middle, sometimes not, but there is this visual rule, it's called the rule of thirds that if you think like two horizontal lines in the centre and two horizontals like this and two vertical, you may want to have a character on one of those intersections like on the right or left. It's just visually more appealing. Then I want you to generate a background. If you go to BG, which says background, you have some existing background images. Again, it could be still animated-looking backgrounds or realistic looking or video. But then there is a button that says Generate background using AI, and I want you to try that out and just put a word, whatever you want and click on it, and it starts to give you some images and then choose one. That image, the AI-generated image is going to if you click on it, is going to show in your frame. What I want you to basically have is a character in your frame. If you customize it and then click it, that character is going to be on your frame and also AIgenerated background in the background.

And again, some of us may be a bit faster than others. If you are done with that, I want you to go to Character. When you click on Character, there is an action button on top. I want you to find that. I want you to, just for fun, find the dance action. You can use anything else that you like as well. But just want you to make your character dance in a generated background, Al-generated background or environment. Then after you do that, I want you to put music to this. If you go to Music, again you can see that there are the premium tracks. Those are the ones that you can't use if you have a free account, but if you have a paid account, fantastic, you can use better music, maybe more suited to this. But if you go to the free tracks, you can just choose whatever free track you want. You can play them to see which one you like. Once you've added all these elements, you can hit play right underneath the main frame that we

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looked at and essentially see your character dance to tune. And just to show you what I did, I decided to put the word "space," and my character did this.

I'm going to. I'm looking at the chat. If you have questions, I'm looking at this. Yes. Yes, you are using basically Create a new project from scratch. It's not the AI-generated one. This is one that is from scratch. The project saving automatically or should we save? It does save automatically. Unless something like what happened to Lynn happens, it's never happened to me, but it does. It saves everything automatically. You don't need to really click save anywhere. I'm answering, Jason, if that helps. The only thing that I like to do is once I'm done with an animation and because I'm also using the free account and everything is very short, so it doesn't take me that long to tweak things. I just make sure that I go publish and then download so that I have them. Just in case something changes, and the developers of this app decide to, I don't know, make something not free anymore or remove certain functions. In the past two months, a lot of changes happened. That's what I suggest. Holly says, So I did not get the generate from scratch page yet. I'm going to show you where this is, and I'm going to go to Lynn in a second.

Just for Holly, I'm going to go back and show you where this is. Here, if you're on this landing page, you see it says Create new project and right underneath create new project, says Create from scratch. That's the one we're using right now. Does that help?

HOLLY:

No, I'm stuck in some account setup. You answered the questions. It's loading, completing, loading. So I'll just keep going and I'm following though. This is great. So don't worry.

MARYAM:

So what you did was you went to Generate using AI?

HOLLY:

No. I just signed up for the account, verified the email address. It took me to Explainer only with no side bar.

MARYAM:

Yes. So you went back to the other page and then it ran me through this like: Who are you? What are you going to do? And so that's all processing, loading, processing.

HOLLY: Oh, we might be, I think we're there now. Okay. I have it.

MARYAM: Great.

LYNN:

I think I'm on the same page. I'm not sure. My colleague was explaining. I think what, what is happening here is I also verified my account, and now it's these prompts for optimize your experience better. This is what I need to choose. Is this for marketing, human resources,

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teachers, or students, I just need to, the way I understand it, I need to get through this phase before I'm going to get to seeing Create new project?

MARYAM:

Yes. Thank you. Thanks Holly for talking about this. Yes. This is basically part of signing in or rather signing up. Okay. Thanks. Yes. Awesome. I'll wait a bit longer. No worries. Thank you. Once all this is done, just go to Create from scratch, and I'm just going to go back to show you what I wanted you to do. No rush.

Once everything is in order, the first button on the top left side, Creating a new project, adding the character. I'm just going to leave this here for a bit for everyone to catch up. If anyone has any other questions, if you're doing this quicker and you're exploring other things and you want to ask me, please just unmute. Yes, Jason go ahead.

JASON: Hi, my mic on okay? Okay, awesome. I did start with one of the templates, and I've got my script in, and it's awesome. Awesome. Great. Yes. One thing I had a quick question for. It has a music track already as part of the animation, and I'm trying to change the music. I don't know if that's something that's straightforward. I can click on the music track, I can click Edit music.

MARYAM: Uh huh. So what you're doing something different from what I showed because you're using the template.

