

AI Podcasts

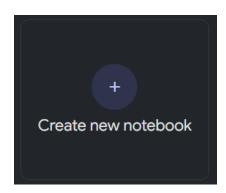
 NotebookLM and Audio Overview Feature: NotebookLM uses large language models to analyze uploaded documents, audio, and video files. A key feature is "Audio Overview," which creates a podcast-like discussion between two Al-generated hosts based on the uploaded material. These audio files can be downloaded and uploaded to learning management systems or podcast platforms.

2. Pedagogical Value:

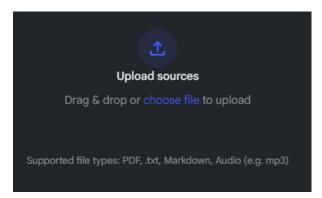
- i. Students enjoy listening to discussions of course material before lectures, providing a novel entry point into difficult readings.
- ii. The fallibility of the AI in these overviews is considered a positive, as it prompts critical examination.
- iii. The author dedicates the first fifteen minutes of each class to critiquing the AI discussions, focusing on what the AIs got right and wrong.
- iv. This approach promotes critical thinking and reading retention, and helps dispel the myth that AI systems always produce reliable information.
- v. The overviews help students engage with difficult material in a new way and become more critical in their thinking.
- 2. **Future Applications for Assessment:** The author plans to use these overviews for assessment, creating quizzes with multiple-choice questions to check core understanding and short-answer sections for critical assessment of Al errors. The goal is to require students to thoroughly understand the reading to critique the Al.



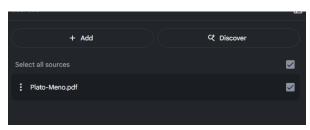
3. Creating an Audio Overview (How-To Guide):



For this article, I am using the entire text of Plato's *Meno*. If, however, you are using excerpts of a paper / chapter, the process will be identical. First, you must already have a Google account (such as gmail). Then, go to https://notebooklm.google.com. Click "Create new notebook".



When the new notebook opens, you will be shown a prompt asking you to upload the relevant document(s). Click the upward arrow or drag your file into your browser.

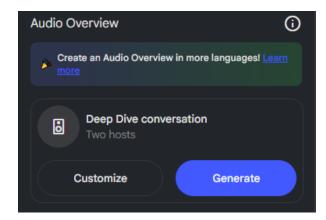


After the upload is complete, you will see the file that you uploaded on the left-hand side of the screen.

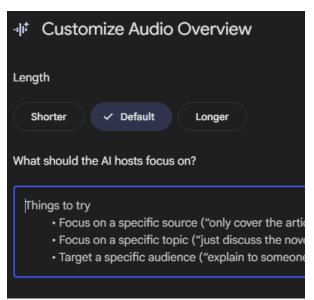




In the middle of the screen you will see a one paragraph overview by the AI of the file that you have uploaded. At the bottom you will see a few options entitled "Add note", "Audio Overview", and "Mindmap". We'll ignore those for now, but they can be useful.

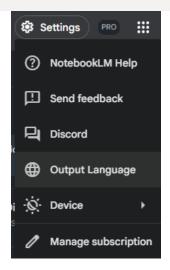


On the right-hand side of the screen you'll see the Audio Over section with the options to immediately generate an overview, or to customize it.

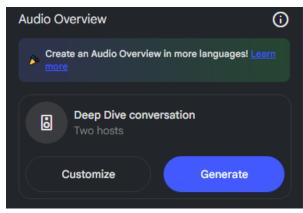


If you click "Customize" you can set the length of the overview to be short, longer, or the default length. I have found the default length to be a good choice for readings in the 10-20 page length.

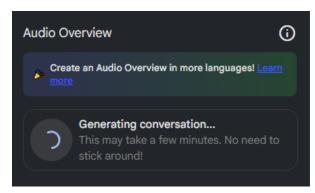




If you want to create overviews in different languages, you can do this by clicking "Settings" at the top right of the screen, and clicking "Output Language". This is a new feature that I have not had a chance to utilize in class yet, but I am going to introduce it to students for feedback purposes in Fall 2025.

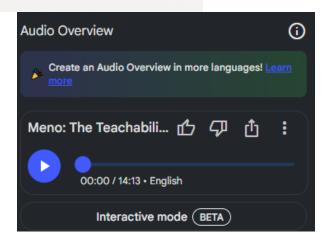


When you have all of your settings selected, simply click "Generate". The generation process takes a few minutes.

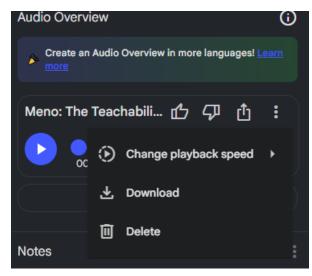


Tick-tock...





When complete, you can play the overview immediately.



To download the audio file, simply click the three vertical dots and select "Download".

Congratulations! You've successfully made your first audio overview. I hope they help your students critically engage with your course material as they have mine.