

# Fast, Flexible, Free:

Making eBooks with Google Slides



<https://shorturl.at/8SYGX>

*Lisa Perez, Tutor  
Baraboo Area Literacy Council  
Fox Valley Literacy  
Wisconsin Literacy Winter Conference  
February 25, 2026*

# Survey Results



<https://shorturl.at/8SYGX>



## Fast, Flexible, Free eBook Webinar

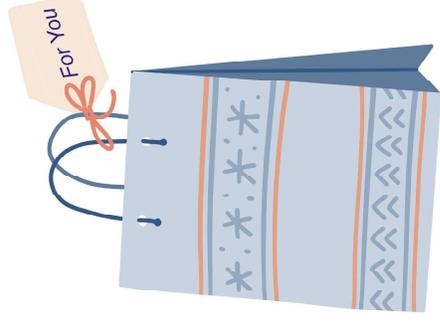
Please respond to provide information on your interest in using Google Slides eBooks.

Which item best describes your current situation? (check all that apply)

- tutor
- instructor in educational setting
- future tutor/instructor
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Agenda

- Tour Literacy Tidbits website
- Sample eBooks
- eBook rationale
- Planning the story
- Steps & How To in creating eBooks
- Sharing with others
- Let's Make an eBook together



### Upcoming Gifts:

- book binding graphics
- YouTube video training playlist
- copy of this presentation

## About Me



- Tutoring ELL students in-person & online
- Tech Talk volunteer with Literacy Works
- Retired teacher, school librarian, & administrator
- Former teacher, technology trainer, & Google Certified Teacher
- Website at <https://www.literacytidbits.org>
- Also, I like to read, grow herbs, learn about shortwave radio, cook, & visit our twin granddaughters
- Contact information at end of presentation, including link to YouTube channel for training videos related to today's webinar

## Setting Up Your Google Account

To access Google Slides and start your ebook, you'll need a free Google Account. If you have a Gmail address, you're already set! If not, follow these three quick steps:

1. Visit the Sign-Up Page: Go to [accounts.google.com](https://accounts.google.com) (<https://accounts.google.com>) and click "Create account."
2. Enter Your Info: Choose "For my personal use," then enter your name and desired email address. Tip: You can even use your current non-Gmail email address by selecting "Use my current email address instead."
3. Verify & Secure: Follow the prompts to verify your phone number or backup email. Once you agree to the Privacy & Terms, you're ready to create!

# Tour the Literacy Tidbits Website

Literacy Tidbits

Home | Animals | At Home | At Play | At School | At the Store | At Work | Body | Conversations | Holidays & Celebrations | Medical | The Basics | Transportation

## Literacy Tidbits

Free digital flashcards & more for ESL/ABE learners

Click on the module links below. | [How to use this site](#) | [Tutor Tools](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Contact](#)

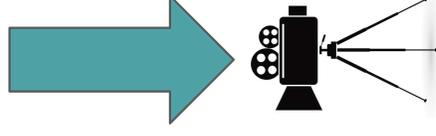
**NEW!** [Halloween](#) | [Signs of Autumn](#) | [Parts of a House](#) | [Compare & Contrast](#) | [Consonant Digraphs & Blends](#) | [Veterans Day](#) | [Photo Talk Photo Bank](#)

[Animals](#)

[At Home](#)

©

Click on movie camera icons to access related videos. [Lisa's YouTube channel](#).



www.tutorbits.org

# Overheard at the Restaurant

A Conversations Audio eBook

↑

# Santa's List

A Christmas eBook

by Lisa Perez, English Tutor  
literacytbits.org



S U M M E R  
R E P O R T

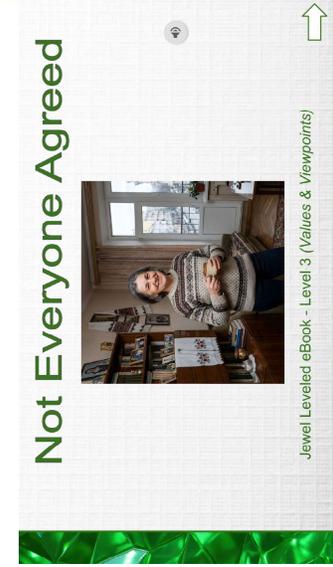
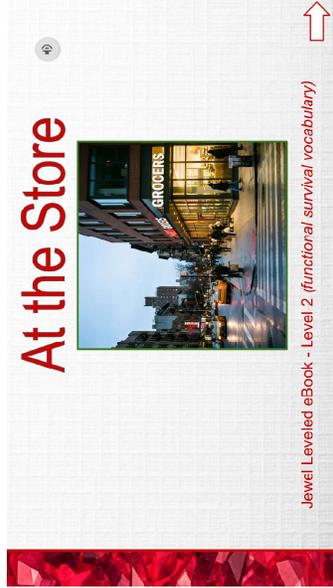
A High School Journalist Tells Her Story



Click or use arrow keys to advance pages

# A VISIT TO THE FARM

## [Jewel Leveled eBooks](#) (30 books - levels 1-3)



## [Five-Minute Jokes eBooks](#) (20 eBooks)



Let's Read Together



Also located at <https://www.literacytidbits.org/the-seasons/spring>

## Why Use Google Slides?

Compared to using word processing software:

- easier to move text and images around
- document is stored in the cloud and saved automatically
- can easily add multimedia components
- can create custom-sized slides
- can easily share with others



## Viewing Slides eBooks

Can be viewed:

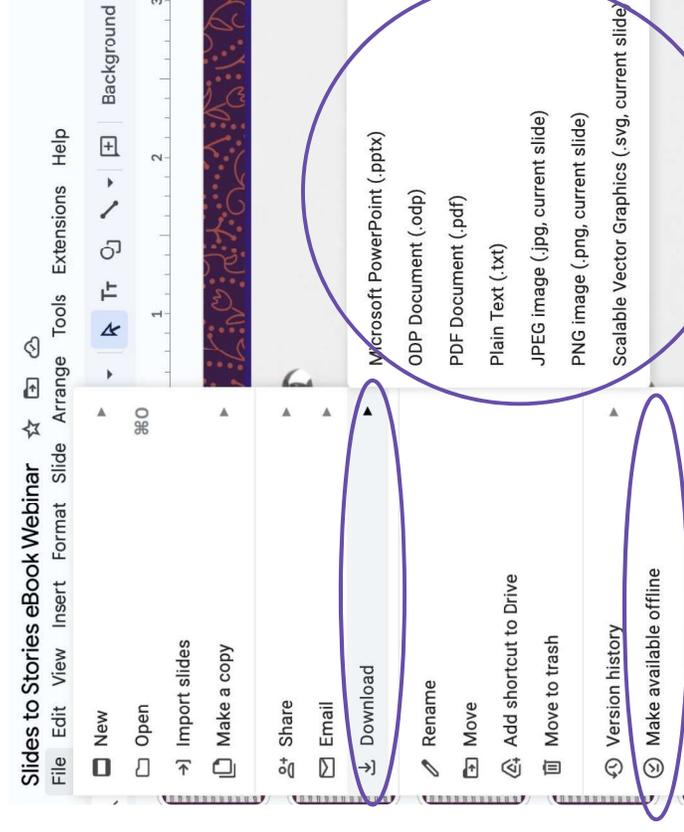
- online on any device
- offline (multimedia might not work)
- downloaded as a PDF



## Viewing Offline & Downloading

In Google Slides, to "make available offline" means to download a copy of the presentation to your device so you can view, create, and edit it without an internet connection. Once you go back online, your offline edits will be synchronized with the version stored in Google Drive.