JASON: Yes.

MARYAM:

But what essentially you can do is if you click on one of the bars in the timeline, whatever music on the particular scene, you should be able to delete it and then add a new track.

JASON: Okay. That makes sense, actually, perfect.

MARYAM:

Because these are already pre-set when you use the templates. One thing that you may have to do is when you're adding new music, for example, I'm not quite sure how this is going to go for you. But the bubble that on the timeline represents music, it may be shorter or longer than your scene. You may have to just adjust that. That's one of those things that happens also because you're adding new music, the transition to the next music or next scene may be abrupt and you may want to add transitions. Transitions work very easily, basically between scenes or music or anything. You have two rectangles. Then if you click right on the line between the two, it gives you on the left-hand side option of transition. So it may fade in like one music to another rather than just boom.

JASON: Okay, that's great. I'm off to the races. Thanks so much.

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MARYAM:

I'm hoping that others have, again, you can play around with it, but if you were able to find these basic elements with a character, AI background, and action and created something like the one that I just showed you. I'm going to move on to the next project that we're going to work on. If you have questions, if you've done it, If you've done it, good. If you have questions, just put in the chat or unmute and ask me.

But what I'm going to do is basically ask if you've done this. If you want to skip this is totally fine as well. I want to know if you were able to successfully customize a character and make your character dance. Maybe you did something else that's totally fine too. This is really the way this is all trial and error is the best way to learn is to just play around. Um so that's basically it. Really the basic things, once you know how to add a character, how the character can be animated, backgrounds can change, adding music. You can do a lot. You can then add black text and you know how to change scenes. So I'm going to move on just for the sake of time because there is more that I want to share with you, but I see most people were able to do this. If you haven't, no worries, can always come back to this.

I'm just going to quickly if you are using just these things, very simple elements, not even using much AI, you can create a video like this. This is the first video I made with Animaker. I was telling you that this was essentially when I was teaching the fundamental attribution error. I wanted a scenario that is really easily understood, especially for my students who were in their early 20s. This was the one and I want to tell you. This is just like what you just did, adding a character, having different backgrounds. This was actually completely simple in terms of background. At the time, there was no AI-generated function, not many backgrounds, but I decided just to have it simple. And adding text. When you have the text on the corner, you can also add text. One of the things about text, of course, is because it takes time to read, it's good to consider how long is it going to be on your scene. Again, in the timeline, you can modify the time that a sentence or a word or a text in terms of bullet points is there. Size, of course, matters. I'm just going to play it just to see what you can do even with just these simple things you learned. [Video plays with no sound] I did get my students to create their own based off of this video. One of the things that I want to say, two of my students collaborated and made this. I'm just going to show a little bit of it. One of the things that we need to consider again in the design is the backgrounds, if the colours, the contrast is not really considered, or if you're using, sometimes people get a little too fancy and use moving images or videos, it becomes hard to read. That was just something that I wanted to show you not to.... Be more simple in the design than having too many elements moving. I'm just going to play the beginning so we get what I'm trying to, what I'm saying here, there's no music here. But when we go to the next scene, you can see it gets difficult to read because there's a lot of again movement in the scene. Something to be cautious about.

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Any questions so far about this? Again, you can put it in a chat or unmute because I'm going to show you now the making an explaining video in seconds. This is going to be super super easy. Yes, Lynn, go ahead.

LYNN:

Thank you, Maria. I think this is wonderful. I'm just, you know, trying to get my head around if one is wanting to use this for a lecture. Using the free version, One is limited to 2 minutes. Your experience when planning your lesson and wanting to use Animaker. I like the way you demonstrated just with one static slide that you could animate it. Now, how practical is this in 20 15- to 20-minute recording that one would normally do for a lecture, explaining concepts, etc. and wanting to then use this model on the free version, but you are limited to, I mean, does it is it practical to want to animate separate slides then, which will then be limited to only 2 minutes?

