



## **Students' perception of the use of infographics at Canva application in accomplishing TOEFL class assignment**

**Aminatus Zahroh<sup>1✉</sup>, Lasmi Febrianingrum<sup>1</sup>**

*<sup>1</sup>English Education Department, Institut Agama Islam Negeri Madura*

*Jl. Raya Panglegur KM. 4, Pamekasan 69371, Indonesia*

*✉aminatuzahroh1404@gmail.com*

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**Abstract:** Canva application is an application that provides some features that allow the user to make some interesting designs. This application was used in a TOEFL class assignment in sixth semester of the English Study Program IAIN Madura in the year 2021-2022; the lecturer asked her students to make an infographic dealing with the material that was discussed in the class by using Canva application. How the students perceive in accomplishing the TOEFL class assignment by using an infographic at Canva application and how they used it are the focuses discussed in this study. The mixed method design was used as a data collection procedure by obtaining the data through interview, observation, questionnaire, and documentation. The sixth-semester students of English Education Department IAIN Madura in the year 2021-2022 who join the TOEFL class become the primary source, while their assignment result, especially their infographic, is secondary source of this study in knowing how the students use Canva application. The result shows that most sixth-semester students have a positive form of perception. They feel enjoy and comfortable and find it easier to do the assignment since it provides interesting features and design, easy to apply and modify. The students acknowledged that the use of the Canva application in making infographics worthy enough to resume any materials in a picturesque, readable, and memorable manner. Most students also use Canva Application with infographic design features with free templates.

**Keywords:** Canva application; students' perception; TOEFL assignment.

### **A. Introduction**

Teaching is the interaction of teachers or learning resources in a learning environment with the learners. Teaching also can be interpreted as assistance or direction given by teachers until there are a process of gaining knowledge, mastery of skills and habits, and forming and believing in learners (Djamiluddin & Wardana, 2019). Therefore,

how teachers teach can influence the learning process because it determines whether the learning process is successful.

In the implementation, the teaching and learning process has several kinds of media that help the lecturers explain and convey the material and help the learners easier to understand and get the point of the material that lecturers give; as stated by [Smaldino, et al., \(2019\)](#) media means as anything that can carry information from sources to the receivers. Therefore, teachers should be innovative in use the media, as [Utomo et al. \(2021\)](#) found in their research, while the learning method was changed from offline to online, learning tools or the learning media that used by teachers would like to upgrade and interactive.

In the era of technological developments like nowadays, media in the teaching and learning process also have some impacts, such as the use of various digital applications that have begun to facilitate the teaching and learning process. It was like the Canva application that contributed to be used as media to give an assignment. Canva is one application that provides some graphic design tools, such as some graphics, photos, and fonts that can be used and edited by the user to make their design ([Christiana & Anwar, 2021](#)). While talking about assignment, [Fauzan and Kasim \(2020\)](#) stated that assignment is a part of teaching and learning process which can help students to explore their ideas and improve their creativity, performance, and their motivation in learning that is settled in textbook or as homework. In addition, they also stated that beside the students, teachers also get a benefit by giving assignment for the students, such as it can make them easier to make decision dealing with teaching and learning process. Moreover, according to [Ulum \(2020\)](#), assignment means as practical tools that used to provide the learning experiences and develop student skills, where the assignment was given to achieve the behavior change that was needed.

Terms of students' perception are formed from two words; they are students and perception. According to [Dimiyati and Mudjiono \(2009\)](#), students are a subject which involves to the teaching and learning process. They also stated that students are an individual who are attached by teaching process and give the response in form of learning process.

According to [Doemelt \(1946\)](#), he stated that to found the best definition of perception is not easy, because there is no valid agreement yet among those who is focused on working in this field. Even though there are some experts who still provide some statements related to the definition of perception, such as according to [Slavin \(2012\)](#), perception refers to mental interpretation when sense receive stimuli which according to what our sense perceived not just what someone saw, heard, or felt. Furthermore, [Démuth \(2013\)](#) interprets perception as a process of obtaining and processing information. Perception is a privilege that held to justify someone believes without required justification [Nes at al. \(2023\)](#).

Moreover, perception is a process of collecting impressions by ing, organizing, and interpreting individuals sensory to give a value to their environment [Robbins and Judge \(2013\)](#). In addition, perception of individuals may differ from each other even though they are describing the same conditions in the same times because they assumed that people's behavior is based on their perception of reality, not reality itself [Robbins and Judge \(2013\)](#). It also related with [Barroso \(2013\)](#) who stated that perception is linked to the construction of meaning. It refers to what in every moment acquires a specific meaning.