You can also download in a variety of formats.



Ebooks can be:

- teacher-created
- student-created
- group-created



## Plan the Story



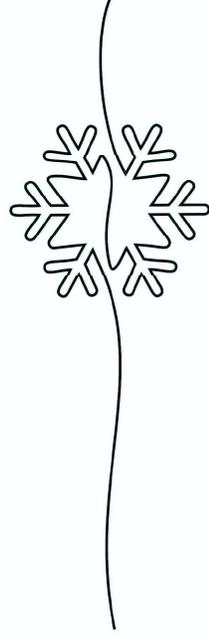
- Build on previous learning
- Use learned vocabulary
- Build context
- Consider learner's level of English proficiency
- Provide cultural context

## Story Considerations

- Fiction, non-fiction, autobiographical, etc?
- Appropriate length?
- Avoid juvenile concepts in picture eBooks
- Available multimedia informs story
- How will text and visuals interact to aid in comprehension?



# Let's Get Started



## Design Elements

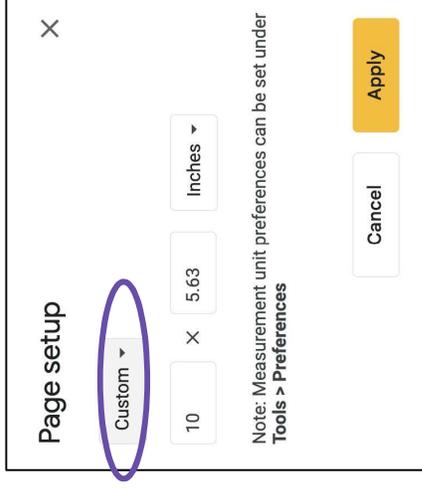
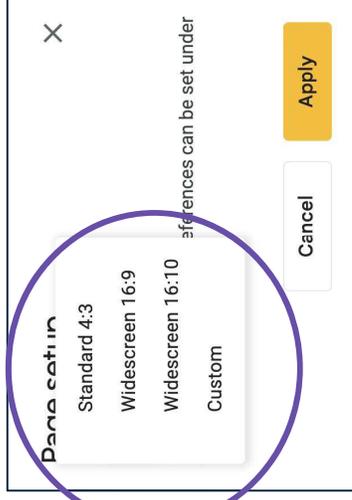
Select design elements, such as backgrounds, bindings, & borders which enhance the story rather than distract from it.



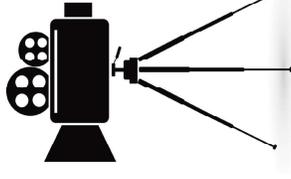
Gift:

- [eBook Design Elements collection](#) (make copy for your Drive)

# Page Size



- File > Page setup
- Select preset size or
- Select custom for unique size

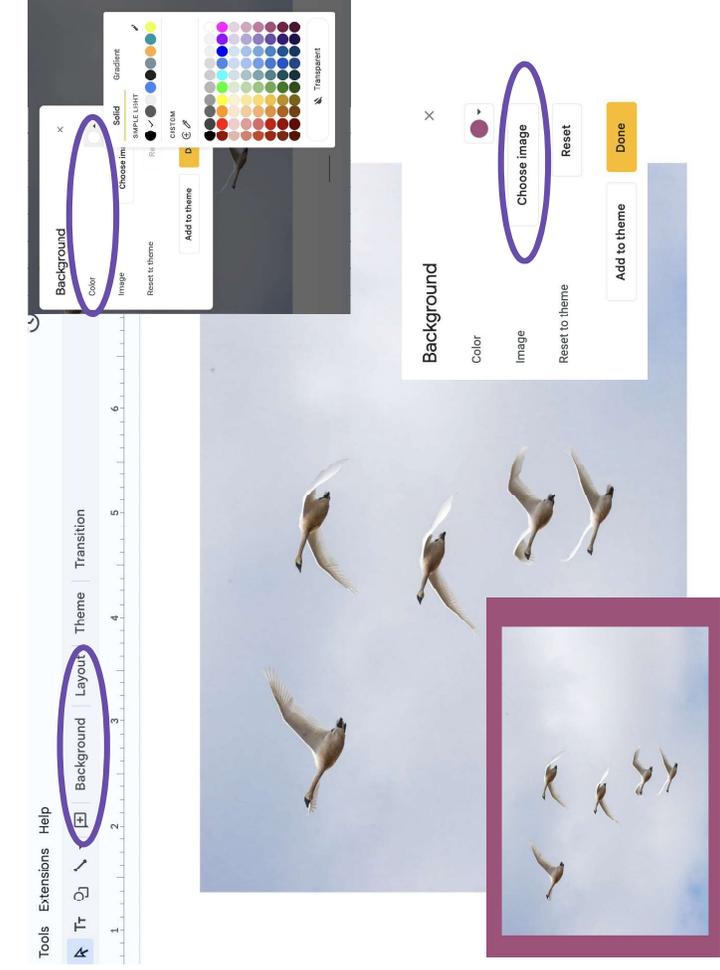


## Tip #1: Copy/Paste a Template

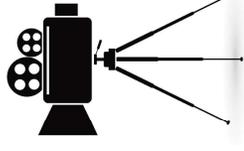
After you have set up one slide as a template with desired text boxes and graphics, copy/paste multiple slides that will follow the same design. Alternately, use View > Theme builder.



# Background Colors & Patterns



Click outside of any items to access the Background toolbar option. Select a background color or upload a background image.



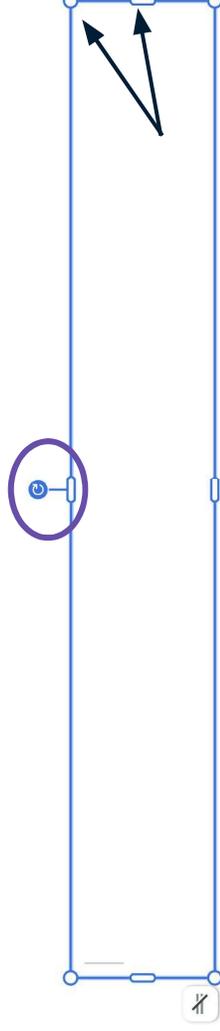
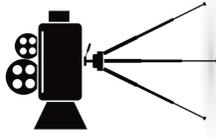
## Tip #2: Undo/Redo

Use the Undo and Redo arrows to quickly fix mistakes.