MARYAM:

You're not animating separate slides. You are creating different scenes which are equivalent to slides, and then together, they basically can be up to 2 minutes and that would become a video. Obviously, if you are using the free version, you can't go over 2 if you are paying. There are the paid plans and you can have videos. Actually if you have the enterprise plan is unlimited, but you can go up to 30 minutes. The 20 minutes that you're thinking about. But what I do is obviously, I don't want to show my students like 20 minutes of animation. But if it's a concept like, for instance, I'm teaching cognitive biases, and I explain cognitive biases. For instance, the one that I just showed you, its fundamental attribution error. We talk about the other cognitive biases that are similar like actor observer bias, which is opposite to what I explained before with the reckless driver where you see the reckless driver, you basically pass judgment, but you forget that there are external circumstances also in that scene. Actor observer bias maybe when you have you're doing something that's maybe not appropriate and you're like, Well, it was because of the circumstance that was in. Now, I may explain these and then maybe to have something more dynamic and in a scenario that is more accessible to my students. It may be in their age group, show the video and then get them to create one. This would be my maybe 20minute plan. What will happen is, what has happened, I'll give you an example with this tool. I realized that actually my students make mistakes, for instance, they may... One thing that happened was with the video creation, my students created a video. They were supposed to create the fundamental attribution error, but it was stereotyping. They were talking about siesta and how people, Spanish people or people of certain countries may be viewed as and I'm quoting my students "lazy because they take those." And this helped us essentially really make sure that we understand the concept. I will never have a 20-minute animation, it would be embedded in a lesson part of it. I also find that it's just much more engaging if you are. For me, I'm switching from the traditional lecture that I have the slides and I'm talking and maybe also giving myself a quick break. Let's watch a 2-minute video as an example. This is. ...

LYNN:

Okay, I get it. Thanks for clarifying that because I thought, Oh, my word, how do I do this in I'm thinking traditional literature and the amount of content that one needs to cover? And then using this tool, but now I get it. Thank you.

MARYAM:

You're welcome. It is possible to have really longer animation. Again, maybe not what we want to do, but it is possible. I've seen a lot of different types of training such as cybersecurity training. You see a lot of animation similar to what you see here in those staff training scenarios. A lot of simulations, for instance. Going back to this and I'm, We don't have much time, but I'm going to go over this GenAI, the first explainer video that is very, very simple. In this case, where we were before the landing page where you saw the crate from scratch, right underneath there's this is very easily distinguishable from the other ones. It's a purple button that says Generate animated video with AI. And you can go on there and then you see all these different kinds of explainer videos. What I'm about showing you today, it may again change a little bit because I think they're working, especially on these explainer videos. You can see that there are a few of them that says Coming soon. You can come back and check what they have come up with. There once you choose one, I suggest you choose a course overview, but you could choose any, really. Think about what is something you may have been using, what you would like to use.

Then you have not this right now. This was what I was getting two weeks ago, but now they're going to give you a box first. It's basically just an empty box and you have to enter, in this case, describing what explainer video you want. I'm going to keep this here because what it does is after you describe what's the title of the video, who is the trainer, maybe a short intro about the trainer, then providing the parts or module that is covered in this training. Why do this training or, again, it's calling it training when I was using it, but it may change in the future, I'd rather say like this maybe class or workshop or lesson. Talk about that, maybe a sentence or two and then call to action. I want to say in the past, what happened, I want to see if I don't put anything, is it going to work? I left some of them blank, but what happened with some that were blank, nothing came up and then something very strange happened. I would suggest just because we're experimenting right now for the first time, put something for all of them. Before you put all these, however, you may just look at my slide here, get the ideas, and just put them in sentences back to back in the box. Once again, just to clarify, this happened after I created my videos and my slide, so I didn't change that, but you may first when you go on Generate AI explainer video in seconds, have just a box. Put some data according to these questions there. Once you're done, you click Next and it may come to these questions and clarify. Once you're done with this, then you go to basically the generated video that has all the character, music, and text. If you have any questions, please put it in the chat or unmute, and I can help you. You are going to press on the button. That it basically is a I can show you. Let me go back here. I can show you, so visually you know what I'm talking about.

On this slide, not the arrow, but the one that you see the purple one. It says, "Generate animation using AI. Get AI to build your animation in seconds." It says Generate. That one.

PARTICIPANT:

Then which one after? Because then it goes to another one and it says you have to pick a video category.

MARYAM: You can use course overview.

PARTICIPANT: Course overview. Okay. Thank you. I just get a big box.

LYNN:

Sorry. I'm battling to get to that page where you choose Create. I had done the character and dance. And I added a scene. And now yes, to create.

MARYAM: So you have trouble to get here?

LYNN: I'm not able to get to this. I'm still on the...

MARYAM: On the left-hand side, go to home.

