

DroneDeploy TRAINING MANUAL

TRAINING GUIDE FOR DRONE PILOTS
Advanced Drone Pilot Course



ADVANCED DRONE PILOT COURSE



PLAN
Smart Missions



CAPTURE
High Quality Data



ANALYZE
Powerful Insights



MEASURE
Accurate Results



DELIVER
Actionable Reports

Mapping. Modeling. Measuring.
From Imagery to Insight.



@DronePilotsForUS 2026

DroneDeploy Training Manual

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DP03 UAS Drone Mapping 2D/3D Applications

DroneDeploy Teacher Training Manual

Purpose: This manual is organized for teachers leading a DroneDeploy lesson. The main procedure is in one teaching sequence, with reference details moved to appendices for preparation and follow-up.

Use note: Use the lesson sequence during instruction. Use the appendices before class or when a student needs deeper reference information. Verify live DroneDeploy screens before teaching because menus, account access, and supported devices can change.

Training Outcomes

By the end of this training, students should be able to:

- Explain where DroneDeploy fits in the 2D/3D drone mapping workflow.
- Confirm account access, supported drone/device status, firmware readiness, and safety limits before flight.
- Create a map flight plan with appropriate altitude, overlap, terrain, camera, and advanced settings.
- Conduct a safe autonomous mapping flight and respond correctly if manual control or RTH is needed.
- Upload or process image datasets and review the finished map/model before analysis.
- Use DroneDeploy analysis tools including annotations, measurements, volumes, elevation, contours, overlays, exports, reports, and sharing.
- Explain when high-accuracy workflows require RTK, PPK, GCPs, checkpoints, or custom coordinate processing.

How Teachers Should Use This Manual

This version separates classroom teaching steps from background reference material. Teach from Part 1 through Part 6 in order. Use the appendices for preparation, troubleshooting, student accommodations, or deeper explanation after the main demonstration.

- Before class: review account access, equipment readiness, supported drone/device status, safety limits, and a backup processed map.
- During class: follow the central instructor-led DroneDeploy procedure so planning, flight, upload, review, analysis, and reporting stay together; student-account setup is moved to Appendix N for teacher preparation.
- After class: use the practice and assessment section to collect screenshots, source-file notes, map-quality evidence, measurements, exports, and limitation statements.

Recommended Teaching Flow

Lesson Phase	Teacher Action	Student Evidence
1. Prepare	Confirm accounts, aircraft/device compatibility, firmware, safety requirements, and backup data.	Readiness checklist and assigned crew roles.
2. Explain Workflow	Show where DroneDeploy fits in the capture-to-map-to-report process.	Workflow notes or class discussion response.

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3. Demonstrate App Procedure	Walk through the central DroneDeploy procedure from dashboard to reporting.	Screenshots or guided notes for each major step.
4. Conduct or Simulate Flight	Run the mission or use simulation/sample data if weather, safety, or account limits prevent live capture.	Flight/simulation log and safety observations.
5. Process and Review	Upload or open processed data, then inspect map quality before measuring.	Map-quality checklist and limitation statement.
6. Analyze and Report	Use annotations, measurements, volumes, field notes, exports, reports, and sharing only after review.	Tool screenshots, export/report, and explanation of accuracy limits.
7. Assess	Collect deliverables and debrief what worked, what failed, and what would be changed on the next mission.	Completed student practice sequence.

1. Part 1: DroneDeploy in the Mapping Workflow

DroneDeploy is taught in this course as an image-based mapping, inspection, and reporting workflow. It does not replace Part 107 decision-making, site authorization, airspace review, manual piloting skill, data management, or independent quality review.

Course Step	DroneDeploy Connection	Student Evidence
Plan	Define project, mission objective, flight area, safety perimeter, and deliverable need.	Mission notes, airspace check, site sketch, expected output.
Capture	Fly an autonomous map, corridor, 3D, panorama, photo, video, or inspection capture when supported.	Flight log, image set, screenshot of flight plan.
Process	Upload captured images or use mobile upload when available.	Processing log and project naming convention.
Analyze	Review map/model quality, then use measurements, annotations, volumes, elevation, overlays, reports, and exports.	Map review checklist and analysis screenshots.
Deliver	Share or export only after review, limitations, and access permissions are documented.	Report/export file, share record, limitation statement.

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2. Part 2: Teacher Preparation Before Class

Before students open DroneDeploy or fly, confirm the operating conditions below.

Setup Item	Teacher Verification
Account access	Confirm whether students are using school, teacher, trial, Lite, Individual, Advanced, Teams, or Enterprise access. Processing and export features vary by subscription.
Web and mobile tools	DroneDeploy uses the web dashboard and mobile/controller apps. Students may need the DroneDeploy app, supported DJI/controller app, or enterprise controller download.
Supported drones/devices	Verify the current Supported Drones and Supported Devices pages before assigning aircraft. Some drones support flight and processing; others are processing-only.
Firmware and calibration	Update aircraft, controller, DJI app, DroneDeploy app, and firmware before arriving in the field. Confirm compass, IMU, GPS status, and readiness in the DJI app before DroneDeploy.
Airspace and site permissions	Complete LAANC/authorization review when required. Check no-fly zones, DOD restrictions, local school rules, property permission, people/vehicle separation, and emergency landing areas.
Obstacle clearance	Manually inspect the mission area. Current DroneDeploy setup guidance recommends flying at least 50 feet above the highest obstacle in the mission area.
Manual control plan	Students must know how to pause, return home, or take manual control using the appropriate mode for the aircraft/controller.

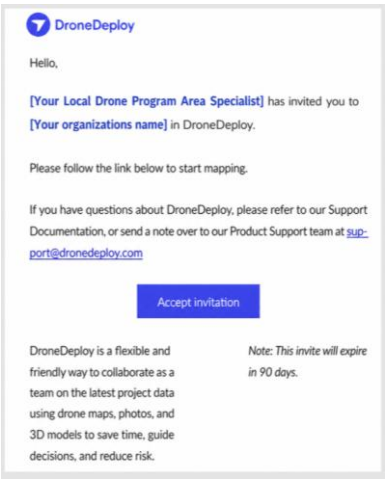
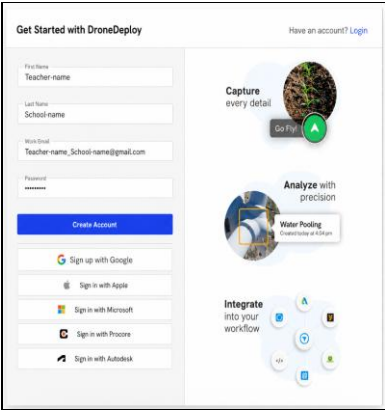
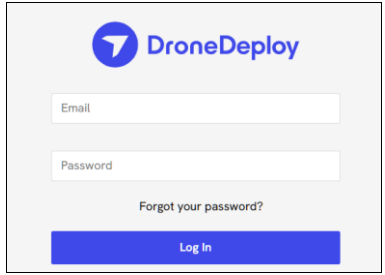
3. Part 3: Instructor-Led DroneDeploy Procedure

Teach from this section during the live lesson. These steps intentionally keep the application workflow in one place: account access, planning, settings, simulated or live flight, upload, map review, analysis, reports, sharing, and student organization management.