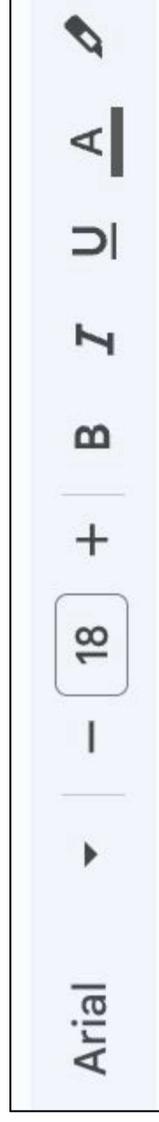


## Text Boxes

- Insert > Text box
- Draw the text box on the slide
- Use the resize handles to adjust the size
- Use the rotation handle to adjust the angle
- Click in the text box to drag it to another location



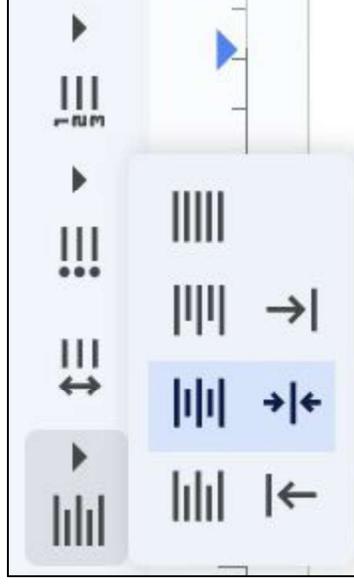
## Text Editing



Highlight text to activate the text editing toolbar. Use it to change the font and font size. Also, boldface, italicize, and underline text. Change the color of text and highlight it.

## Text Editing

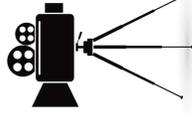
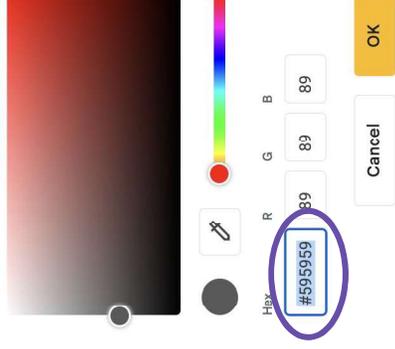
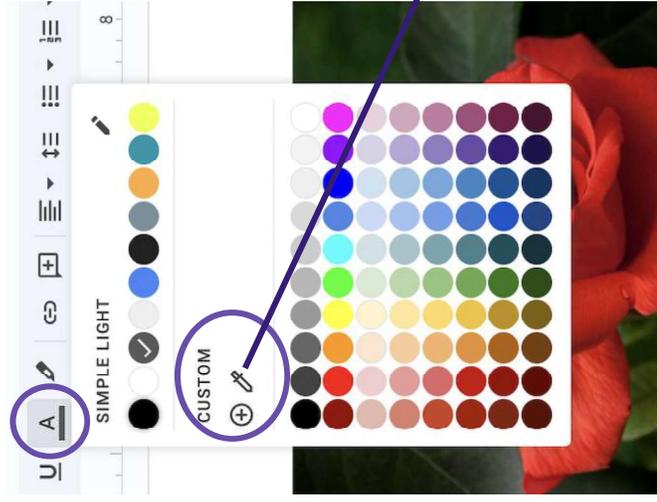
Use the same toolbar to edit text alignment, spacing, and bullets.



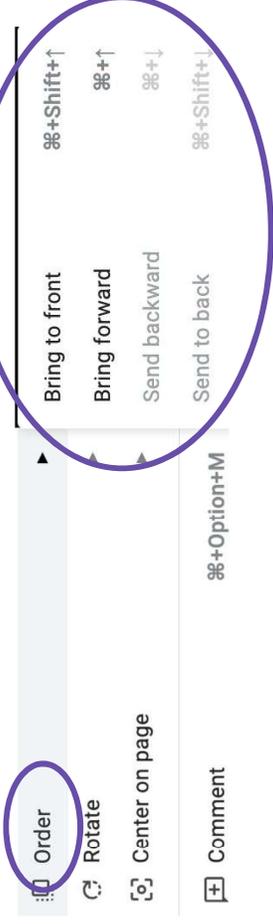
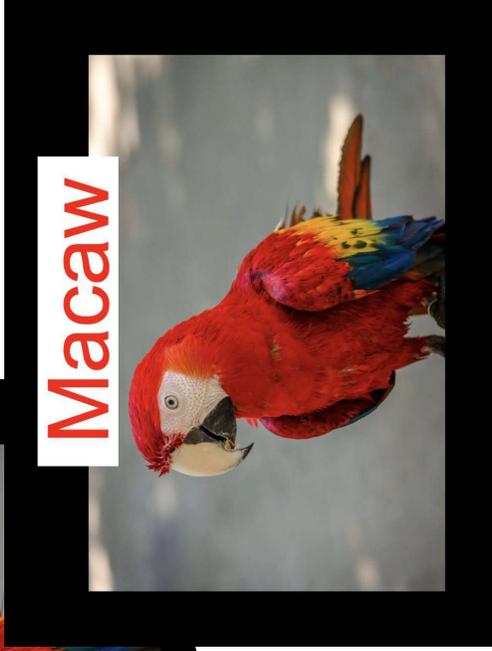
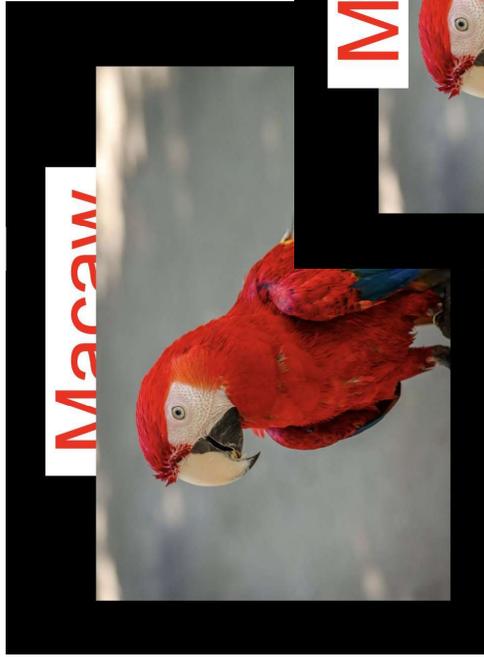
# Custom Colors: Eyedropper Tool

To choose a custom color, highlight the text, click on the text color icon. Then,

- select a color
- click the + sign to enter a hex code
- use the eyedropper tool to select a color already on the slide.

