Why go paperless?

Students want to learn and engage in digital spaces. Ongoing research at CTL shows a desire from students to have more active and consistent use of Blackboard Learn in the classroom. But there are many reasons to switch to digital:

• More control over assignments time-bound
• No more “lost” assignments
• Tools to support marking and providing feedback
• No more hauling thousands of pages around
• Enhanced learning through tools students are familiar with
• No more expensive, physical textbooks that are barely used
• Fluency in digital tools that students will need in future

Have you considered...

• Putting your rubric on Blackboard - you can select criteria and provide feedback right there!
• Thinking about how you can avoid test questions that measure memorization - can you get the facts while also asking for more?
• Asking applied, thinking, personal questions - this mitigates risk of cheating
• Using wikis or other tools designed for digital learning and collaboration.

Not comfortable using Blackboard?

There are many resources and tools available to help you integrate your assessments and marking/feedback strategies into Blackboard.

What about plagiarism?

Blackboard has tools to help mitigate plagiarism risk. You can randomize questions on tests, ask the same question in different ways, or even consider changing what you ask so students are required to apply their knowledge, present their thoughts and source their ideas.

Physical paper detracts student focus

Structure your lesson in a way that forces students to present their work. Use the wiki function in Blackboard for students to share ideas. Leverage the technology in your classroom. Encourage students to use the whiteboards and support an active learning environment.

Not all students have laptops

You can book a lab space to provide computer access to your students. Assign or hire a student lab monitor to manage the administrative duties so a faculty doesn’t have to be present, and students can get more lab time.