According to [Mayasari \(2019\)](#), perception is a response towards an object where there are two forms of perception based on when the stimulus of the object happened and where the stimulus of the object was affected. These two forms of perception are positive and negative perception. Positive perception refers to the overview or perception of an object where the individual (a person who get the stimulus of the object) received the object because it was suitable for his suit., The negative perception is overview or perception of an object where the individuals (a person who get the stimulus of the object) rejected the object because is not suitable for his own personal suit.

Furthermore, according to [Utami and Djamdjuri \(2021\)](#), Canva is a visual media resource that allows users to design any content that can be accessed on mobile applications or desktop browsers. In addition, they also stated that creative documents and beautiful layouts can be created by using Canva. Moreover, [Fauziyah at al. \(2022\)](#) stated that Canva is application that has an interactive design and features that easy to access to increase the user creativity. Therefore, [Ilham at al. \(2022\)](#) stated that Canva can

make the presentation through the class more interesting and not boring for educators and students.

Moreover, according to [Yundayani et al., \(2019\)](#), Canva is an application that can provide experience for students to engage in a creative process and allow them to repeat the information by remembering their previous knowledge. In addition, they also stated that Canva is a simple tool that allows users to create and make an infographic for presenting materials in the teaching and learning process that is very user-friendly, therefore everyone can use it.

Therefore, based on some definitions mentioned above, it can conclude that Canva application is application design which can be used as visual media that provides any design features to make an interesting layout and design of documents. Canva can also use in teaching and learning as media to give students experience to increase their creativity and allow them to remember any information.

According to the official website of Canva application, some design features of Canva application can used by users. They organize the design features into some parts based on the types of fields and the function of the features, including social media, personal, business, marketing, education, and others.

In educational settings, the infographic can be used as media assignment in teaching and learning. Infographic means presenting informational content using visual presentation which can quickly tell the content, shows relationship, or reveal the structure ([Dunlap & Lowenthal, 2016](#)). In other words, infographic is a graphic form that visualizations of information that will help people convey the message to their audience by changing the information into graphic design [Tilburgs \(2018\)](#). Based on these definitions, it can be concluded that infographic is an outcome of people's design that has a purpose of conveying information in form of visual result, such as a picture or document where we can find the blend of graphics, colors, text, and some icons in it.

According to [Marabella \(2014\)](#), infographics should made without including a lot of text, because it should represent the information as visually as possible. Therefore, Marabella, according to the "Email Design Checklist" from emailmonks.com (2013) provides some tips for creating a good infographic, include: Use short sentences and paragraphs, Use design elements like spacing and dividing lines to distinguish the content

sections from one another, Use bold typeface and sub-headers to make certain words stand out, Use bullet points to showcase benefits, Use 8.5" x 11" paper size, and The colors limited to three or four in each design.

This study also comes up with the TOEFL, Test of English as a Foreign Language. According to [Phillips \(2003\)](#), TOEFL is a test to measure English proficiency of whom are held English as foreign language (non-native speakers of English). In addition, [Phillips \(2003\)](#) also stated that the TOEFL test exists in two formats of test, first is paper test and second is computer test format. Furthermore, as [Wainer and Lukhele \(1997\)](#) stated in their book with the title 'How Reliable is the TOEFL Test?', The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) represents a modern test for English Language that consist of several sections and a mixture of item types. They also stated that traditionally TOEFL contain of three timed section that are listening comprehension, structure and written expression, and vocabulary and reading comprehension.

Therefore, based on some definition that was mentioned above it can conclude that TOEFL test is a standardized test for nonnative English speakers to measure their ability in English. In this kind of test, they should complete some section of test based on the basic skill in English, including; listening comprehension section, structure and written expression, and the last section is dealing with their reading comprehension.

Some studies have been conducted previously regarding this topic. [Utami & Djamdjuri \(2021\)](#) discussed the students' perception of their motivation in writing class using the Canva application at Senior High School Bigin Teluk. The results of this study state that the use of Canva application in the writing class has a positive impact on the students, such as increasing students' motivation and abilities in writing class. Besides positive impact, students also have some obstacles in using Canva application, such as needing more time to design using this application and having to pay for a premium account for using some pictures and elements without watermark.