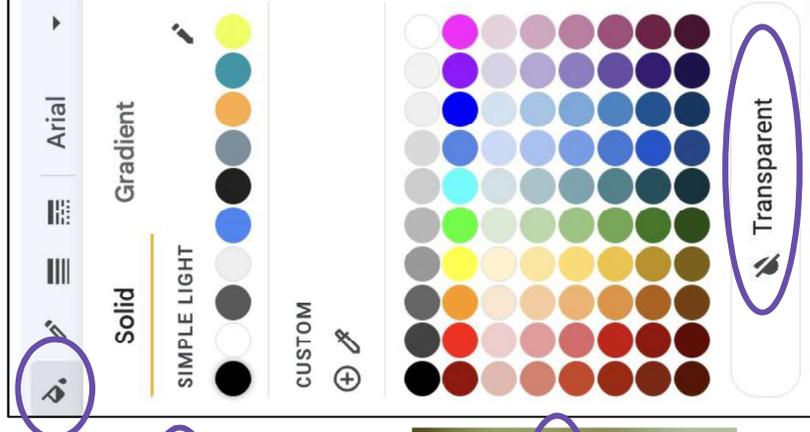
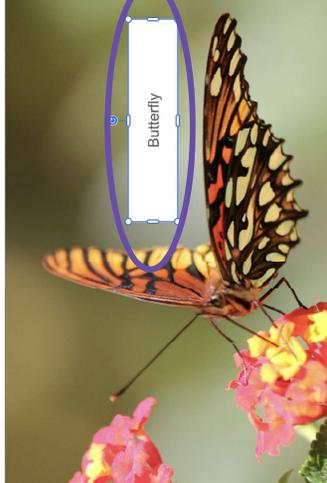
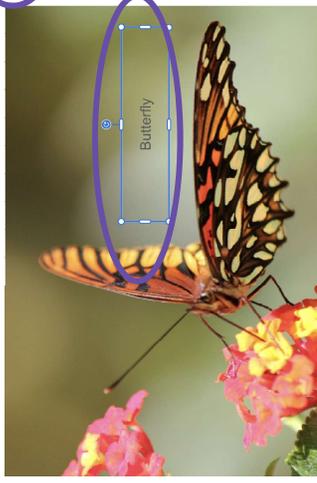


# Layers & Visibility



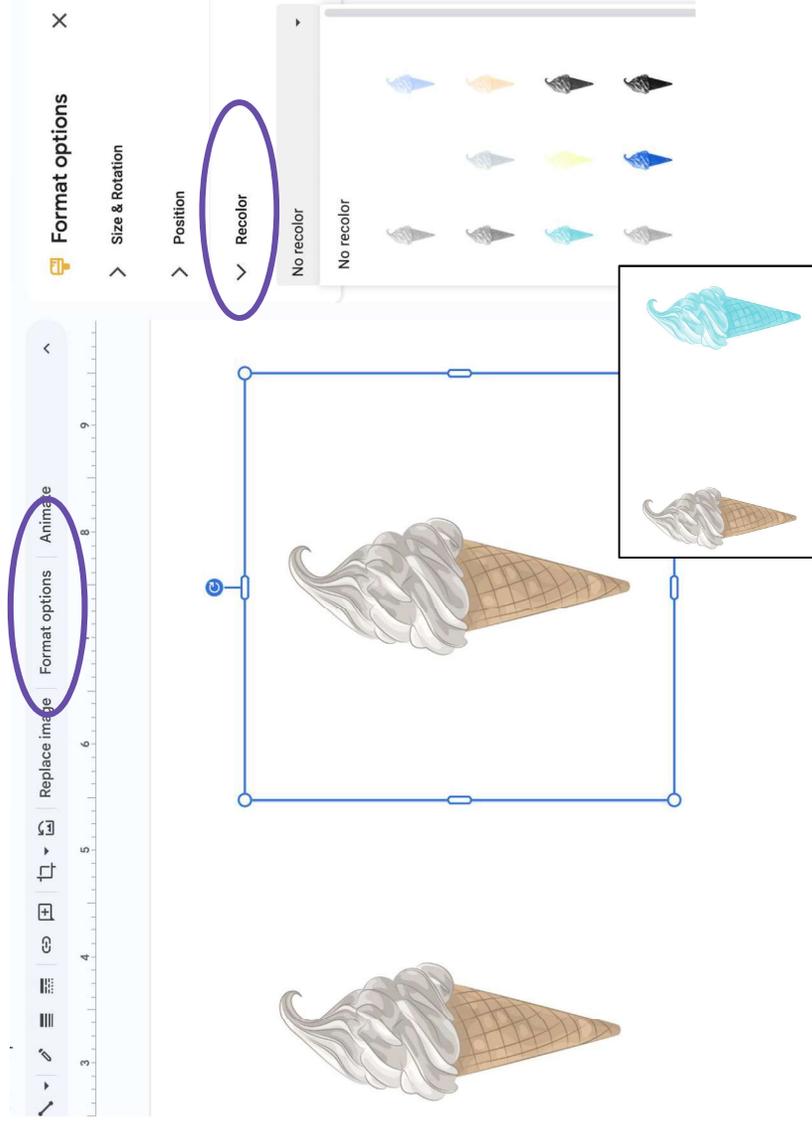
Right-click on object to activate menu > select Order > change the layered order of the object

