

# FAQ Report: The Forge and ADAPT - Tracking Effort and Analytics in Student Writing

## 1. Introduction and Access Fundamentals

This document serves as a comprehensive synthesis of the "Tracking Effort and Analytics with The Forge" webinar conducted on February 20, 2026. This report is curated for faculty and instructional designers seeking to implement the ADAPT system and its integrated writing environment, The Forge, to support academic integrity and student success.

### Account Registration and Access

Access to The Forge is intrinsically linked to the **LibreOne** ecosystem. If an instructor already possesses a **LibreOne Account**, they have immediate access to The Forge to begin exploring its features.

- **Registration Portal:** New users may register for a LibreOne Instructor account at <https://register.libretexts.org>
- **System Relationship:** The Forge functions as a specialized writing tool within the broader ADAPT homework system, utilizing the same centralized authentication.

## 2. Technical Integration and System Requirements

### Canvas and LTI/API Integration

The ADAPT system is widely accessible within the California Community College (CCC) system, with approximately 80% of colleges currently having access

- **Integration Methods:** Colleges typically connect ADAPT to Canvas via **LTI** or the **API** (the newest version).
- **Grade Pass-Through:** The system supports seamless "grade pass-through," ensuring that scores recorded in The Forge are automatically synchronized with the Canvas grade book.
- **Classroom Workflow:** Once integrated, faculty can link a Forge assignment directly within a Canvas module. Students are launched into the writing environment with a single click, eliminating the need for manual account creation or external logins.

### Device Compatibility and Technical Stability

- **Mobile and Tablet Use:** While The Forge is technically accessible on smartphones, the screen size is generally unsuitable for long-form writing. However, the tool is fully

responsive on tablets; successful use has been confirmed on devices such as the **Samsung Tab**.

- **Timeout Troubleshooting:** Some users may experience the tool "timing out." This occurs primarily when browser pages are left idle for extended periods or if the internet connection is unstable/not 100%. A technical update specifically designed to manage internet-related timeouts is scheduled for release.

### 3. Core Features: The "Rewind, Heat Maps, and Essay Maps and other Analytics

The Forge provides a granular view of the writing process, shifting the focus from the final product to the student's effort and drafting habits. Faculty can utilize the following visual metrics to analyze student engagement:

Indicator Name	Visual Representation	Pedagogical Meaning
<b>Rewind</b>	animation of the writing process	This playback functionality shows exactly how a student drafted, revised, and moved through their document in real-time, providing a tangible view of their cognitive process.
<b>Essay Maps</b>		Provides a visual representation of which parts of the document received the most activity.
<b>Heat Maps</b>	Color-coded density map	Provides a timestamp of individualized student activity
<b>Scores</b>	Numeric Effort/Revision scores	Diagnostic tools for instructors to review engagement; these do not have to impact the grade unless the instructor chooses to use them.

### 4. Academic Integrity and AI Policy

#### Plagiarism and Copy-Paste Detection

- **Paste Identification:** The Forge is designed to flag major "pastes" of text, allowing faculty to identify content generated outside the editor.
- **Feature Roadmap:** Development is underway to restrict the paste function exclusively to "intra-doc" copying (moving text within the document) while blocking external pastes.
- **AI Detection:** Detecting specific AI tools within a long-form editor is currently considered nearly impossible. However, the "Discuss-It" feature for short-form questions in ADAPT already shows signs of detecting offline copying, a capability that may be ported to The Forge in the future.

**Privacy and Compliance** The system is fully **FERPA compliant**. Unlike standard Google Docs, which may not meet institutional privacy standards unless the "Google for Educators" version is used, student writing within The Forge remains protected under strict privacy protocols.

## 5. Pedagogical Use and Student Transparency

### Classroom Implementation and Framing

Expert faculty recommend a philosophy of transparency when introducing The Forge to students.

- **Recommended Framing:** Position The Forge as a **Learning Tool** rather than a surveillance mechanism. Instructors should emphasize that seeing "mistakes" and the drafting process allows them to provide better support.
- **Transparency:** Lead with transparency by explaining exactly what the tool tracks and why.
- **Student Self-Reflection:** Faculty members Sarah Harmon and Cristina Moon recommend sharing the analytics directly with students. This allows students to visualize their own habits and understand how to improve their writing process.

### Assignment Utility and Open Pedagogy

- **Open Pedagogy:** The Forge can be utilized for **Open Pedagogy** projects, serving as a mechanism for students to construct non-disposable OER assignments.
- **Research Papers:** The tool is highly suitable for complex assignments like research papers.
- **Advanced Formatting:** Unlike standard Canvas text boxes, The Forge supports advanced formatting necessary for academic writing, such as **hanging indents** for bibliographies.

## 6. Resources and Future Support

### Upcoming Support Materials

- **Insight System:** Technical details on the new "**Insight**" system are expected next week.
- **User Primer:** A "primer" document for novices will be available by next week.
- **Explainer Videos:** Faculty are currently developing video guides for both instructors and students.

**Contact Information** For immediate technical assistance or to request a template course for testing, please contact **Delmar Larsen** directly:

- **Email:** [delmar@libretexts.org](mailto:delmar@libretexts.org)