The second previous study is also journal written by [Elsa Christiana and Khoirul Anwar \(2021\)](#). This journal discussed how the English teachers perceive the use of Canva application to create virtual learning media in Loei, Thailand. Then, the result of this study describes that the Canva application can be used and facilitate the teachers to create learning media and improve their online teaching process based on this study, the Canva

application also has benefits to improve learning media used by teachers effectively and it is also easy to share to the students.

The third previous study is also an article written by [Muhamad Sofian Hadi et al., \(2021\)](#). This journal discussed the effectiveness of using the Canva application to enhance students' writing performance or skills. From the research analysis of students' writing test scores and the t-test calculation, it can be concluded that the result of this study is Canva application become an effective media to helping students to enhance their writing performance. The results of this study state that the use of Canva application in the writing class has a positive impact on the students, such as increasing students' motivation and abilities in writing class.

The similarity of those previous studies with this study is that both studies discussed the use of Canva application in teaching and learning. While, the differences are this previous study focus on the effectiveness of Canva application if it is used as learning media to enhance students' writing performance, Another difference are this previous study used a quantitative method, which is a pre-experimental study design by applying pre-test and post-test to obtain the data, but this study was use a qualitative method which is descriptive research design by interview, observation, and documentation.

From all previous studies, it can be seen that they share the same focus, i.e., the implementation of Canva Application in general. However, this study focuses more on the use of infographic feature in Canva Application as media assignment and how students perceive it. This phenomenon was applied in the TOEFL class at the sixth semester of the English department IAIN Madura. The lecturer of the TOEFL class gave an individual assignment to the students using the Canva application. The students have to make a review of the material that has been discussed in the class. This kind of assignment is different from others because in giving the assignment, the lecturer did not ask the students to write down or type the review in a piece of paper like the traditional concept, but the lecturer asked them to make an infographic that contains their review about the material by using Canva application as an assignment form to make their review of material become more interesting. In this case, the students become the user of this application, therefore they may have a different perception dealing with the use of the Canva application. This study become important because these perceptions can help the

teachers decide how they will manage and fix their media in teaching and learning process to give more positive impact or value and make it better in the future. The use of Canva Application in TOEFL class as media assignment also make this study important because it is usually Canva Application only used for visual media or design, while in TOEFL class this application used as media to accomplish students' assignment to make it more readable and memorable.

Hence, "Students' Perception on the Use of Infographic at Canva Application in Accomplishing TOEFL Class Assignment" are the title of this study which puts students and their perceptions as the main focus of the study. Based on those phenomena, knowing about how the sixth semester students of TBI IAIN Madura perceive on the use of Canva application and how they use it become the focuses that discussed in this study.

## **B. Method**

This study used mixed method design which described qualitative approach and quantitative approach. The questionnaire would be represented as the quantitative data which showed and described the students' percentage in perceiving the use of Canva application in the form of easiness, interest and agreement to be future media assignment. While observation, interview and documentation would be represented the qualitative data that supporting the statements from the primary data which describes how students perceive the use of Canva application. The subjects of this study were sixth semester students of English Study Program IAIN Madura in the year 2021-2022 and their assignment result, exactly their infographic. While, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification is used to analyze the data. Triangulation of data sources and triangulation of data collection technique is used to checking the data validity in this study.

## **C. Result and Discussion**

### **1. The Sixth semester students' perception on the use of Canva application in the TOEFL assignment**

Based on the interview, some information was obtained about how students perceive the use of the Canva application and how they use it. From this interview session, the result showed that the sixth-semester students in the TOEFL class at TBI IAIN Madura is using the Canva application to make their assignment, where they agree with their lecturer who suggested and used this application as a media assignment in the TOEFL class because they feel more easier if using this application with the design features that was provide and exist in this application, such as the infographic design features template. Besides this reason, the students also thought that by using and knowing this application, they would get new knowledge about editing design, and it would make them easier to learn again and remember the materials because in the TOEFL class, the students will learn so many tips and tricks to answer all of the question sections in the TOEFL test. Therefore, it would sound great if the material was summarized into an interesting infographic. As stated by the interviewee (Y.R.) in the interview session related to how they perceive the use of the Canva application in the TOEFL class:

Yes, I do. I think it is very appropriate to use in TOEFL class assignments because Canva is very easy to use. Moreover, in the application there are already various templates available so we can immediately use them (personal communication, October 12, 2022).