## Fill & Transparent Fill



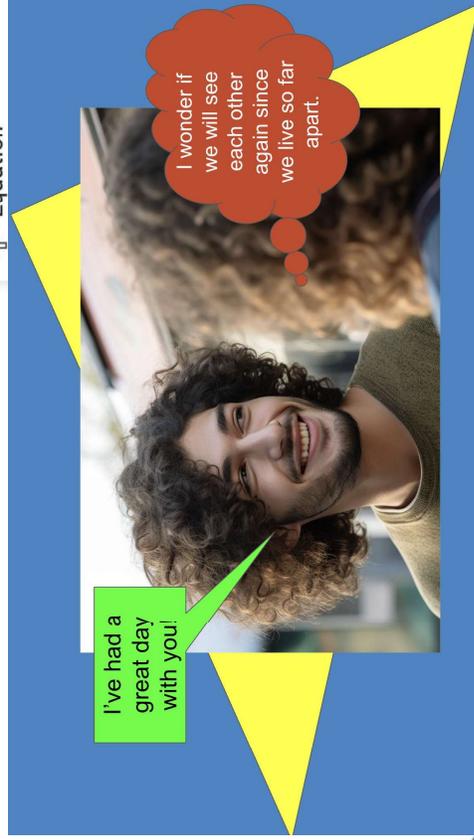
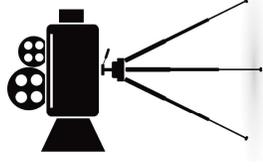
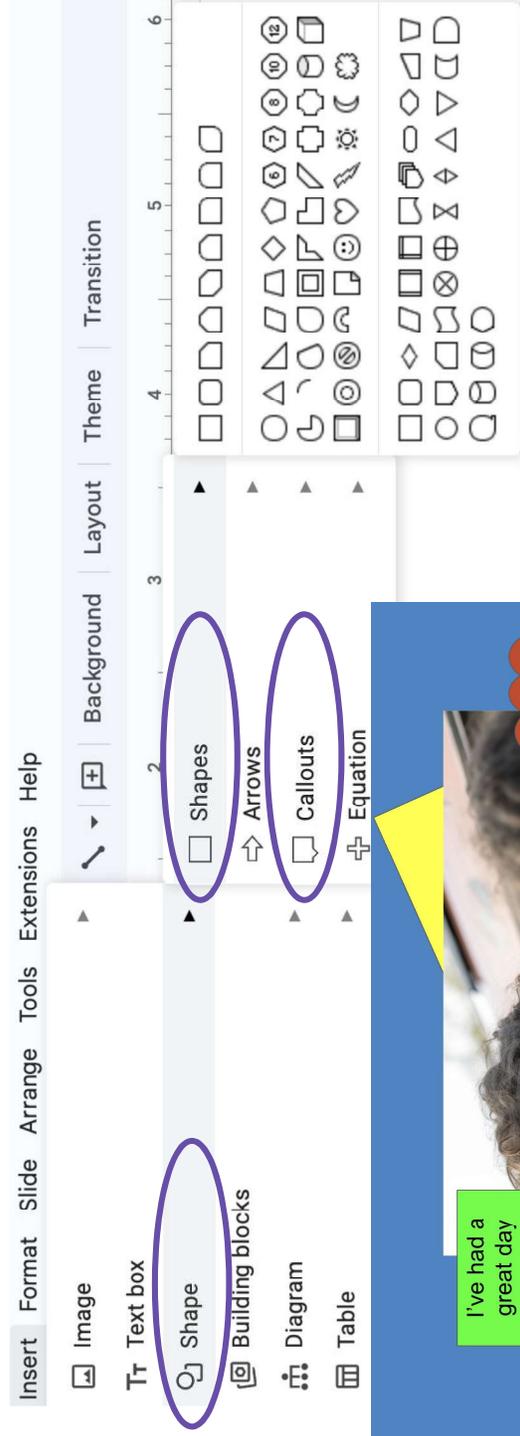
Use the bucket icon to color fill text boxes and shapes for greater visibility. Select Transparent for no fill.

# Recolor Objects



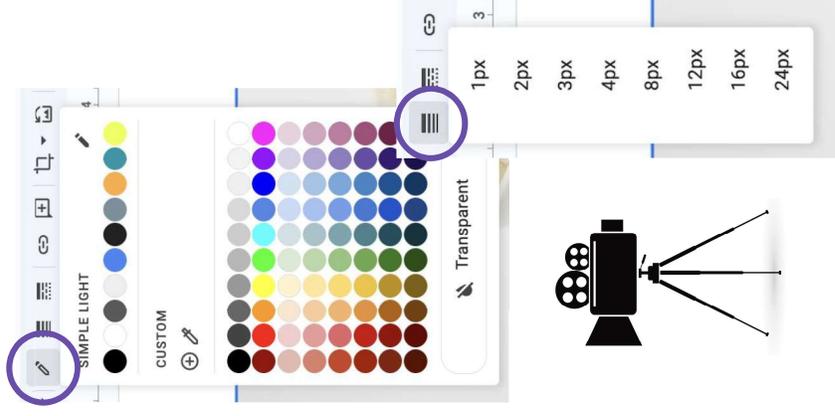
Click on an  
object > Format  
options > No  
Recolor to see  
recolor options

# Shapes & Speech Bubbles



Insert > Shape > Shapes OR  
Callouts to add various  
shapes and speech or  
thought bubbles

## Borders



Add a border to define images, shapes, & text boxes. Click on the item & select the Border Color & Border Weight icons. Use the Transparent choice to remove the border.

## Adding Fonts & Word Art

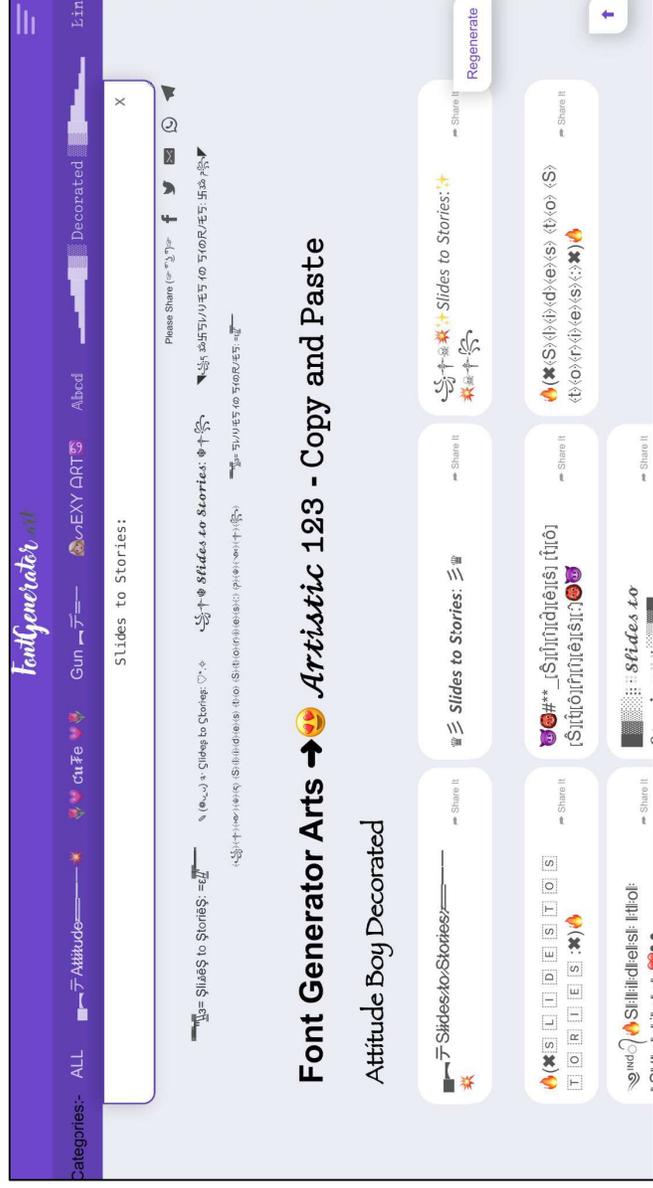
Change the font by clicking on the text box > Font icon

