

# An Introduction to VoiceThread

## “What is VoiceThread?”

An interactive online tool that allows groups of people to leave comments at different times around images and videos, yet still allows easy access to the conversation at any time through a simple link. But commenting in a VoiceThread is a unique experience because you have options! When you participate in a VoiceThread conversation, may choose to type your comment in text, use your own voice or record a video with your webcam!

## “Do I have to pay to use it?”

No. Commenting in a VoiceThread is free -- unless you want to make extensive use of the very cool option to leave voice comments with your telephone. Three minutes of phone comments are provided free and you can add 60 additional minutes for \$10 (applied to your account). There is also a 30-minute total max on your webcam comments. All other commenting is unlimited and free. If you wish to **create** your own VoiceThreads with your **free** account (which is different from leaving comments on someone else’s VoiceThread), you will be limited to a max of three.

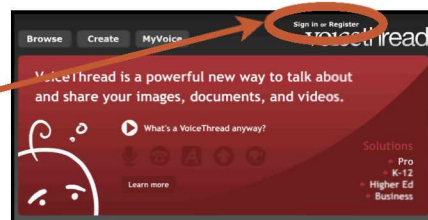
## “What must I do before I leave a comment?”

Before you leave your first comment, you must **Register** for your VoiceThread account -- it is **free** and takes a minute! After that, each each time you return to VoiceThread, you will need your email address and password to sign into your VoiceThread account before you leave a comment.

## How to Register

- ◆ Go to <http://www.voicethread.com>
- ◆ Click on “Sign In or Register”
- ◆ Sign in to an existing account or click Register (at the bottom) if you’re a new user.
- ◆ Once you are signed in to your account, you’ll see the basic account navigation page. Notice the three important tabs at the top: **Browse**, **Create**, and **My Voice**.
- ◆ OR if you are provided with a direct link to a VoiceThread, you may click on the square in the lower right corner that says

sign in  
or  
register

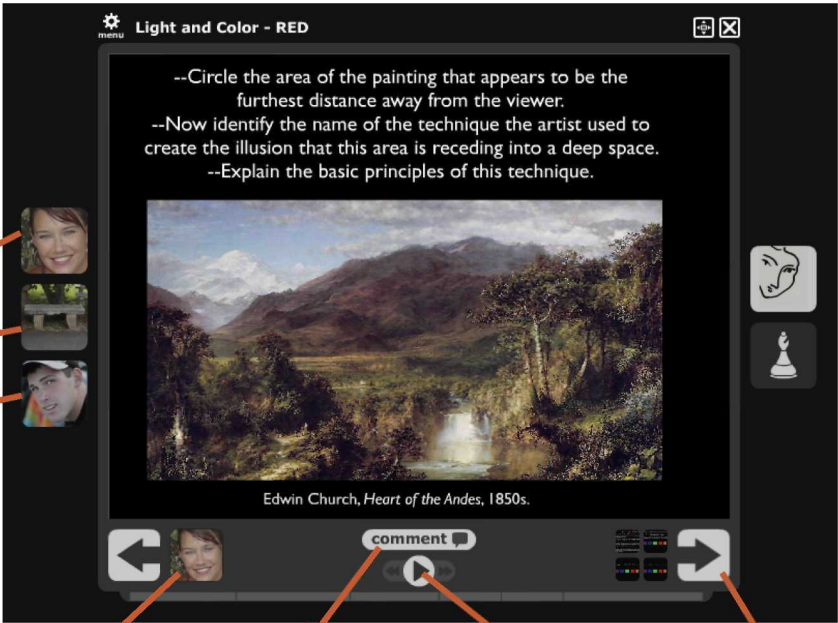


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## A First Look

Below is an illustration showing one slide of a VoiceThread. You can tell there are more slides to view because there is an arrow icon in the lower right corner. *Five different people* have already commented on this slide (count the avatars that line the left and right side of the slide). *But there are six comments* that have been made on this slide (count the number of segments in the gray bar beneath the slide) -- so one person has left two comments. You can listen to/read the comments by clicking the play button (center arrow), clicking on each avatar or clicking on the gray segments beneath the image.

When you are ready to leave a comment, you need to 1) Log In or Register and 2) click the Comment button.