This statement relates to the statement from the interviewee (A.O.T.), who said:

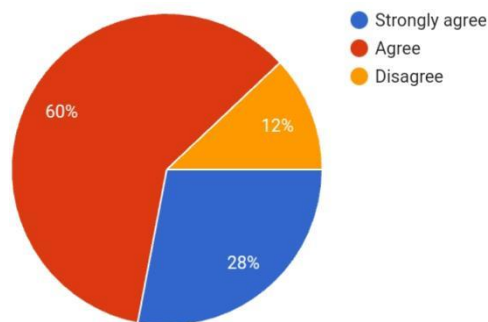
Yes, I do agree with the use of Canva application as a media assignment in TOEFL class because for me by getting the assignment and then we need to use *Canva*, it gave the benefits for me, which are I can be more creative and I capable of making an interesting infographic even though I am not a professional designer. And yes, this media is suitable for my skill (personal communication, October 13, 2022)

And she also stated:

Yes, for me it's really appropriate to use Canva in the TOEFL class. In TOEFL class, we need to learn or read a lot about the strategies and the tips on how to answer the TOEFL questions or what kinds of materials that usually use in TOEFL test, and from knowing that all strategies and what are the materials of TOEFL test we can find it from the TOEFL book that's really thick. And I believe that so many students are too lazy to read that thick book, why the infographic made by Canva with interested design, I'm sure the students will more enjoying learn or read TOEFL material from that infographic (personal communication, October 13, 2022)

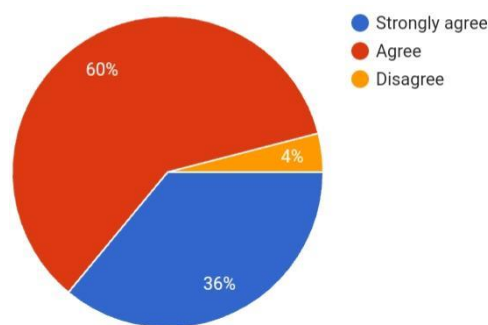
So, based on this interview result most of students said the same statement and agree with this. Therefore, students perceive on the use of Canva application in positive form of perception because they agree with the use of this application because some variation of reasons such as they feel more easier to do their assignment, to remembering the materials, and to make their review more interesting.

Some information about students' perception also obtained from questionnaire. Based on the ' rating in the questionnaire, the result showed that most students agree with using Canva application as a media assignment in TOEFL class. The students are also interested in this application, feel enjoy and comfortable and find it easier to do their assignments. Therefore, they agree and wish their lecturer to continue to use the Canva application as media assignment in the future. This can be known from the result of students' rating in the Google Form below:



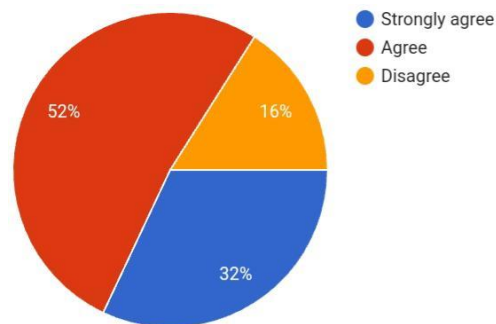
**Figure 1.** Students' agreement to use Canva application

Figure 1 related with sixth semester perception about using *Canva* application as media assignment in TOEFL class. The result of this chart showed that 28% from 25 students strongly agree, 60% from 25 students who agree, and 12% from 25 students who disagree with the use of Canva application. It means that most students agree with their lecturer to use this application to accomplish their TOEFL Assignment.



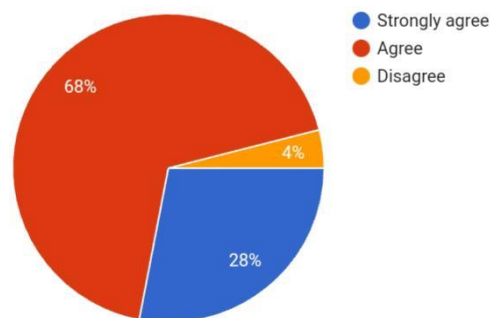
**Figure 2.** Students' interest with Canva application as media assignment

Figure 2 related with sixth semester interest about using Canva application as a media assignment in TOEFL class. The result of this chart showed that 36 % from 25 students strongly agree that they are interested with this application, 60 % from 25 students who agree, and 4% from 25 students who disagree that they are interested with *Canva* application. It means that most of students' interest to use this application in accomplish their TOEFL Assignment.