Choose More Fonts to view other Google fonts that you can add to your font list

Insert > Word art to get 3D style lettering that you can further edit



# Online Font Generators



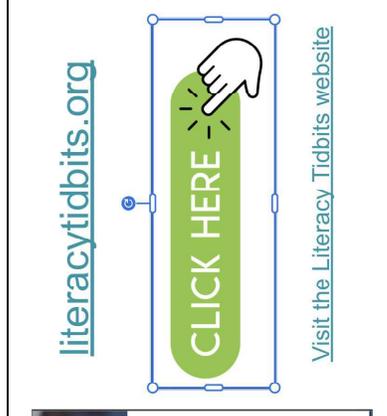
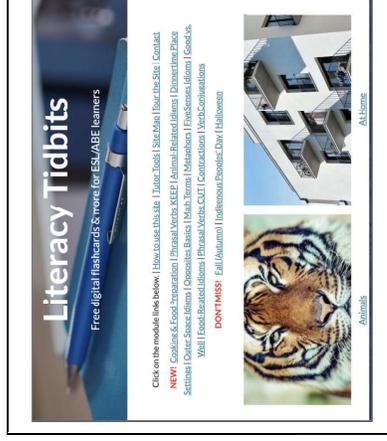
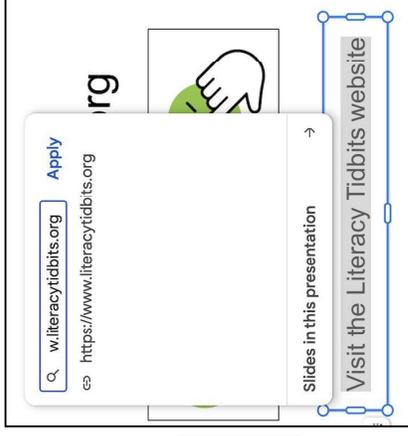
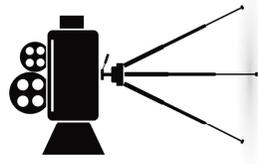
Use online font generators to create artistic fonts.

Fast,  
Flexible,  
Free

<https://www.fontgenerator.art>

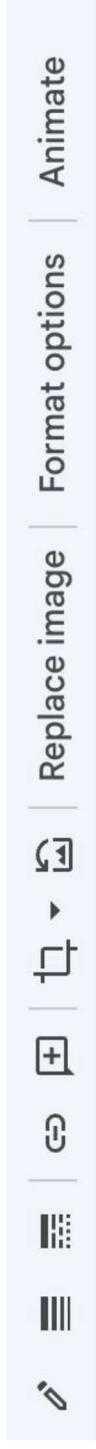
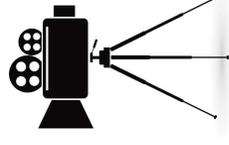
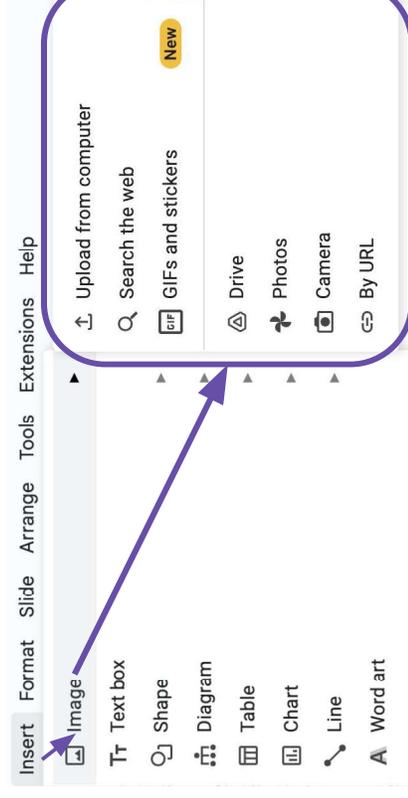
## Adding Links

Click on text, images, and shapes to make them website links or to connect to other links in slideshow. Access the link icon in the toolbar to enter the URL. Website text is automatically converted.



## Adding Images

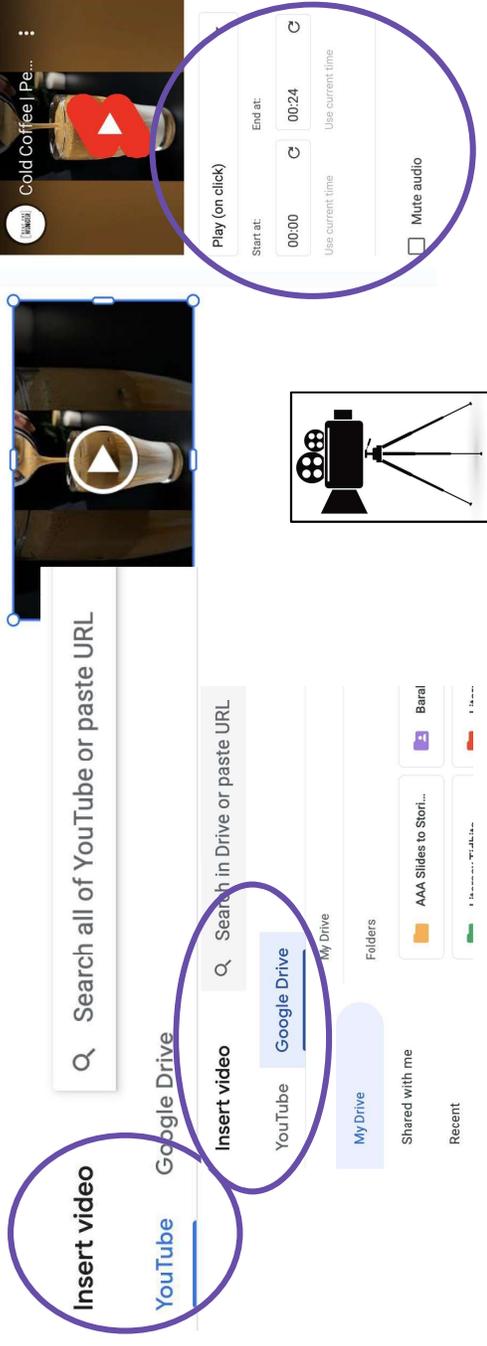
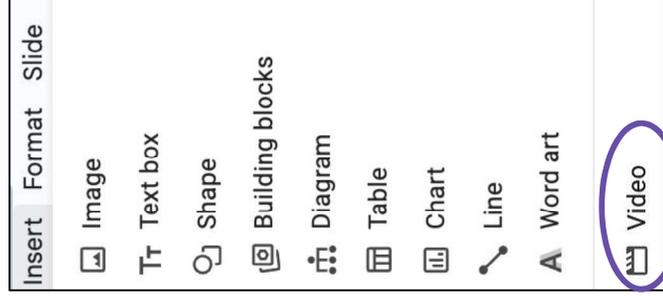
- Insert > image
- Select image as upload from computer, search the web, or locate in Drive.
- Also drag image directly into slide
- Click on image to activate image toolbar; select options, such as adding a border, cropping, & formatting.