BRITT:

I had the same issue, but what I realized was that I was stuck in my video editor, and if you look at your tabs, maybe in your browser, you should click on the one that says Dashboard. It should still be open unless you closed it. Or you can go File, Dashboard.

LYNN: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

BRITT: I had the same thing.

LYNN:

I was stuck. Okay. Okay. So now it is generate animations using AI. That's the one. Okay. Thank you.

PARTICIPANT:

When I press that one, I just get a box like a general prompt box. I don't get the questions like you mentioned.

MARYAM:

Yes. That's what I was mentioning. So this changed in the past two weeks. I had basically figured it out just like two days ago that it has changed again. So it does, this is what it does. It gives you a box, and that's why I wanted you to kind of see the...

Let me go back to this, see the questions just to sort of get a better understanding of what kind of information you may want to add because what it does is it may after that box, take a page like this. And, you know, in the box, if you're like, I'm not quite sure, it does give you sort of, you know, a guide to what to add. I have maxed out all the sort of number of times I can use all the AI-powered elements in there for this month.

PARTICIPANT:

Yeah, you're right. Once I do that prompt, then it goes to this page and the questions.

MARYAM:

And usually it takes, if you see it generating it, it may take a few seconds, not more than a minute, but it should basically generate it quickly. Then you can display and see what. Sometimes it's perfect. Sometimes maybe there are a few things that are not, you know, the way you imagine. And sometimes it's completely off. And sometimes maybe it's just the music that's really not the right music. It's very interesting. The one that I showed you earlier, that was the first take whatever I put in. It basically exported what I showed you. I shouldn't say export, generated because export is another step when you have to publish and then it exports it. I'm going to give you guys maybe another minute. You can let me know if you're encountering issues, but then I'm going to get Kelsey to put this number four poll up and see, did you find that helpful? Maybe you were neutral about it. It could be helpful. Again, it really depends on what you add in the prompt. Great. Okay. I'm happy to see that. It was 75% of people, more 80%, it's changing. More people think it was helpful. Then now, what you see now is essentially what you can go back and tweak. A bit of a learning curb. Great. Awesome Holly. Thank you. But this is the easiest way right now that one can create an animation. This option of Generate animation and there are different explainer videos. If you have basically time after this. Thank you, Jason. Great. No problem. Thank you so much. Again, Jason is leaving, at the end I do share my info. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if you want to collaborate if you want. I have played around with this for a while, but still a lot that I'm learning. Again, they're adding a lot every year to this.

Moving on, I'm just going to Talk about this last piece. This may be a lot, but I think that this is great. This is what I'm planning to use a lot more. Creating from scratch. The way in which you made that character dance, really starting from there and then using ChatGPT to give you ideas for scenes, narration, and visuals, and then adding voiceover. Then you can also add subtitles. This is a lot, but I think that it gives you very rich content. This is what I suggest. Go back to what Lynn was asking. If you have your slides, you think, there's maybe one slide that you'd like to turn into animation. What can you do? I would choose a slide you use. Think about like an outline of a lesson. And open ChatGPT. It could be just off the top of your head, what's something you teach a lot. Maybe what are the bullet points on a slide. You may write on the board, maybe or just go to your slide, they can choose one, and then open ChatGPT. I'm going to again show you what you have to put in ChatGPT. It's just very important. This one word if you put "the script," it will give you what I showed you before. If you don't, then it's just basically explaining things and it's not really useful for creating an animation.

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This was the slide for my communications class. What I did was I put in this prompt. You can do something like this number. Maybe bullet points. That essentially becomes the scenes. There is an intro scene. It does consider maybe an intro and a closure, a closing scene as well. But then those numbers become the scenes. It's also important that you do say, "This is an explanatory video" if you want it to be an explanatory video. I'm focusing on that because that's what I thought I could cover in 2 hours here, and then of course, have a title for your animation. Once again, don't forget the script. I'm just going to wait a bit. And to make things simple, you can just think of two, let's say, you know, two scenes. So two things, two items that you want to cover. Once you do that, again, this is what you should get from ChatGPT. Basically a series of scenes. The scenes are usually in brackets. This is according to when you are writing a script for a movie, play, whatever. It gives you again ideas for visuals and you will get the voiceover or a narration in double quotes. Once you do that, you can go back to Animaker. Again, I just realized that this was one piece that I wasn't thinking about. Maybe you want to go to your dashboard if you can see. Thank you for, I think it was Britt, someone else for bringing that up. You make sure that you're on the dashboard and then you're going to choose Create from scratch. That's the smaller button that's on top of the purple button. Basically, I'm going to give you the steps, but then I'm going to get Kelsey to put us in breakout rooms, and I can come to each breakout room and see if I can help you out. Essentially, we're going to use what ChatGPT gave to create our animation for that particular slide. You're starting from scratch, you're choosing the backgrounds, you're maybe also creating AI-generated backgrounds. Then you're going to add voiceover. This was that little microphone icon that was under the main frame where you see the animation and essentially you go to text to speech and you copy paste what ChatGPT is giving you. Of course, towards the end for this particular one because we're almost at the end of the workshop, I want you to also when you're done with this exercise, try to go to Publish button and Download your video to see how long it takes and how does the finished product look like.