**Figure 3.** Students' feeling in using *Canva* application

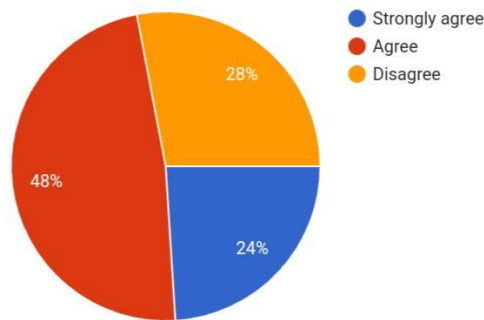
Figure 3 related with sixth semester students' feeling in using Canva application as media assignment in TOEFL class. The result of this chart showed that 32% from 25 students strongly agree that they enjoy and comfortable using this application, 52% from 25 students who agree, and 16% from 25 students who disagree that they enjoy and comfortable using the *Canva* application. It means that most students feel enjoy and comfortable using this application to accomplish their TOEFL Assignment.



**Figure 4.** Students' convenience in using *Canva* application

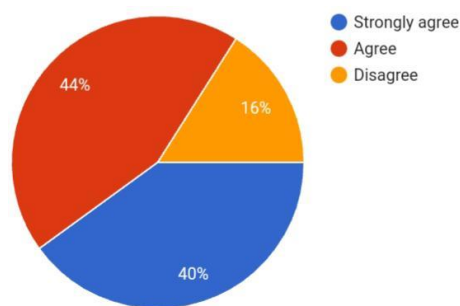
Figure 4 is related with sixth-semester students' convenience in using the *Canva* application as a media assignment in TOEFL class. The result of this chart showed that

28% from 25 students who strongly agree that they find it easier to do their assignments using this application, 68% of 25 students agree, and 4% of 25 students who disagree. It means that most of students find it easier to do their assignments using Canva application to accomplish their TOEFL assignments.



**Figure 5.** Students' plan to use Canva application in the future

Figure 5 related with sixth semester expectations about using Canva application as media assignment in TOEFL class in the future. The result of this chart showed that 24% from 25 students strongly agree, 48% from 25 students who agree, and 28% from 25 students who disagree with the use of *Canva* application. It means that most students plan to use this application and will continue to use it in the future.



**Figure 6.** Students' wishes to use Canva application in the future

Figure 6 related with -semester students' wishes about using Canva application as media assignment in TOEFL class in the future. The result of this chart showed that 40% from 25 students who strongly agree, 44% from 25 students who agree, and 16% from 25

students who disagree with the use of Canva application. It means that most of students wish their lecturer continue to use this application in the future.

## **2. The Use of Canva application by the sixth semester students in the TOEFL assignment at TBI IAIN Madura**

Based on the result of the interview and questionnaire, the sixth-semester students perceive that most of them agree with the use of Canva application in TOEFL assignments, they feel easier if using this application with the design features that were provided and exist in this application, such as the infographic design features that was provide so many templates of an infographic that can be accessed and edited by students based on their creativity. Most of the sixth-semester students also agree with the use of the Canva application because by visualizing their review into an infographic, it will make them easier to learn again and remember the materials in the TOEFL class. Therefore, they can answer all of question section in the TOEFL test.

The students' perception about the use of Canva application is called positive perception because based on their reason, they agree that using this application can help them fulfill their needs in accomplishing the TOEFL assignment. Perception from one person to another may differ because perception becomes the response to the object that can cause by stimulus of the object ([Mayasari, 2019](#)). In this case, a person may perceive that they are received the object or the stimulus because it may be suitable with their own personality, and this kind of perception is called as positive form of perception where according to the result and finding of this study, it can be found that most of the students enjoyed and interesting in using Canva application as their media assignment in the TOEFL class, therefore, most of the students perceive the use of this application in positive form.

The -semester students who perceive that they agree with the use of the Canva application as a media assignment in the TOEFL class, where it means that they have a positive perception of the use of this application may cause by some factor. As [Robbins and Judge \(2013\)](#) stated that they believed in the fact that person may look the same thing with different overview or perception and these differences may influence by some factors. These factors can exist in the perceiver (the subject), the target or the phenomenon being perceiver (the object), and the last is may exist in the situation that deals with where, when and how the perception was made.

