Voki Hangouts

Getting Started Guide

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1. What is a Voki Hangout?

A **Hangout** is a student learning community designed to foster intelligent student conversations using Voki speaking avatars.

Each Hangout contains teacher defined *Topics* for which students can provide related *Thoughts*.

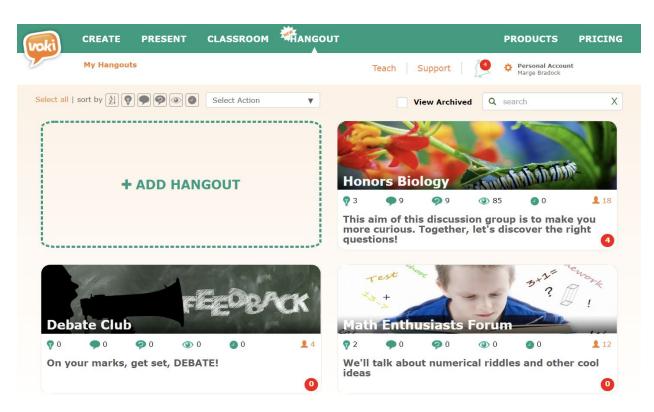Students can then *Reply* to student *Thoughts*.

Topic *Thoughts* are displayed in a teacher managed, conversational grid which aims to promote an ongoing dialogue and learning experience between students.

Voki Hangouts is available to all Premium Voki subscribers. Try Hangouts free today at https://www.voki.com/hangout/.

2. How do I create a Voki Hangout?

A *Hangout* is simply a group of students. Examples of a *Hangout* title might include Honors Biology, Debate Team, Summer Readers and Basic Math (to name a few).

Each *Hangout* should be determined by the teacher for the purpose of discussing various topics suited to specific groups.
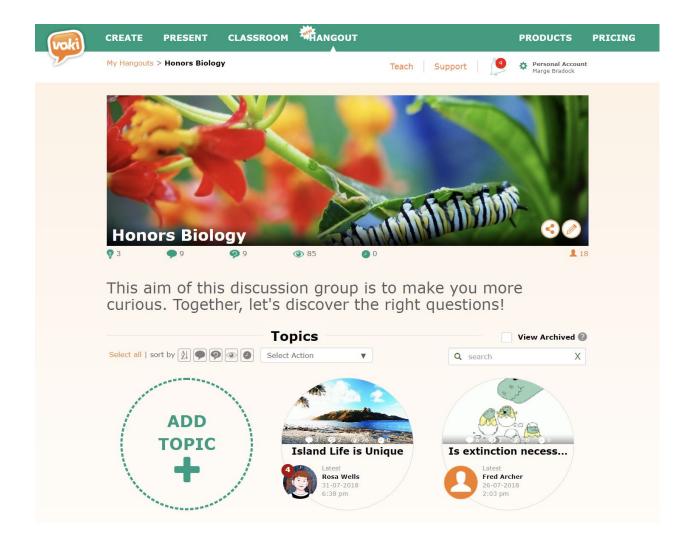
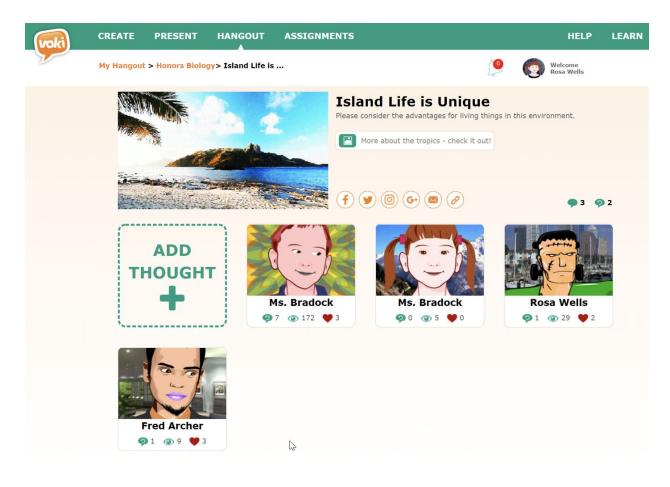*Hangouts Homepage - Student View Example:*

a. Topics

Within each *Hangout* teachers can then create points of discussion related to the *Hangout* to group. These are defined as ***Topics***.