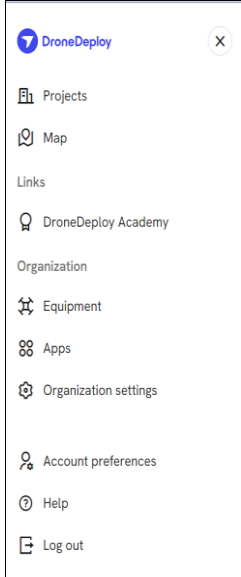
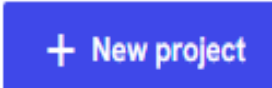
Teacher note: The screenshots are visual references from the prior DroneDeploy interface and should be compared with the live dashboard before class.

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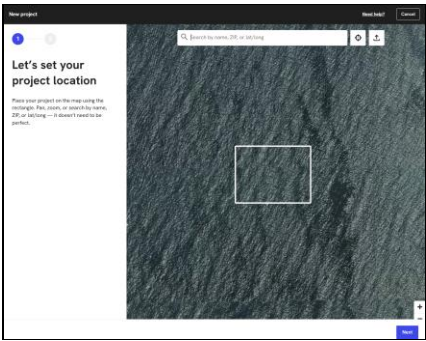
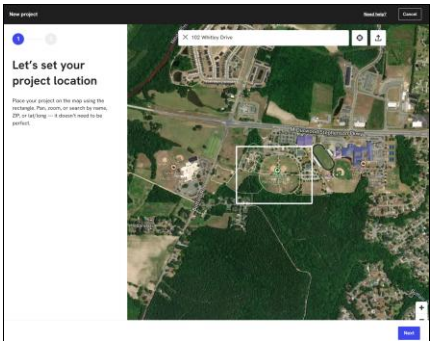
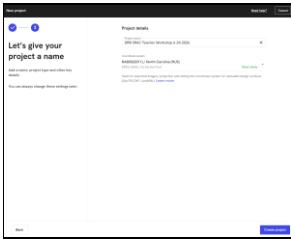
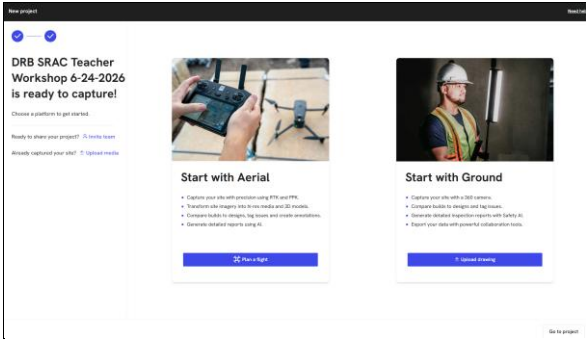
Phase 1: Account Access and Project Dashboard

Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
1	Obtain the teacher or student invite from the DroneDeploy organization manager. Do not create an unrelated personal account when the class requires organization access.	 The screenshot shows an email from DroneDeploy. It starts with 'Hello,' followed by a message from '[Your Local Drone Program Area Specialist]' inviting the user to join '[Your organizations name]' in DroneDeploy. It includes a link to start mapping and a button labeled 'Accept invitation'. At the bottom, it states 'DroneDeploy is a flexible and friendly way to collaborate as a team on the latest project data using drone maps, photos, and 3D models to save time, guide decisions, and reduce risk.' and a note: 'Note: This invite will expire in 90 days.'
2	Accept the invitation, enter name and password information, and sign in with the assigned school email or approved Google login.	 The screenshot shows the 'Get Started with DroneDeploy' page. On the left, there are input fields for 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'School Name', 'Work Email', and 'Password', followed by a 'Create Account' button. Below this are social login options: 'Sign up with Google', 'Sign in with Apple', 'Sign in with Microsoft', 'Sign in with Procore', and 'Sign in with Autodesk'. On the right, there are three circular icons: 'Capture every detail', 'Analyze with precision', and 'Integrate into your workflow'. A 'Have an account? Login' link is at the top right.
3	Typical Sign-in will look like this. Enter Generic Student Email provided by the teacher and password. The same user name can be use semester after semester by simply changing the password before redistributing to the new student.	 The screenshot shows the DroneDeploy login page. It features the DroneDeploy logo at the top, followed by input fields for 'Email' and 'Password'. Below these fields is a link that says 'Forgot your password?' and a blue 'Log In' button.

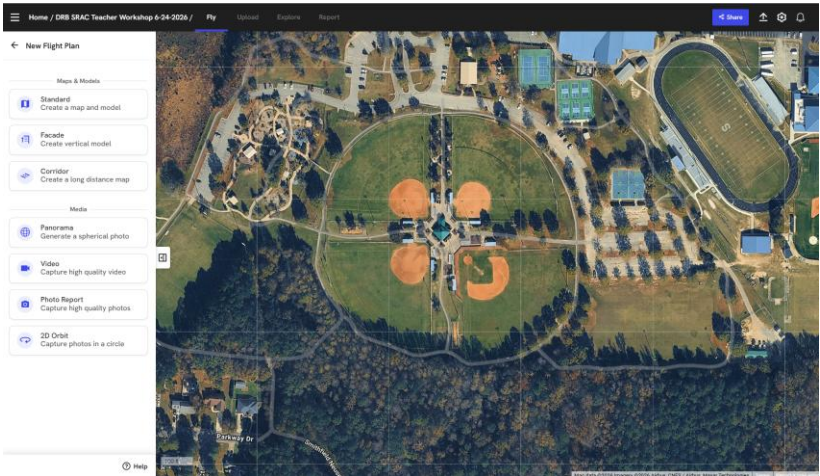
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
4	The Project dashboard opens showing you Recent (projects within your group), My projects (Your current projects) and Organization Projects (All projects in your organization). If the Projects page does not open automatically, use the menu to return to Projects.	 
5	Mission Objectives:	The first step is to determine your mission objectives : How will the aerial data be used?
6	Mission Pre-planning:	Select New Project only after confirming the correct organization and naming convention. 

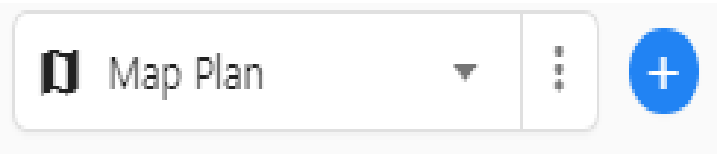
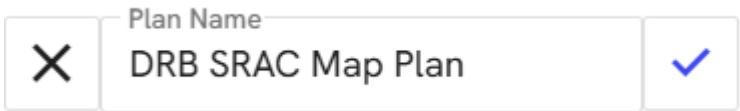
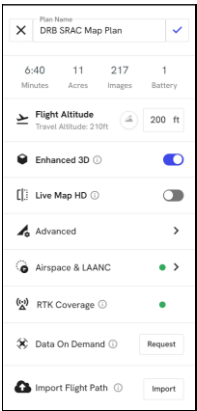
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7	This will take you to a map with a box in the middle of the screen. The instructions will request you move the box to where your project will be on the map. You can pan, zoom, or search by name, ZIP, or GPS coordinates — it doesn't need to be perfect. Once there, click “Next”.	 
8	Name the project with course, crew, date, and site so processed maps can be traced later. And click “Create Project”	
9	Choose a platform to get started. We will only be using the Aerial platform but be aware the Ground 360 camera platform is also available for use. Click on “Plan a Flight”	