Once again, this is basically your storyboard. You are going to add your scenes on the righthand side. You are going to use this microphone icon to add text to speech. You're copy pasting what you get from ChatGPT in here, and you're going to then add it to your timeline. And then, I want you to when you're done, maybe with one or two scenes, publish and let's see how that process goes.

I'm going to because I plan to have a bit more time, but I'm going to get Kelsey to create breakout rooms, and I can come and see you guys in breakout rooms.

We have everyone back. Yeah. Okay. Great questions in breakout rooms. I just want to talk about this because this came up in one of the rooms. The ChatGPT. Using ChatGPT, really the emphasis is not what ChatGPT is creating as the main content for the lecture. It really was a way that I wanted to introduce, how can you think someone who's writing a play or a movie script, and how can you apply these to Animaker? You can come up with the scenes quicker and think about the visuals. All of you are experts in your field and you basically can take whatever it was in double quotes and put your own words in it.

The only thing that I haven't really been able to cover is adding the subtitles to it. With this one, I just want to talk about this last part. If you are able to do the two projects that we just worked on. This is going to be easy, not a big problem. On basically your dashboard, you're going to see Generate AI subtitles. When you click that, I was saying this before. There was some issue that I encountered a while back, but you can essentially use the video in your Animaker library, the ones that you've exported, or upload a new video. If you can see in a pale font in the middle, it does tell you what formats are compatible. As long as you have mp4, mov, avi, Iv or webm and it's not bigger than 3 gigabytes, you can upload that. What it does, it basically is going to add it to your timeline and you can see it in the layers, the orange one. As I mentioned, they are not always perfect. On the left-hand side, you can go to different segments based on a timestamp you can see, and you can change the words. And that is really it.

If there are any comments in terms of, I had to change things because we were running out of time. But if there's anything that you want to let me know in terms of feedback on the tool. One thing I realize is maybe again, I should have said that the ChatGPT is not all about what we are using in the quotes. It's just really helping us break down the scenes. But other than that, it has been a pleasure sharing my experience with Animaker with you. I would love to collaborate, keep in touch. This is my email, if you'd like to contact me. I would love that. I'm going to stop sharing and get Britt to close this. Let me see what's happened. There you go.

BRITT:

Thank you so much, Maryam. I really had a lot of fun playing around with that tool. In our breakout room, we were just talking about how it was really useful using the AI-generated one to then as a template and then building off of that instead of maybe just starting from scratch. Yeah, I was great. I'm totally going to continue to play around with this.

MARYAM: Awesome.

BRITT:

Thank you for attending. Kelsey is going to be sharing a survey in the chat. If you have 2 minutes to fill it out. That would be great. It really helps us with our future programming. I also wanted to highlight that we have a call for future Sandbox leaders. Or it's coming out, should be released next week. So keep an eye out on our website for that, and all applications will be due May 30. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the BCcampus team. We'd be happy to help you there. Then if you are also interested in learning more about EdTech and EdTech tools, ETUG Spring Workshop is going to be May 22 to 23rd at UBC Vancouver. It's inperson and a little bit of online. And it's going to be all about hands-on immersive Edtech tools. We are looking for calls for proposals right now. So there's a couple of weeks left on the call for proposals. So if you want to demo a tool, or if you want to come and talk about an EdTech tool that you've had success with or maybe ones that you haven't had so much success with, so you

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want to share your experience with others. We would love to have you. I can share from your experience that ETUG workshops are so much fun. So please consider. But otherwise, thank you so much, Maryam, and I hope that everyone has a lovely day.

MARYAM: Thank you, Britt. Thank you, everyone for attending. Thank you. Thank you.