The screenshot shows a VoiceThread slide titled "Light and Color - RED". The slide content includes three instructions: "Circle the area of the painting that appears to be the furthest distance away from the viewer.", "Now identify the name of the technique the artist used to create the illusion that this area is receding into a deep space.", and "Explain the basic principles of this technique." Below the text is a painting of a mountain landscape with a waterfall, titled "Edwin Church, Heart of the Andes, 1850s." The interface includes a left sidebar with five avatars, a right sidebar with two icons, and a bottom control bar with a "comment" button, a play/pause button, and navigation arrows. Annotations with orange arrows point to these elements:

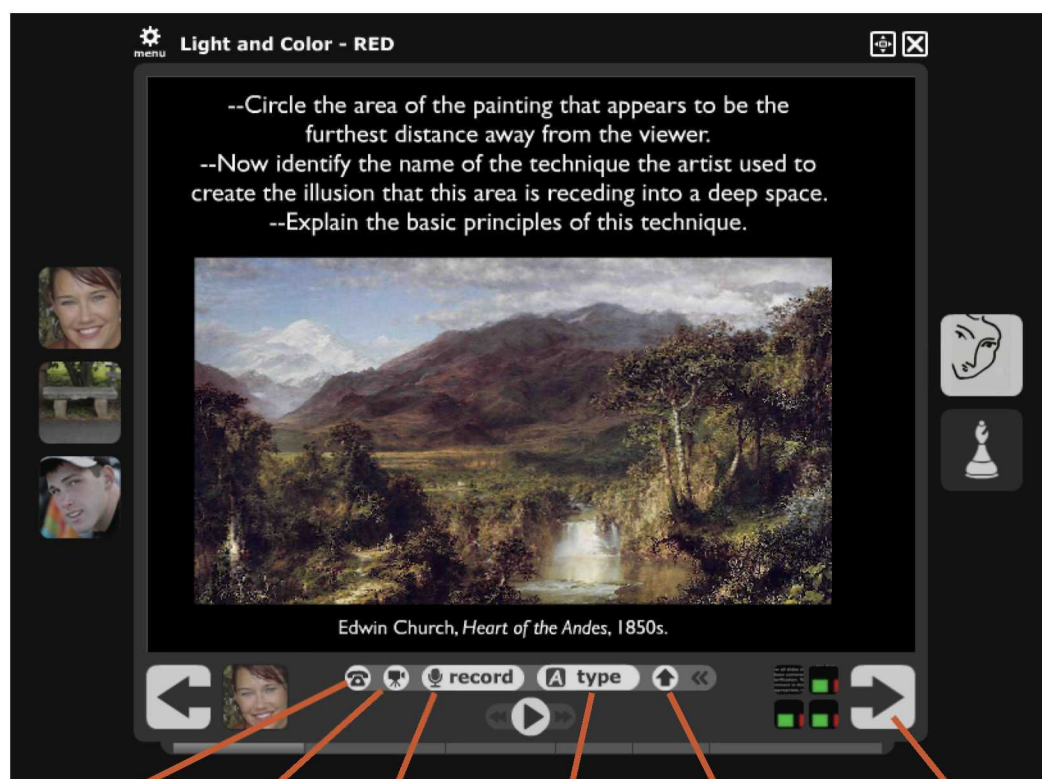
- Click on any avatar to read or hear the comment.
- Click here to **sign in** to your account or **register** for a new account.
- After you've logged in and you're ready to comment, click here to reveal the Comment Options Panel.
- Click here to play or pause.
- Click here to go to the next slide in the VoiceThread.

# An Introduction to VoiceThread

## The Comment Options Panel

After you have clicked on the “Comment” button, the Comment Options Panel is revealed (see illustration below). As you can see, VoiceThread provides plenty of commenting options. All you need to do is listen to or read the comments left by others (if any) and then think about what you want to contribute to this discussion, analysis or activity. The most important thing to keep in mind is the fact that you can delete any comment after you’ve made it, so don’t feel any performance anxiety!

Choose from any of the commenting options listed below. Click on your preference, leave your comment, **CLICK SAVE** and then you’ll see your avatar appear on the slide, with any other avatars of those who have commented previously. If you ever want to delete your comment, just play it back and click on the garbage can icon that appears in your comment box. Only YOU (and the author/editors of the VoiceThread) can delete YOUR comments. That’s it!



Record an  
voice  
comment with  
your  
telephone.

Record a  
video  
comment  
with your  
web cam.

Record a  
voice  
comment  
with a  
microphone.

Type a  
comment.

Upload a pre-  
recorded audio  
comment (not  
available with  
free accounts).

Click here to  
go to the next  
slide.



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## *Tips!*

### Need help?

VoiceThread is easy to use but in case you need some extra help or want to figure out how to use some of the more advanced features, you can rely upon the wonderful help resources built into the site.

To access the Help panel, click on the  icon located in the top right corner of the VoiceThread window pane (above “Sign In or Register an account”).

### Need more phone commenting minutes?

A free VoiceThread account comes with **3 free minutes** of phone commenting. If you want to add additional minutes to your account, just click on the arrow next to your avatar, select “My Account” and then click on “Add More Minutes.” You may purchase one hour of phone comments for \$10.

### Need to change your password?

Click on the arrow next to your avatar, then click on “My Account,” and then click on “Change Password.”

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