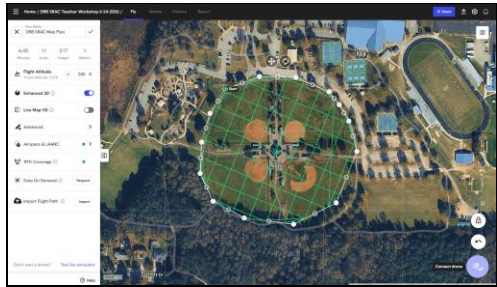
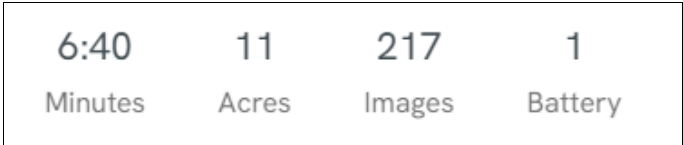
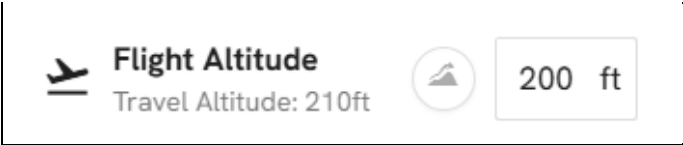
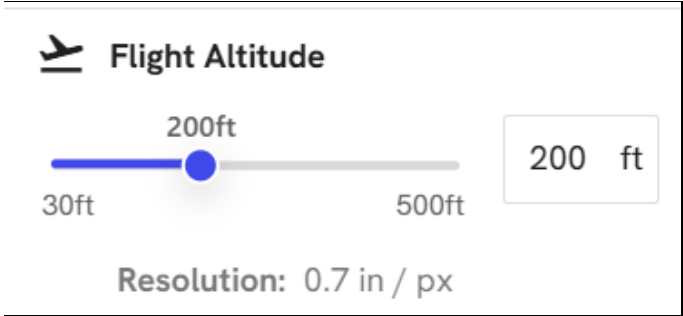
Phase 2: Create and Review a Mission Plan

Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
1	The Flight Planning Page will be displayed. Choose the type of flight you will be conducting 1) Manual - Allows you to fly and capture data without a specific flight plan manual 2) Maps and Models a. Standard - Creates a map and model b. Façade - Creates a vertical model	

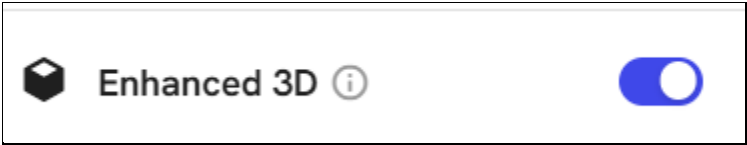
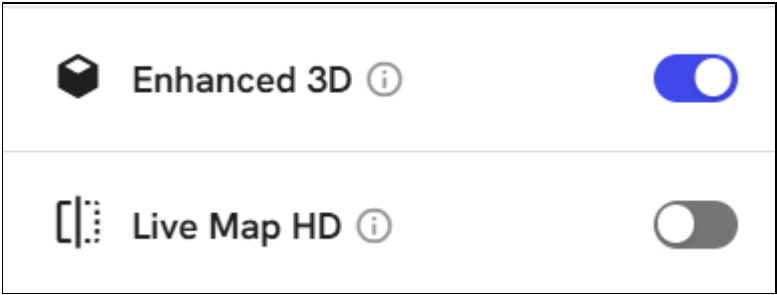
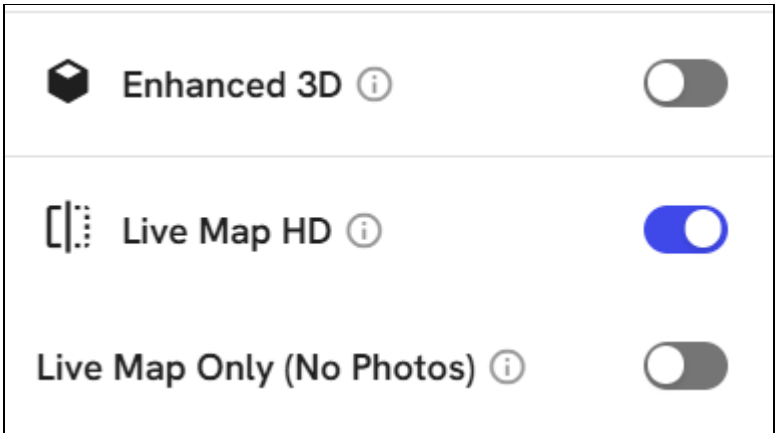
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
	c. Corridor - Creates a long-distance map 3) Media a. Panorama - Generates a spherical photo b. Video - Captures a high-quality video of your site c. Photo Report - Captures high-quality photo d. 2D Orbit - autonomously fly a circular path around a fixed point of interest Choose the capture plan that matches the assignment. For this training, you would select Standard. Map Plan is the standard starting point for 2D mapping and basic 3D outputs.	
2	Click on the three dots and Rename the map plan so you can come back to it later.	
		
3	The screen will show a default Mapping plan. • Pick the appropriate altitude. • Select either Enhanced 3D or live Map (Instant 2D map) For most applications we will use the Enhanced 3D option.	

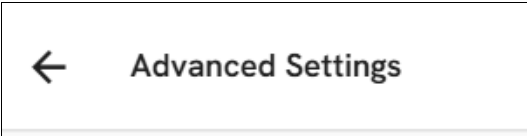
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
4	When planning your flight: • Select the boundary that covers a larger area than you need. • Use the four white dots in the corners to refine our interest. • You can make your map more detailed by clicking on the line with the circles + sign  and adding more points that can then be used to tighten the map as needed. It is always better to make the map larger than the area you intend to map so you do not miss anything.	 
5	Review the flight metrics before field use: estimated minutes, acres, image count, and battery count.	
6	Set Flight Altitude after checking obstacle clearance and desired map detail. • Current setup guidance recommends flying at least 50 feet above the highest obstacle in the mission area. • Clicking on the height box will display the height menu bar. • You can slide the bar to increase or decrease the Flight Altitude. • Adjusting this will impact on the required flight time, the mapped area, how many images will be captured, and how many batteries will be required to complete the mission.	 

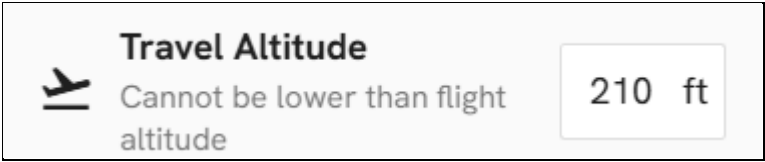
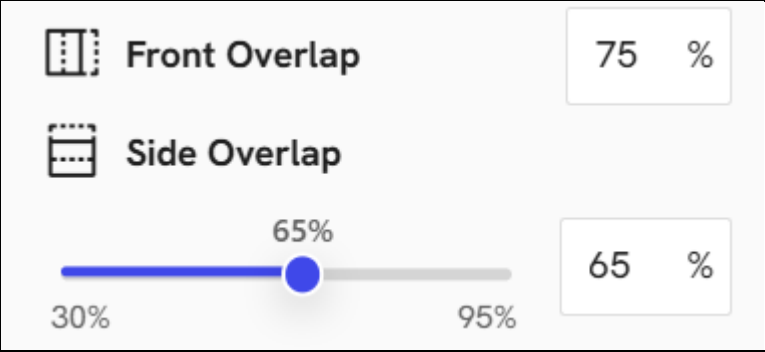
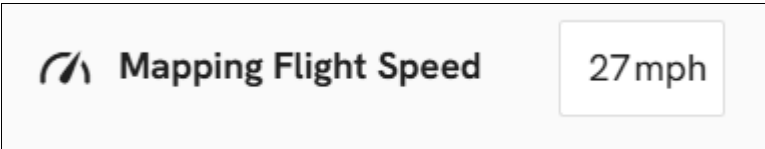
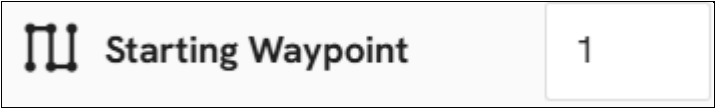
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
7	Use Enhanced 3D when the assignment requires stronger 3D reconstruction. Current DroneDeploy guidance says Enhanced 3D combines perimeter 3D with crosshatch-style oblique capture and is best kept under about 1,000 images.	 A screenshot of the 'Enhanced 3D' toggle switch, which is currently turned on (blue).
8	Live Map HD – Generates an instant 2D map as the drone flies, in addition to normal image capture, High-Definition imagery will be used where available. • Not compatible with Enhanced 3D • Only available in 2D apps • When switched on, it will allow you to see the coverage areas as the drone takes photos. • If switched on, you can run the mission to see the coverage area with/without taking photos.	 A screenshot showing two toggle switches: 'Enhanced 3D' (turned on) and 'Live Map HD' (turned off).  A screenshot showing three toggle switches: 'Enhanced 3D' (turned off), 'Live Map HD' (turned on), and 'Live Map Only (No Photos)' (turned off).

