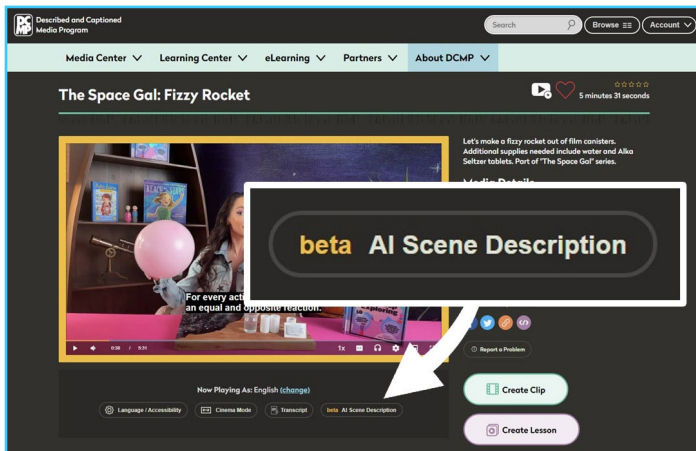# Expanding Video Accessibility With DCMP's AI Scene Description Tool

The Described and Captioned Media Program's development team has used artificial intelligence (AI) to develop "AI Scene Description," a new tool for students who are blind or have low vision that can describe the visual elements of any frame within a paused video.

There may be times when you and your students need a little more information about the contents of a scene, but there's not enough quiet time in the video to describe everything. With DCMP's AI Scene Description beta tool, you can now have any selected scene described.
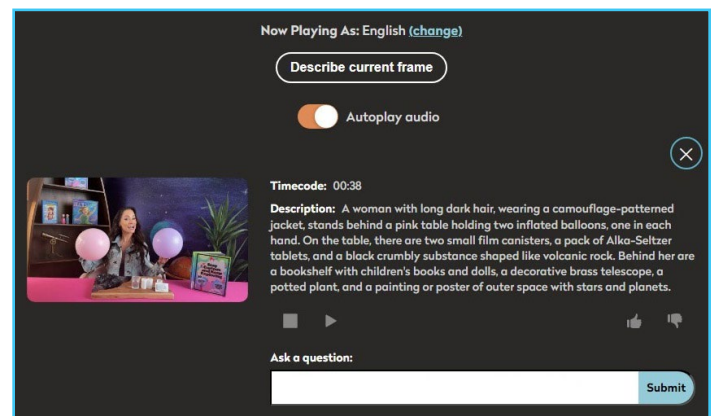
DCMP developed a method of generating scene descriptions that relies strongly on human-created metadata to create more accurate scene descriptions that are grade appropriate.

So how does the AI Scene Description tool work?

Log in to dcmp.org and select the "beta AI Scene Description" button under any video. In this example from an episode of *The Space Gal*, we've paused the video at a scene where Emily Calandrelli is in her studio holding two balloons. We then select the AI Scene Description button, and a description of the scene is spoken via text-to-speech and transcribed.

Once you've heard the description, you can ask more detailed questions about the scene. For example, in this scene, you might ask, "What books are on the shelves?" Descriptions and answers will always use vocabulary based on the video's grade level, and will take into account things like the applied educational standards, captions, and audio description.

The AI Scene Description beta tool is integrated into DCMP's video player. It is limited to registered members, and membership is free. Direct use with students is by opt-in only – DCMP members must grant permission to students through Student Accounts. Teachers will find this option by going to **Account › Students**, and selecting "Allow students to use AI Scene Description."

DCMP will continue to produce audio description with talented writers and voicers. We do not submit user data to any AI model or external service. Please share your comments through the "Provide Beta Feedback" button on each video's web page.

Learn more at https://dcmp.org/learn/717

DCMP operates the nation's largest fully-accessible educational video platform, with a library of 18,000 videos designed for use by early learner through Grade 12 students with disabilities. DCMP is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.