

# Adding RSS Feeds to Your Blackboard Course

Whatis an RSS feed? RSS stands for "Really Simple Syndication or Rich Site Summary". It is a way to easily distribute a list of headlines, update notices, and sometimes content to a wide number of people. In a nutshell, RSS is a format for sharing and distributing Web content. It is written in the Internet coding language known as XML (eXtensible Markup Language). RSS feeds added to Blackboard courses are automatically updated, and present an easy way to provide current news, articles, and other information to students. There are thousands of RSS feeds available, covering topics related to almost every academic discipline.

### Why Use RSS Feeds to Support Teaching and Learning?

You can find RSS feeds on a variety of topics. For instance, in a world cultures class you might want students to follow news about a particular country during the entire semester. Or, maybe students need to track stocks for a few weeks. Feeds for these assignments would provide students with up-to-the-minute news and updates.

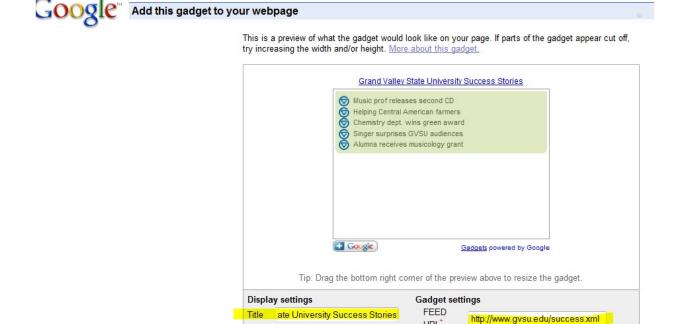
#### **Directions**

- 1. Navigate to the website that has an RSS feed.
- 2. Look for an icon on the page that looks like this:
- 3. If you don't see that icon, look for some text that mentions "subscribe to feed" or "RSS". Linked text that reads "Entries (RSS)" is a common way the feed for a WordPress blog is encountered, usually near the bottom of the screen.
- 4. You can right-click on the icon or text link and choose either Copy Link Location (*Firefox*), or Copy Shortcut (*Internet Explorer*).
- 5. Alternatively, you can click on the icon or the text and it should lead you to a page with a few options to subscribe to the RSS feed. What's important is that the feed URL is now in the web browser's address bar. Copy the URL so that you can paste it into the appropriate field in the Google Module creator.
- 6. Navigate to the Google Module Creator website.

  <a href="http://www.gmodules.com/ig/creator?synd=open&url=http%3A%2F%2Fcustomrss.googlepages">http://www.gmodules.com/ig/creator?synd=open&url=http%3A%2F%2Fcustomrss.googlepages</a>
  .com%2Fcustomrss.xml&lang=en

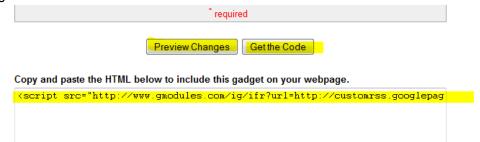


7. Type the title of the RSS Feed and paste the RSS feed URL into the box labeled FEED URL.



- 8. Click on the button labeled "Get the code"
- 9. This will display code in the field labeled "copy and paste the HTML below to include this gadget on yourwebpage"

Width 320 nx



URI \*

- 10. Copythe entire contents of this field. This is the code you will need to place in Blackboard.
- 11. Navigate to the area in your Blackboard course where you would like to place the RSS information.
- 12. Click on "add item" to create a new content item.
- 13. Please note that you will need to turn the visual textbox editor "off" before you paste the html code into blackboard.

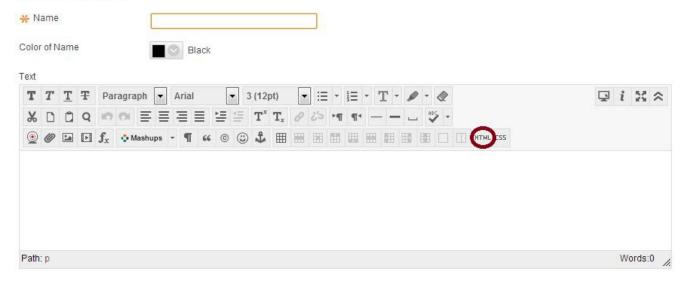


### Create Item

A content item is any type of file, text, image, or link that appears to users in a Content Area, Learning Module, Lesson Plan, or content folder. More Help

 ★ Indicates a required field.
 Cancel
 Submit

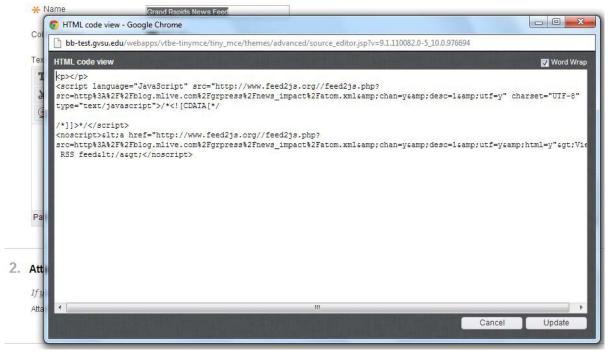
## 1. Content Information



Provide a name for the content item in the name field, then select the "HTML" icon.

14. In the Texteditor paste the html code created from Google.

#### 1. Content Information



- 15. Click the Update Button
- 16. Click on the Submit button.