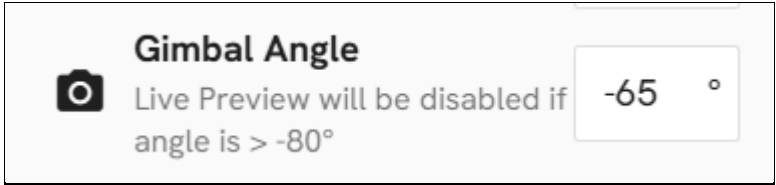
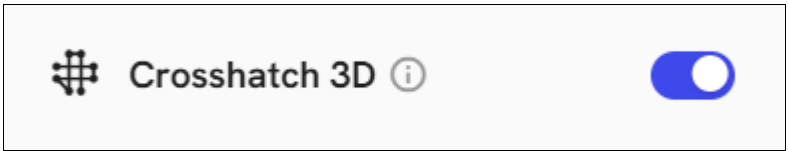
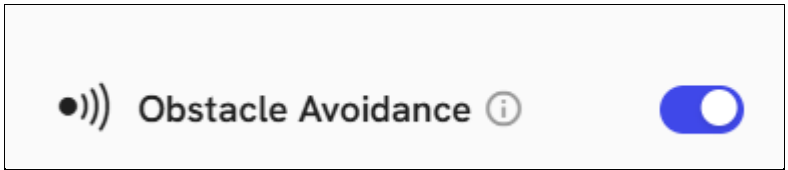
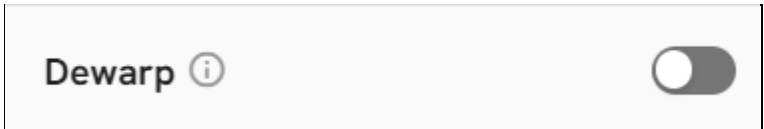
Phase 3: Adjust Advanced Flight Settings

Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
1	When toggled ON, the Advanced settings menu will minimize, and the flight will run with our Automatic setting applied.	 A screenshot of the 'Advanced' toggle switch, which is currently turned on (blue).
2	Open Advanced Settings only after the basic plan boundary, altitude, and capture type are correct. When off the following items will display:	 A screenshot of the 'Advanced Settings' button, which is currently turned off (grey).

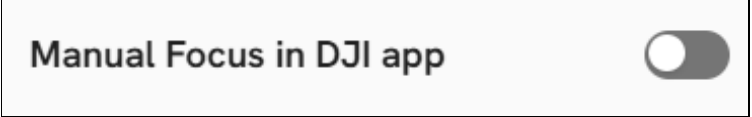
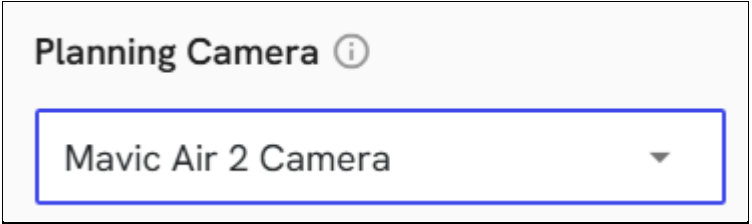
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
3	Set Travel Altitude when the drone must transit safely around buildings, cranes, steep terrain, or other obstacles before or after the mapped area.	
4	Set Front and Side Overlap. Current DroneDeploy guidance says the default 75/65 setting works for most maps; increase overlap for low flights, homogeneous subjects, high-accuracy missions, complex 3D, or uneven terrain.	
5	Set flight direction to match the scene, such as flying parallel to solar rows or reducing turns near obstacles.	
6	Set maximum mapping flight speed. • Use slower speeds when lighting, blur, wind, or image sharpness is a concern. • The drone will not necessarily reach this speed, but it will be capped at this speed.	
7	The first waypoint that will be flown during your flight. All previous waypoints before the starting waypoint will be skipped (represented by a dashed line on your flight plan)	

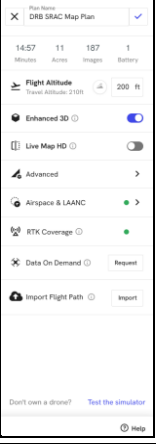
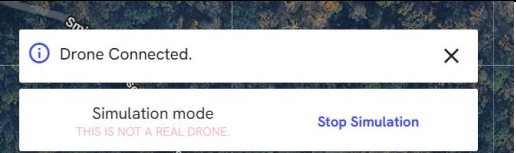
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
8	Set the gimbal angle. - Controls the drone camera's angle during the flight. - At -90°, your camera will point straight down. - Use -90 degrees for nadir mapping; use oblique angles only when the plan calls for side detail or 3D/facade capture.	
Use Perimeter 3D, Crosshatch 3D, obstacle avoidance, low-light, planning camera, and dewarp settings only when supported by the aircraft/account and appropriate for the assignment.		
9	Adds a perimeter flight path that captures oblique imagery (65° angle) facing toward the inside of your subject.	
10	Captures oblique imagery directly above your subject with a 65° angle. Instead of a single pass, crosshatch doubles your plan lines and flies the drone in both directions.	
11	Enabled by default to use the built-in obstacle avoidance sensors that your drone may have to help avoid a collision. Sometimes, a low, bright sun can cause the drone to stop mid-flight because it's detected as a nearby object.	
12	A camera setting that corrects lens distortions, to produce a normal, straight-line image. - This should be tuned off for all 2D and 3D mapping models. - Basically, used for photos and reports.	