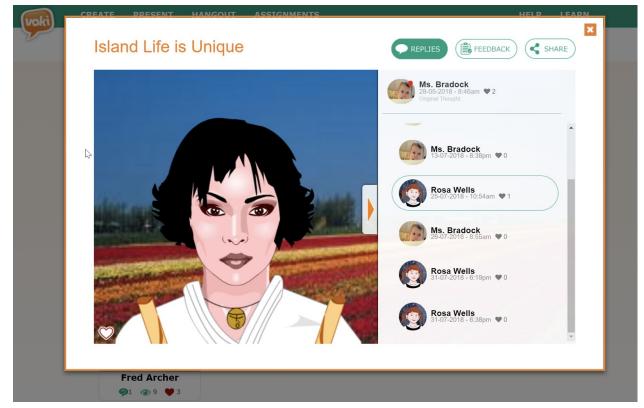*Topics Page - Student View Example:*

b. Thoughts & Replies

Once a *Topic* is defined, students (or teachers) can contribute spoken ***Thoughts*** pertaining to the overarching topic. Each *Thought* is represented by a speaking Voki avatar and then displayed in a conversational grid. Each *Thought* also allows for individual students to ***Replies.*** This format allows for a continuous, engaging and intelligent social conversation between group members!

Thoughts Page - Gallery View Example

Thoughts Page - Linear View Example

3. What else do I need to know about Hangouts?

a. The Voki hangout hierarchy

Hangout > Topic > Thought > Reply

Real world example for reference:

Science 101 (Hangout) >Can we colonize Mars? (Topic) > Students Vokis Avatars (Thoughts) > Student Replies to Thoughts

b. Voki Hangout (3 distinct views)

1.   **Teacher View -** This view is for teachers only and allows for controlling the *Hangout* settings (grading, sharing, etc). Teachers can also view and participate in the *Hangout*.

2.   **Student View -** The student view is largely defined by the teacher and their preferred settings. Students can participate and view all *Topics* within a *Hangout* for which they are a member.

3.   **Visitor View -** Teachers can allow limited viewing of a *Hangout* grid by approved 3rd parties. These parties can include parents, administrators or other teachers/classes.

4. Student Safety, Moderation & Control

Each *Hangout* is fully managed and monitored by teachers and contains safeguards to prevent bullying and abuse. Teachers can require approval before student *Thoughts* are displayed as well as hide or remove students and their related *Thoughts* from the hangout.

5. Use Cases

Debates: Further inspire a passion for learning by moderating educational debates around teacher defined *Topics*.

Problem solving: Inspire students to work collaboratively and de-construct problems in a group setting.

Storytelling: Develop educational and/or whimsical stories between students to further inspire creative thinking.

Idea Building: Crowdsource ideas and creative thoughts from groups of learners to bring great new ideas into the classroom.

Games: Get creative with games that leverage the conversational grid style of Voki Hangouts. Did someone say Karaoke?

Interpretations/ Opinions: Engage students with their shared perspective on literature, art or other *Topics* of your choosing.

Teachers: Educators can participate, create and share Voki *Hangouts* and share them with colleagues, student and/or parents!

Greetings: Greet new students and visitors to your school or classroom with a Voki introduction from each student!

Language Learning: Create multi-language conversations using spoken voice or Voki's Text-to-Speech (TTS). Supported in over (+25 languages & dialects).

Endless possibilities - With the ability to define the group of students as well as the *Topics* for discussion - the learning possibilities are truly endless!

6. Additional support

For additional support please contact support@voki.com or visit www.voki.com/site/support.