Nexus: Enhancing Functionality

-The block feature in Nexus has a variety of options, which if taken advantage of can significantly improve the functionality of your site.

Adding Blocks

1. In the upper left hand corner, find the navigation bar. Click on My courses and click on whichever course you want to work with.
   - Your Nexus “My home” page can be edited, as well, by clicking “Customize this page” in the right hand corner, and proceeding with the following instructions.

2. In the upper right corner click “Turn editing on” (if you are on a course page).

3. On the nexus page you should see the “Add a block” option at the bottom of the right column. Click on the drop down menu which includes several options.

4. After you have chosen which block you wish to work with, you can select it to make it appear in the right column of your Nexus page.
   - Any block can be further edited by clicking on the writing hand directly below the title of the block.

The Moodle software offers a variety of addable “blocks”. These blocks range from HTML editors to RSS feeds and can significantly improve communication between students and faculty, as well as bring more excitement to the digital aspects of a course.

HTML Block:
- The HTML block is very useful for embedding interactive features into the sidebar of the page. Pictures, audio clips, videos, and almost any additional files can be embedded in the sidebar using the HTML block. Files are added in the same way here, as on other pages.
- The HTML block has all the abilities of any embedded editor, letting you interact with students in a variety of ways. Post interesting videos, play engaging music, or even create a gallery of photos, for students and faculty to enjoy.

Activities Block:
- The activities block is quite useful in orienting your page. It will list all of the different activities you have added in the course. For instance, if students need to easily access several wikis they can click on the Wikis label in the block and it will present them with all the current wikis featured in the course. No need to scroll and search!

![Activities Block](image)

Section Links:
- The Section Links block is also useful in terms of navigation. It displays all the different sections of the course so that students and faculty don’t need to scroll to find different sections.

RSS Feed:
- The RSS Feed block allows users to constantly have news and information streaming from all over the internet.

1. After selecting the RSS block, scroll down and click on the edit button under Remote News Feeds.
2. Click on Add/edit feeds.
3. Click “Add a new feed”. Enter the URL of the feed you wish to display and press Add a new feed.
4. Go back to the course page and scroll down to the Remote News Feed once again, clicking the edit button. You should now see the feed you just added, which you can select and then add a title to.
5. Click save changes and return to the course page. The block should now display the title you chose with the feed that you subscribed to underneath.