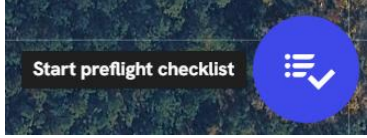
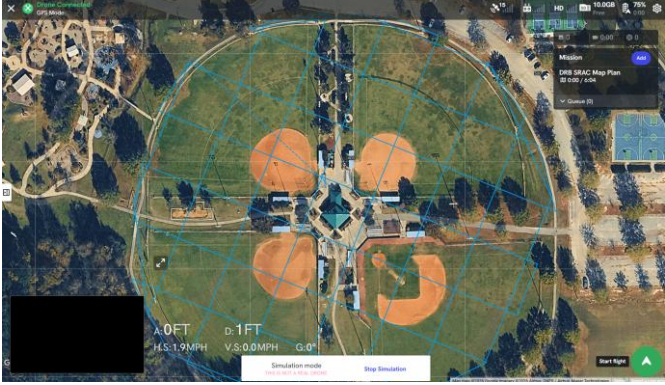
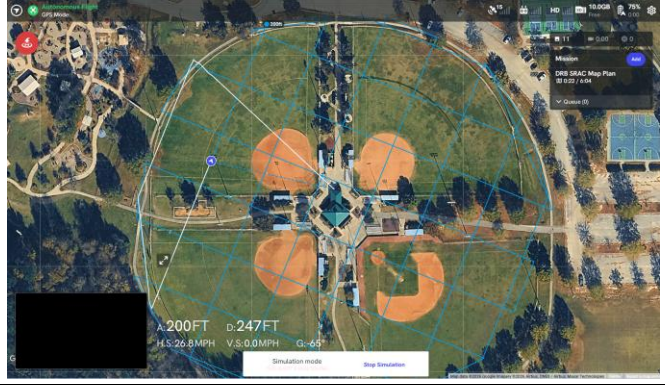
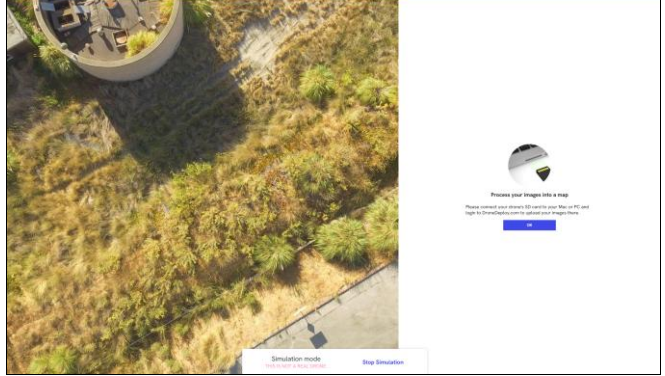
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
13	Toggle ON when capturing in low light areas.	
14	Will apply the manual exposure and focus settings in the DJI app during flight.	
		
15	Drop-down selector to set your planning camera. This is only for planning purposes. Note the Flight time, batteries, and number of images changes when this is changed	
16	Go back to main menu by turning off the Advanced option	

Phase 4: Run a simulated Flight

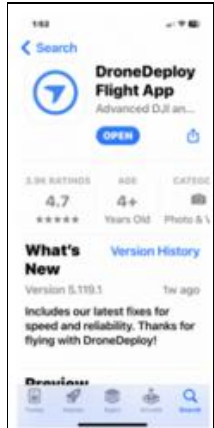
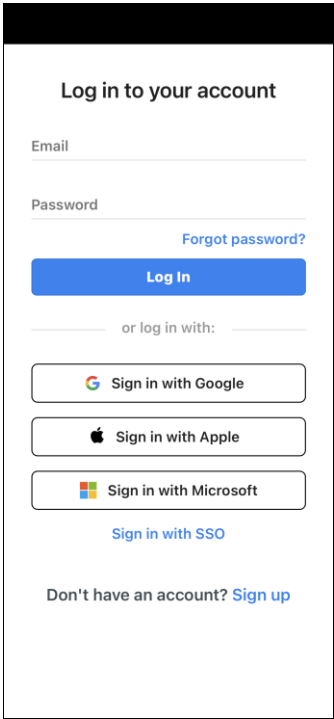
Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
1	Once the setup is complete, Look at the bottom of the menu and you will see the “test the simulator” option. This can be run to verify the flight, looking at the time it takes to run, its attitude, and its paths.	
2	The screen will let you know this is only a simulation and not a real drone flight.	

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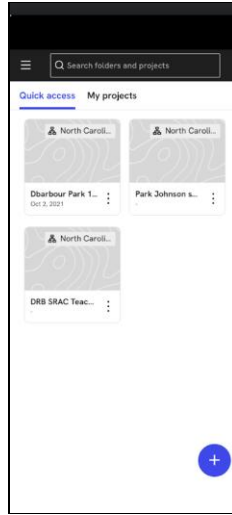
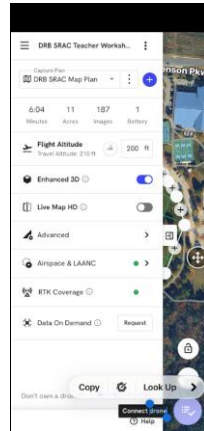
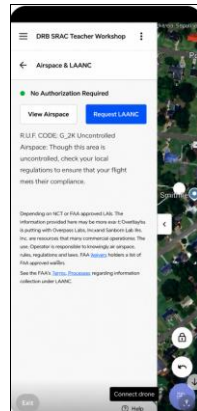
Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
3	Click the “ Start preflight checklist. ” In the bottom right corner of the map.	
4	Verify that all information needed for a safe flight is correct and select “ Start flight ” to begin the simulation.	
5	The icon representing the drone will now fly the mission the same as it will in real time. The lines represent the drone flight path and will change from blue to white as the mission is completed.	
6	Once the simulation has been completed, this screen will ask you to Process your images into a map. You should click the " Stop Simulation " button after this step and click the “OK” button to bring you back to main page.	

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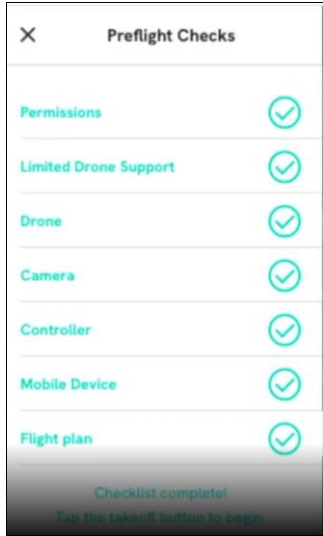
Phase 5: Prepare the Mobile App and Launch Safely

Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
1	Go to the Apps store and download the DroneDeploy Flight App	
2	• Before opening DroneDeploy in the field, open the DJI/controller app first and confirm firmware, aircraft status, compass/IMU, GPS, camera, and controller readiness. • Close competing flight apps before opening DroneDeploy. • This remains current DroneDeploy setup guidance to avoid connection conflicts. • Log Into DroneDeploy using the same email and password provided for the computer version.	

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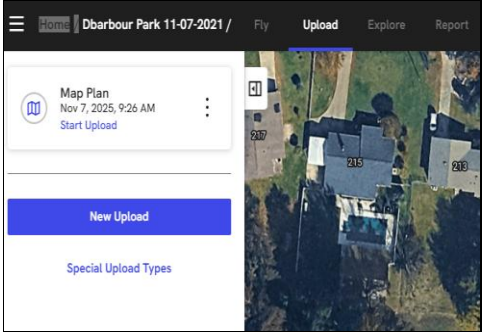
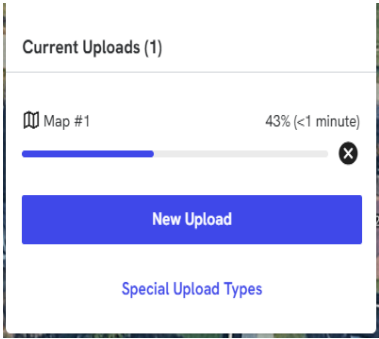
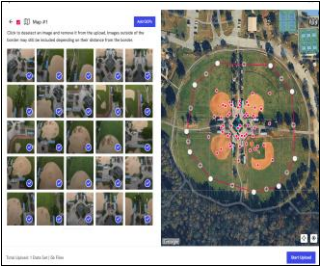
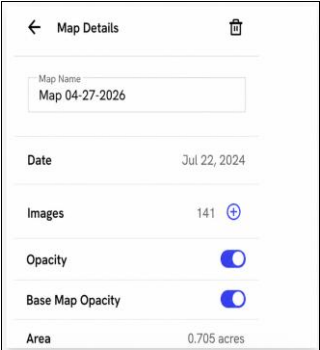
Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
3	A list of your current projects will be displayed.	
4	• Selecting the project will bring up the main options screen. • Confirm the plan, aircraft connection, and expected camera view.	
5	Use Airspace & LAANC tools when required by the site. Authorization and app checks do not remove the pilot's responsibility for safe operation. Refer to Appendix D: Airspace & LAANC	
		