Moreover, besides knowing about the students' perception about the use of Canva application, this study also aimed to know about how the sixth semester students used this application to accomplish their TOEFL assignment. Where, From the interview, the result showed that the lecturer in TOEFL class at TBI IAIN Madura is using the Canva application in her class, even though she did not use it in the class, neither showing how to use this kind of application, but she just asked the students to make their assignments using Canva application. The lecturer gave her students an assignment, where she asked her students to make an infographic as a review of the materials discussed during the class presentation. In making the TOEFL infographic assignment, the lecturer suggested that her students use Canva and found so many interesting templates in it to make it easier to do their assignment. The result also showed that sixth-semester students of English Education Department IAIN Madura use the Canva application by using infographic design feature that exist in this application. As stated by the interviewee (P.K.N.) in the interview session related with how they use Canva in the TOEFL class: *"Actually, my lecturer didn't use it while teaching the class, but she ordered us to do a summary every week by using Canva."* (personal communication, October 20, 2022)

This statement was related to the statement from another interviewee (H.I) who said: *"Yes, the lecturer told us to make an assignment from Canva when asked to summarize the material"* (personal communication, October 9, 2022). The other interviewee (R.K.M) also stated: *"Well, my lecturer never actually taught us how to use it, neither did she show us her result; she was just showing us the example"* (personal communication, October 9, 2022). And it is also related with the statement of the other interviewee (A.O.T) in the interview session related with the design feature that usually use by the students: *"The infographic design feature. Since my lecturer often gave the infographic assignment, she always suggested that her students use Canva application because we can find so many infographic design templates in Canva"* (personal communication, October 13, 2022). This statement also supported with the statement from the other interviewee (L.D.R) who said: *"I only made infographic design in my assignment in TOEFL class"* (personal communication, October 25, 2022).

While, beside the interview, some information also obtained through an observation. The observation showed that from the result of students' students' assignment which is it

should be an infographic, it can be found that from the content, some students didn't fulfill the characteristics of the infographic. This can be seen from the results in the observation guideline. There are 10 from 25 infographics who became the respondents did not use short sentences or paragraphs and cannot convey the material discussed as well as possible.

Therefore, based on the interview and observation that showed most of the sixth semester students use infographic design feature that provide in Canva application and most of the students' result assignments already fulfill and suitable with the characteristic of infographic if it looks from the design of their infographic. A design can called as infographic if fulfill some characteristics of infographic, such as use some design elements and bullet points for dividing and highlight some point in the design of an infographic (Marabella, 2014). While, if the result of students' assignment is look from the content, it cannot fulfill the characteristic of infographic which it's should use short sentences and paragraphs that can convey the materials or message which want to shared. Marabella (2014) stated that a design can be called an infographic if fulfill some characteristic of infographic, such as use short sentences and paragraphs. Therefore, based on the design that the infographic should look like, most of the students' students' result assignments can be called infographic, but for the content of their infographic, it is incomplete. From those evidence, students are capable enough to use Canva application. They are familiar enough to apply any features in Canva application especially infographic. It is in line with the phenomenon studied in SMA Negeri 6 Sijunjung, the students frequently used this application as a creative tool for developing a variety of skills in students, such as design. Students can create their drawings according to their needs like during English lessons with the topic "advertisement," they can create their designs using the Canva application (Nanda & Fatimah, 2023).

## **D. Conclusion**

The use of the Canva application in accomplishing the TOEFL assignment got a positive form of perception from most of the sixth-semester students, where they agree with the use of Canva Application in accomplishing the TOEFL assignment, they feel enjoy and comfortable, and find it is easier to do the assignment since it provides exciting

features and design, easy to be applied and modified. The students acknowledged the use of the Canva application in making infographics worthy enough to resume any materials that were picturesque, readable, and memorable. Therefore, they agree and wish that their lecture will continue to use this application. While related with how the students used this application, many design features can be used by the users of the Canva application for making interesting designs, but most of the sixth-semester students choose to use infographic design features that provide in Canva application, which it is suitable with their TOEFL assignment. In this case, students usually use free template for the infographic design feature by make some modification in the template. Therefore, most students' infographics can fulfill the infographic's characteristics by using the infographic design feature in the Canva application.

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