## More About Images

- Avoid bias; be inclusive to represent a wide range of people.
- Depict people of various ages, ethnicities, religions, orientations, and abilities.
- Get photos from royalty-free sites, such as Getty Images, Shutterstock, & iStock.
- I use 123RF, which also has a free section of photos.
- Also, use your own photos, hand-draw/scan, or digitally draw images

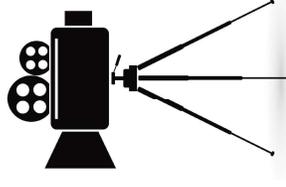
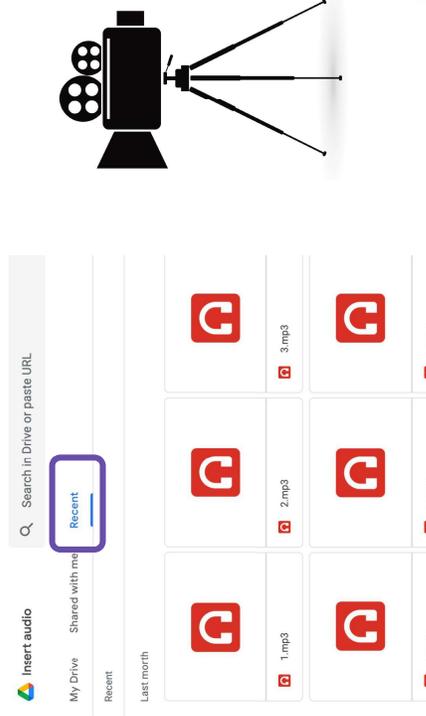
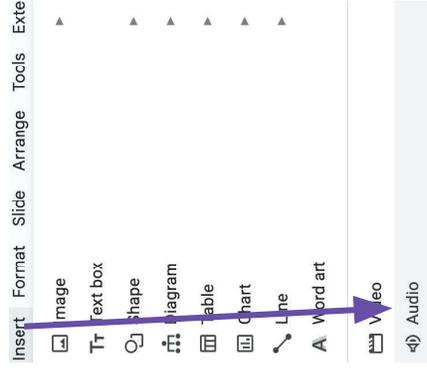
# Adding Video



- Add video (File > Insert) by using a link to a YouTube or a Google Drive file. Make sure Drive videos have shared viewing permissions
- Format video to adjust start/end times and to mute audio.

## eAudiobooks: Adding Audio

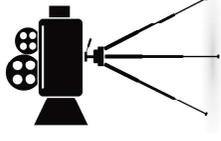
- Create a folder in Drive to hold eBook audio files.
- Drag files into the folder working backward from the highest number.
- For each slide
  - Insert > Audio
  - Select Recent
  - Drag the audio icon to the preferred location on the Slide.
- To easily record audio, see the [Audacity software playlist](#)



# Page Turn Animation

The screenshot shows a presentation software interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Layout', 'Theme', and 'Transition', with 'Transition' circled in purple. Below the tabs is a timeline with markers from 4 to 9. To the right of the timeline are icons for 'Slideshow' and 'Share'. The main content area shows a slide with a hummingbird image and the text 'Hummingbird'. A purple circle highlights the 'Motion' icon in the top right corner. Below the slide, a 'Slide Transition' menu is open, listing options: None, Dissolve, Fade, Slide from right, Slide from left, Flip, Cube, and Gallery. The 'Slide from right' option is selected. Below the menu, there are settings for 'Slide Transition' (checked), a dropdown menu set to 'Slide from right', a speed slider set to 'Fast', and a button labeled 'Apply to all slides'. Below these settings is an 'Object Animations' section with a plus sign and the text 'Select an object to animate', and a yellow 'Play' button.

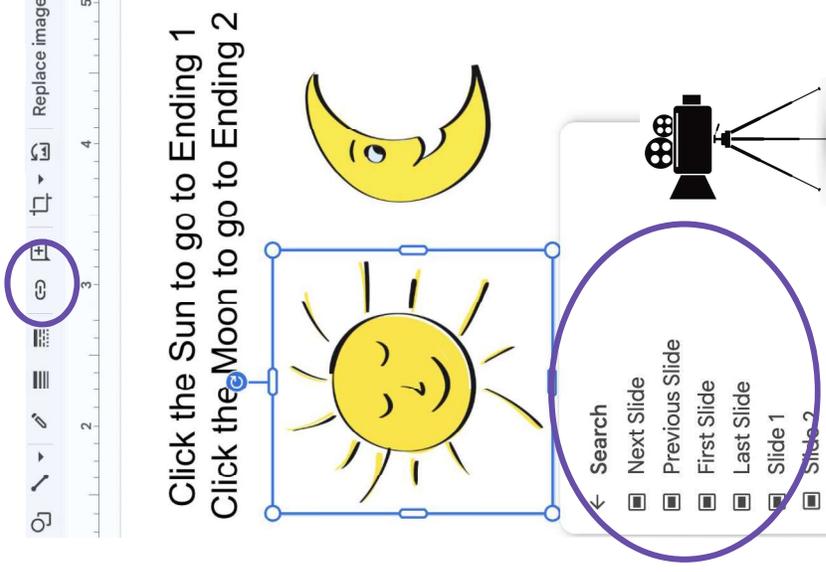
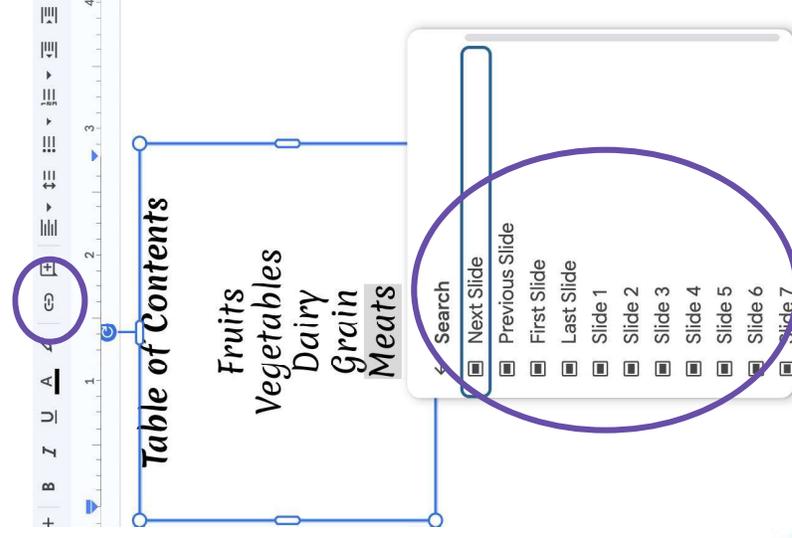
Click outside all objects to activate the transition icon.  
Select Slide Transition > Slide from right > Apply to all slides. Play to test.