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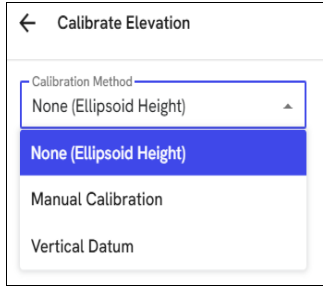
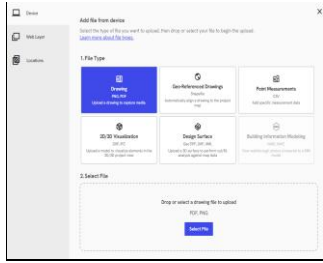
Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
6	Complete the preflight checks. Confirm permissions, sufficient battery, GPS, camera, controller, and flight area before selecting Start Flight .	
7	Launch only when the area is clear and the pilot is ready to take manual control. Current guidance lists controller modes for supported aircraft and gives manual-control instructions if the mission becomes unsafe.	
8	During flight, monitor progress, signal quality, battery, image capture, and the flight interface. Pause, return home, or take manual control if anything is unsafe. Refer to Appendix E: DroneDeploy Flight Interface	

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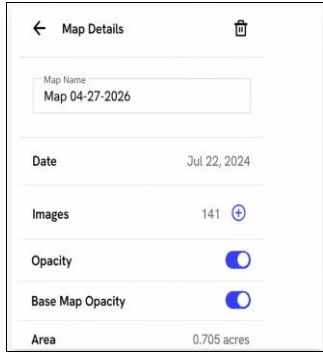
Phase 6: Upload and Process the Dataset

Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
1	After landing, preserve the original image files. Copy the SD card contents to a project folder before deleting or reformatting anything.	
2	Use Mobile Upload when available, or upload images from the SD card through the web dashboard. Current setup guidance notes image processing is reserved for paid users on Lite, Individual, Advanced, Teams, or Enterprise subscriptions.	
3	Confirm image count, upload progress, and project map before starting processing.	
4	If multiple image sets or maps exist, confirm the correct map details, date, image count, opacity, and project location before processing.	

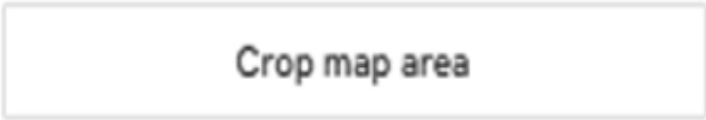
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
5	If the assignment uses elevation calibration, GCPs, RTK, PPK, checkpoints, or custom coordinates, follow the current Accuracy & Ground Control workflow before relying on measurements.	
6	Add or verify images as needed and then start processing. Record the upload time, project name, crew, aircraft, and any accuracy workflow notes.	
7	Wait for processing to finish before moving to analysis, exports, reports, or sharing.	

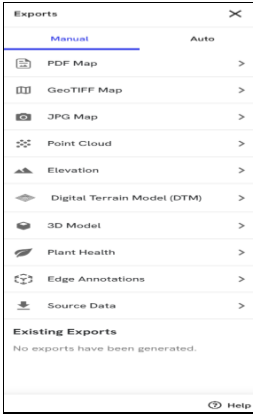
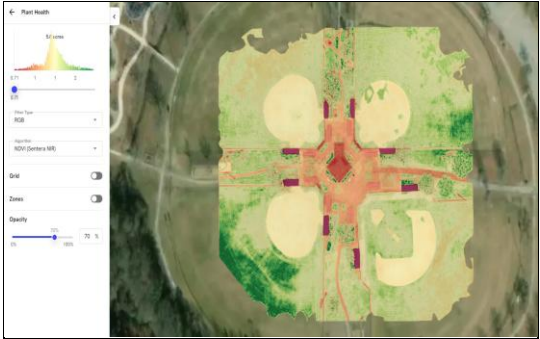
Phase 7: Review the Map and Correct Basic Issues

Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
1	Open the completed map and inspect coverage, geometry, basemap alignment, image quality, and any visible stitch problems.	
2	Use Map Details to confirm date, image count, opacity, and relevant map information.	

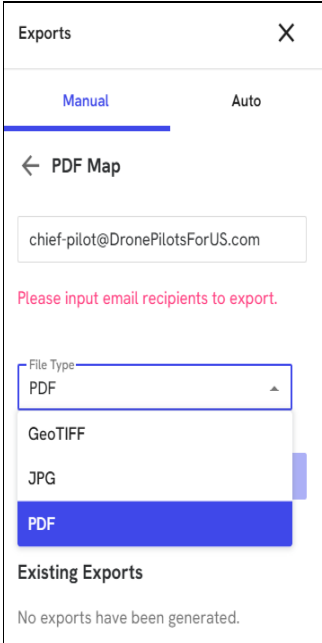
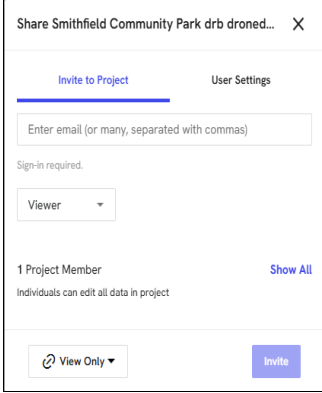
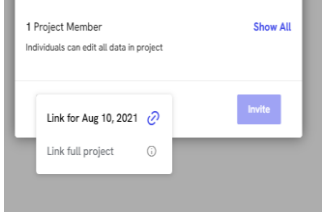
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
3	If the map needs elevation calibration, use the calibration options only when the required reference data is available.	
4	Crop the map area only after confirming the correct deliverable boundary. Do not crop out areas needed for grading or quality review.	
5	Review accuracy information and processing reports. Treat measurements as approximate unless the workflow includes RTK, PPK, GCPs, checkpoints, or another verified control method.	

Phase 8: Analyze, Export, Report, and Share

Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
1	Open the analysis or tools menu and select the correct tool for the deliverable: annotation, measurement, volume, elevation, contour, overlay, report, export, or sharing.	
2	Use elevation, contour, plant health, or layer tools only when the required data and account features are available.	

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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
3	When exporting data, choose the correct export type and format for the assignment. Confirm resolution, coordinate system, and file type before exporting.	
4	Use the Export control only after the map/model has passed the quality review checklist.	
5	When sharing, use the correct recipient, role, and permission level. Avoid broad public access unless the instructor or organization explicitly allows it.	
6	Record who received the map, why it was shared, what permissions were used, and any limitations on measurement or accuracy.	

4. Student Practice and Assessment

Use this section after the demonstration so students produce evidence instead of only watching the software.

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Practice	Student Task	Submission Evidence
Practice 1	Choose the best DroneDeploy workflow for five scene scenarios.	Completed workflow selection table.
Practice 2	Create a safe map flight plan with altitude, overlap, terrain, and obstacle notes.	Flight-plan screenshot and planning notes.
Practice 3	Review a processed map and identify at least three quality limitations.	Map review checklist and limitation statement.
Practice 4	Use two analysis tools such as measurement, annotation, volume, elevation, or overlay.	Screenshots with units/settings and explanation.
Practice 5	Prepare a report/export/share plan for a classroom deliverable.	Export/report record and sharing permission note.

