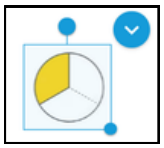
Designing Lumio lessons for screen reader support

Good accessibility is good instructional design—it benefits everyone.
Use these tips to support low-vision students.

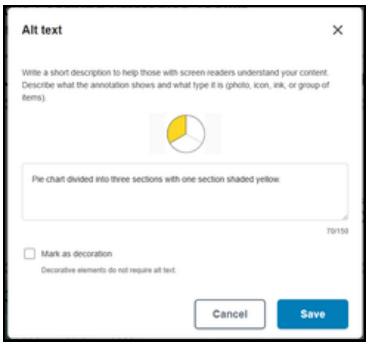
1 Add alt text to images and meaningful elements

- Provide clear, concise descriptive text for images, shapes, diagrams, etc.
- Explain what the element shows and why it matters.
- Mark non-instructional elements as decorative.

How to add alt text



- Click the down arrow on the element
- Select “Add alt text”
- Add description or mark as decoration

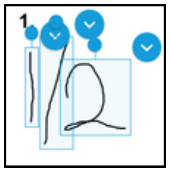


2 Arrange content in a logical reading order

- Arrange elements so screen readers follow a clear sequence (top-to-bottom, left-to-right).
- When elements visually overlap, use text to clarify the spatial relationship and why elements are overlapping.
- Use text to clarify sequence, hierarchy, or cause-and-effect.

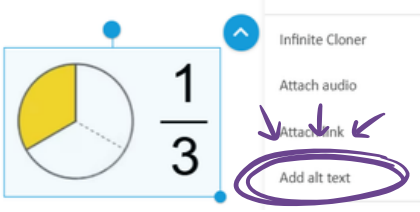
3 Avoid writing or drawing with the pen tool

- Handwriting with the pen tool is not accessible to screen readers.
- When necessary, group the drawn elements, then add alt text.



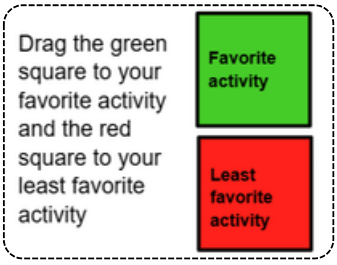
4 Grouping

- Grouping multiple elements that have separate alt text can make screen reader navigation difficult. Keep elements separate for simpler navigation.
- If grouping is required, add alt text to the group.



5 Text size, background, and contrast

- Text should be 12 pt or larger to improve readability.
- Ensure strong contrast between text and background.
- Don’t rely on color alone—add labels or patterns.



6 Student response design

- Add placeholder text boxes for student input (e.g., “Add text here”).
- When selected, students press Enter to edit (existing text will be highlighted), type their response, then press Esc to exit.
- For collaborative pages, provide a dedicated text box for each student.

7 Navigation tips

- Lock elements once design is finalized, and lock any text boxes students should not edit
- Instructional Audio is read first by screen readers.
- Teach students to use Lumio’s built-in zoom, not the browser zoom.
- When navigating to a text box, press **Enter** to edit and **Esc** to exit.
- Learn about Lumio keyboard shortcuts here.

8 Accessible activities

- Whole-class Whiteboards, Group Workspaces, Individual Handouts, Shout it Out, and Response support screen readers.
- Game-based activities do not support screen readers at this time.
- Allow student choice in how to practice and demonstrate learning.

Quick Accessibility Checklist

- ☐ **Alt Text**: Add to all images, shapes, arrows, diagrams, and inked content.
- ☐ **Decorative Elements**: Mark non-essential items as decorative.
- ☐ **Reading Order**: Arrange content in a clear, logical sequence.
- ☐ **Layered Content**: Explain relationships for overlapping or stacked elements.
- ☐ **Color Usage**: Don’t rely on color alone—use labels or patterns.
- ☐ **Contrast & Readability:** Ensure sufficient text size and strong contrast.
- ☐ **Student Input:** Include labeled placeholder text boxes and lock non-editable elements.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ACCESSIBILITY IN LUMIO!

Lumio Accessibility Overview

Lumio Keyboard Shortcuts

UDL Instructional Toolkit