# Creating a Table of Contents

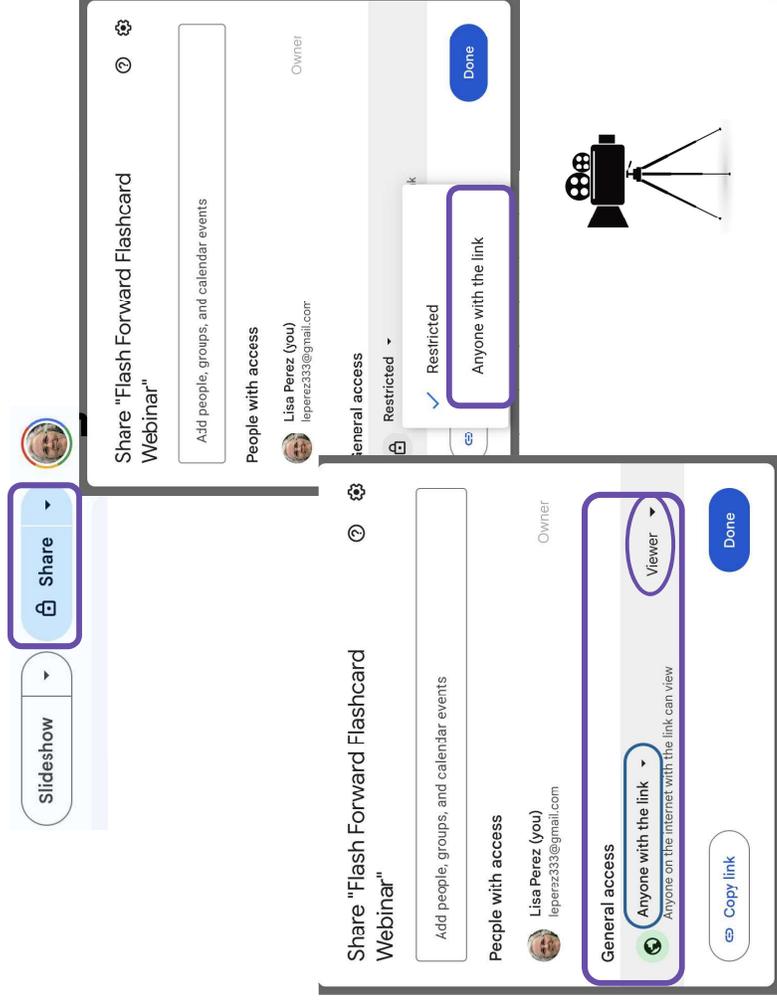
Link words, such as a list of chapters, or images to other slides in the deck

Click on the text/image > link icon > select desired slide



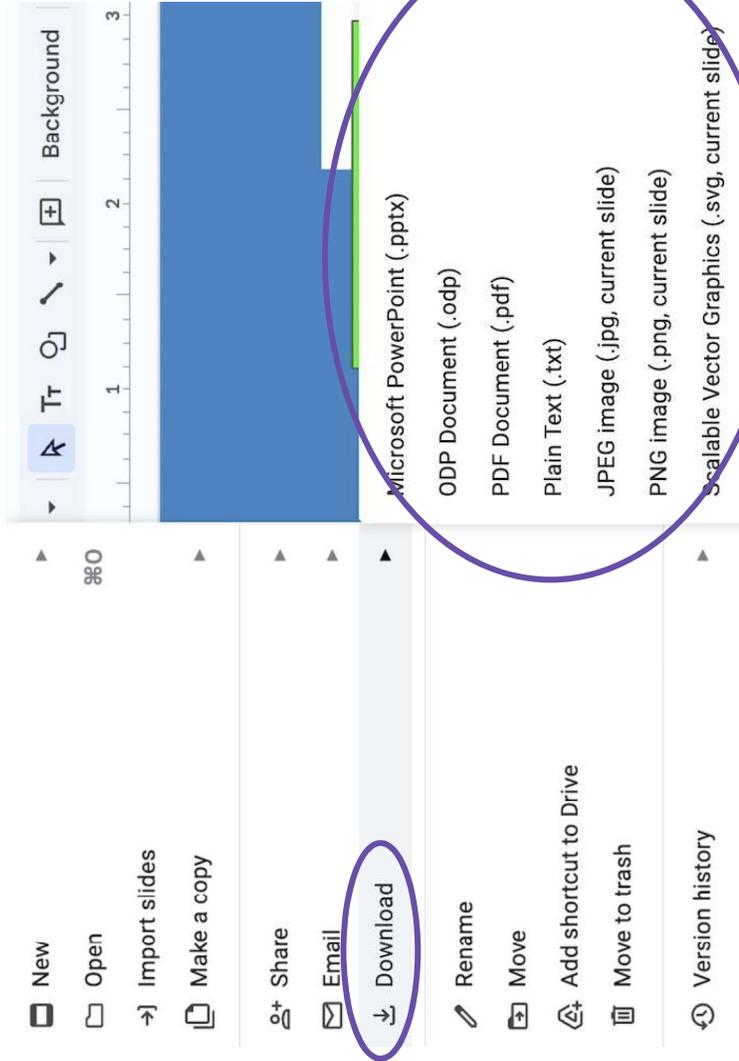
## Sharing Links with Your Students

- Click Share button at top right
- Change access to “Anyone with the link”
- Select “Viewer”
- Click the Copy link button and send link to learner to view outside of class
- **Watch video for more info on sharing link directly to presentation view**

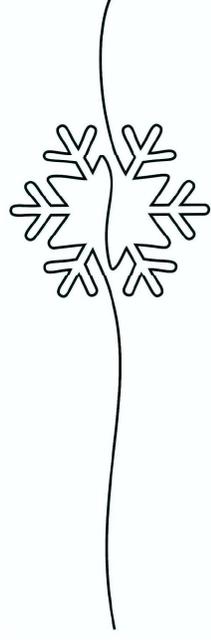


If needed,  
eBooks can be  
downloaded to  
PDF or other  
formats. File >  
Download

## Downloading eBooks



# Let's Make an EBook Together



# Snow Day

*An unexpected day of relaxation and merriment*



1. Find a slide.
2. Add a photo by Insert > Image > Stock & web
3. Write a sentence or two to describe the activity.

See the completed group-made eBook at <https://www.literacytidbits.org/the-seasons/winter>

Lisa Perez  
Volunteer Tutor  
[leperez333@gmail.com](mailto:leperez333@gmail.com)



Google Slides training video playlist:  
YouTube eBooks playlist: <https://shorturl.at/3KZz5>  
YouTube Audacity training video playlist: <https://shorturl.at/MrTWZ>  
YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@leperez333>