5. Map and Model Review Checklist

Check	Pass Standard	Student Notes
Coverage	Entire required area is visible with no critical gaps.	
Image quality	Images are sharp, exposed correctly, and not dominated by blur, glare, shadows, or motion.	
Geometry	Roads, roofs, ground features, and structures appear coherent and not warped.	
Alignment	Map aligns reasonably with basemap, control points, or known site features.	
Scale / accuracy	RTK/PPK/GCP/checkpoint evidence supports the accuracy needed for the assignment.	
3D quality	Vertical surfaces and stockpiles have enough side detail for the intended use.	
Limitations	Any weak areas, missing data, or uncertainty are documented before sharing.	

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6. Assessment Deliverables

Deliverable	Minimum Evidence	Teacher Check
Mission plan	Project name, boundary, altitude, overlap, estimated time, battery plan.	Plan matches site, safety, and learning objective.
Flight or simulation record	Crew role, date/site, aircraft or sample dataset, notes on safety limits.	Student understands operational limits.
Processed map review	Quality checklist, screenshot, and limitation statement.	Student reviewed data before measuring.
Analysis output	At least one annotation or measurement and one report/export/sharing example as assigned.	Tool choice matches the question being answered.
Reflection	What worked, what failed, and what should change on the next mission.	Student connects software output to field capture quality.

7. Teaching Troubleshooting Guide

Problem	Likely Cause	Corrective Action
Drone will not connect	Unsupported drone/controller, outdated firmware/app, cable or controller issue.	Verify supported drone/device list, update apps/firmware, reconnect cable/controller, and check DJI app status.
Invalid controller mode	Aircraft/controller not in the mode required by DroneDeploy.	Use current DroneDeploy setup guidance for the specific drone and controller.
Flight plan will not launch	No-fly zone, missing authorization, poor GPS, low battery, account limitation, or unsupported settings.	Resolve authorization/GPS/battery issues and simplify plan if needed.
Poor map stitch	Low overlap, blurry images, low texture, water/trees, shadows, or insufficient coverage.	Increase overlap, fly higher if appropriate, improve lighting, and recapture missing areas.
3D model is weak	Not enough oblique/side imagery or too many hidden surfaces.	Use Enhanced 3D, Crosshatch, perimeter, or oblique captures where appropriate.

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Measurements questionable	Map is not scaled/controlled well enough for the task.	Use RTK/PPK/GCP/checkpoints or document that measurement is approximate.
Export unavailable	Subscription, role, or project permission limitation.	Verify account plan and user permissions before class.

8. Instructor Verification Before Teaching

- Sign in to DroneDeploy and verify the active account, project access, and export/report permissions.
- Check the current Supported Drones and Supported Devices pages for the aircraft and controller students will use.
- Open a current flight plan and confirm the app labels, menus, and settings match the lesson.
- Prepare a sample processed map/model and at least one source image dataset.
- Confirm local Part 107, school, site, airspace, LAANC, and emergency procedures.
- Tell students which outputs are practice-only and which require accuracy verification.

Appendix A: Workflow Selection Reference

Scene or Need	Recommended DroneDeploy Workflow	Why
Small open-area mapping site	Standard Map plan	Efficient nadir capture for orthomosaic and basic 3D outputs.
Construction progress or recurring site	Map plan with consistent settings and naming	Repeatable comparison and reporting depend on consistent capture conditions.
Uneven terrain or elevation change	Map plan with Terrain Awareness where supported	Helps maintain more consistent ground sampling distance across varied elevation.
Detailed 3D model or complex subject	Enhanced 3D, perimeter 3D, Crosshatch 3D, or oblique capture as appropriate	Adds angled imagery needed for better side detail and reconstruction.
Linear corridor	Corridor Flight	Better fit for roads, trails, utilities, or narrow route mapping.
High-accuracy survey-style deliverable	RTK/PPK and/or GCP/checkpoint workflow	Compatibility alone does not guarantee survey-grade accuracy; independent control and verification are required.

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Unsupported flight drone but usable images	Manual capture plus upload/process in web app	DroneDeploy can process datasets from many processing-supported aircraft even if autonomous flight is not supported.
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Appendix B: Mission Planning Reference

Use this section when creating or reviewing a DroneDeploy flight plan before the field mission.

1. Sign in to the DroneDeploy dashboard and open or create the correct project.
2. Name the project with the class, crew, date, and location.
3. Choose the capture plan that matches the mission objective: map, corridor, 3D/Enhanced 3D, panorama, photo, video, or inspection workflow.
4. Draw or import the flight boundary. Keep the plan inside the approved site and within visual line of sight.
5. Review flight metrics: estimated minutes, acres, image count, and battery requirements.
6. Set flight altitude based on obstacle clearance, desired detail, aircraft limits, and expected map quality.
7. Set overlap. Use at least 70 percent front and side overlap for most mapping missions; for high-accuracy, complex 3D, or uneven terrain, consider about 80-85 percent front overlap and 70-75 percent side overlap.
8. Set flight direction, speed, starting waypoint, gimbal angle, and oblique/crosshatch options according to the scene.
9. Use Terrain Awareness, Travel Altitude, Make Available Offline, and LAANC/airspace tools when the mission requires them and the account/hardware supports them.
10. Save the plan and complete the pre-flight checklist before launching.

Appendix C: Flight Plan Settings and Capture Types

Setting / Tool	Purpose	Teaching Notes
Capture Plan	Selects the type of flight or capture workflow.	Map, corridor, panorama, photo, video, vertical/facade, and inspection plans may have different settings.
Flight Altitude	Controls image detail and obstacle clearance.	Higher flight can improve stitching on difficult subjects but reduces detail.
Terrain Awareness	Helps manage elevation variation when supported.	Verify availability before class and confirm terrain data makes sense for the site.
Travel Altitude	Controls transit altitude to and from the mission area.	Useful near buildings, cranes, steep terrain, or obstacles outside the mapped polygon.

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Overlap	Controls image overlap for processing.	Default 75/65 is common; increase overlap for difficult terrain, 3D, vegetation, or high-accuracy workflows.
Enhanced 3D	Combines perimeter and crosshatch-style angled captures.	DroneDeploy notes Enhanced 3D is best kept under about 1,000 images.
Crosshatch 3D	Adds angled imagery above the subject.	Improves 3D model detail but increases flight time and image count.
Gimbal Angle	Controls camera angle.	-90 degrees is nadir; oblique angles are used for sides/facades/3D detail.
Dewarp	Corrects lens distortion on compatible drones.	Current docs identify compatibility with Mavic 3 Enterprise and Matrice 4 Enterprise series; verify before teaching.
Make Available Offline	Saves flight plan to the mobile device.	Important for weak-service areas.
LAANC / Airspace	Supports airspace review and authorization workflow.	Do not treat app approval as a substitute for pilot responsibility.
RTK Coverage	Checks RTK availability for compatible aircraft/workflows.	Use with high-accuracy planning, but verify with checkpoints or GCPs when accuracy matters.

Appendix D: Field Flight Procedure Reference

- a. Arrive with charged aircraft/controller batteries, updated apps, formatted media, and a saved mission plan.
- b. Open the DJI/controller app first and confirm aircraft status, firmware, compass/IMU, GPS, and camera readiness.
- c. Manually inspect the site and confirm the highest obstacle. Adjust flight and travel altitudes before opening DroneDeploy.
- d. Close competing flight apps if required, then open DroneDeploy and load the mission.
- e. Confirm the aircraft, controller, and mobile device are connected and showing the expected flight plan.
- f. Brief the crew: launch point, emergency landing zone, visual observer role, communication commands, and manual-control plan.
- g. Start the mission only when the area is clear, lighting is acceptable, wind is within limits, and the pilot is ready to take control.

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- h. Monitor aircraft position, image capture, battery, signal quality, and airspace/obstacle conditions during flight.
- i. Pause, return home, or take manual control if the mission becomes unsafe or the aircraft behaves unexpectedly.
- j. After landing, confirm images were captured and preserve source files before deleting anything from the SD card or device.

Appendix E: Upload and Processing Reference

- a. Use mobile upload when available, or upload images from the SD card to the DroneDeploy dashboard.
- b. Keep the original image files in a project folder before uploading. Do not rely on DroneDeploy as the only copy of the source data.
- c. Create or select the correct map/project and upload the image set in a logical order.
- d. If the workflow uses GCPs, checkpoints, RTK, PPK, or custom coordinates, follow the current Accuracy & Ground Control instructions before final processing.
- e. Record the upload time, project name, crew, aircraft, settings, and processing notes in the class log.
- f. Wait for processing to complete and review map/model quality before using measurements, exports, or reports.

Appendix F: High Accuracy Workflow Reference

DroneDeploy compatibility does not by itself create survey-grade accuracy. Use high-accuracy workflows when the assignment requires defensible measurements, repeatable comparison, or professional deliverables.

Workflow	When to Use	Teacher Verification
Standard processing	Classroom practice, visual maps, basic measurements where approximate accuracy is acceptable.	Students document that outputs are not survey-grade.
RTK	Compatible drone and network/base workflow are available.	Confirm RTK status, metadata, and independent checkpoint results when possible.
PPK	Post-processed positioning workflow is required or RTK connection is unreliable.	Confirm image timestamps, base data, processing steps, and output coordinate system.
GCPs	Need stronger site control or accuracy evidence independent of aircraft GNSS.	Confirm point distribution, visibility in imagery, coordinate source, and tagging workflow.

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Checkpoints	Need independent accuracy validation.	Use checkpoints for verification, not model adjustment.
Custom coordinates	Project requires a local coordinate grid or nonstandard coordinate reference.	Verify current DroneDeploy custom-coordinate workflow before class.

Appendix G: Supported Drones and Devices

Use this appendix as a classroom summary only. DroneDeploy support changes by aircraft, controller, operating system, app version, and workflow. Verify the current DroneDeploy help page before teaching.

Category	Examples / Notes
Recommended drones	DroneDeploy currently highlights Mavic 3 Enterprise with RC Pro Enterprise, Matrice 4 Enterprise/Thermal with RC Plus 2, and DJI Air 2S as recommended examples.
Flight and processing supported examples	Examples include Mavic Air, Mavic Pro series, Mavic 2 series, Mavic 3E/3T, Mini 4 Pro with specific Android controller support, Phantom 4 series, Matrice 200/210 series, Matrice 300/350 RTK, Matrice 4E/T beta, Matrice 3D/3TD/4D/4TD, and Anzu Raptor/Raptor T.
Processing-only examples	Examples include consumer Mavic 3 variants, DJI Air 3/3S, many Mini/Avata/FPV models, Phantom 3 and earlier, Phantom 4 RTK, Matrice 30 series, Matrice 400, Matrice 600 Pro, Skydio, Wingtra, Parrot, Yuneec, Flyability, Autel, SenseFly, and Freefly models.
Dock drones	DroneDeploy notes dock drones must be flown via Dock Automation in the web app/DroneDeploy Cloud, not the controller Flight App.
High-accuracy caution	Supported flight does not guarantee survey-grade accuracy. Verify RTK/PPK/GCP/checkpoint workflow and camera/shutter suitability.

Appendix H: Account and License Reference

Access / Plan Topic	Teacher Notes
Student access	Use the least access needed. Confirm project permissions before class.
Processing	Current DroneDeploy setup guidance says image processing is reserved for paid users on Lite, Individual, Advanced, Teams, or Enterprise subscriptions.

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Exports and reports	Export formats, reports, and analysis tools can vary by plan and user role.
Support	Current Help Center states live technical support is available 24 hours a day, 5 days a week for paid and trial plans.
Verification	Teachers should verify current pricing, plan names, account roles, and school/organization permissions before teaching.

Appendix I: Export and Report Types

Deliverable	Use	Evidence Required
Map screenshot	Quick classroom discussion.	Screenshot with date, project, and limitation note.
Orthomosaic / GeoTIFF	GIS/CAD or professional-style map deliverable.	Coordinate system, resolution, and export settings.
3D model	Visual inspection or progress documentation.	Quality review and share permission note.
Volume / earthworks output	Stockpile or earthwork assignment.	Baseplane, scale/accuracy support, and limitation statement.
Inspection/report export	Teacher grading or client-style report.	Report file, recipient, purpose, and source project.
Shared project/link	Collaboration or review.	Access level, recipients, and reason for sharing.

Appendix J: Airspace and LAANC Reference

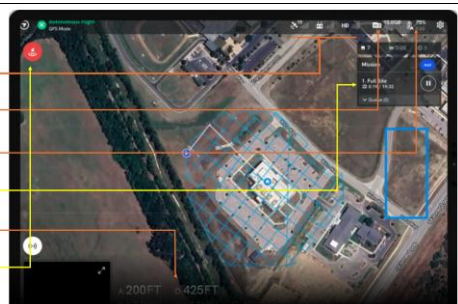
Use this appendix as a teaching checklist. It keeps the airspace decision separate from the DroneDeploy software demonstration so students understand that flight authorization and safe operations come before launching a mission.

Step	Teacher Action	Instructional Use
1	Check TFRs	Before using DroneDeploy, check current Temporary Flight Restrictions at https://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html and record the result in the class flight notes.
2	Check airspace in planning tool	In the DroneDeploy mapping plan, open Airspace & LAANC or the current airspace tool and confirm whether the planned site is clear, requires LAANC, or requires a waiver.
3	Use school-approved LAANC workflow	If LAANC is required, use the school-approved system. This course normally uses Aloft for LAANC requests rather than relying only on DroneDeploy.

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4	Document the decision	Record whether the area is clear, approved through LAANC, blocked by waiver requirements, or postponed for safety/compliance reasons.
5	Brief students	Explain that DroneDeploy planning does not replace Part 107, school policy, site permission, crew briefing, visual line of sight, and emergency procedures.

Appendix K: DroneDeploy Flight Interface

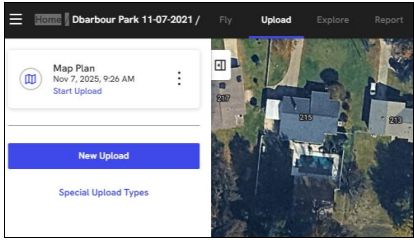
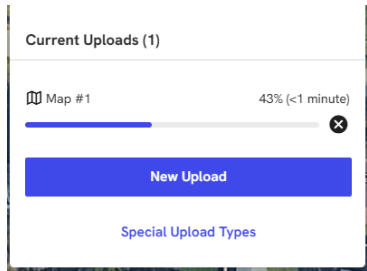
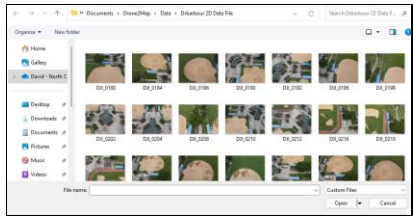
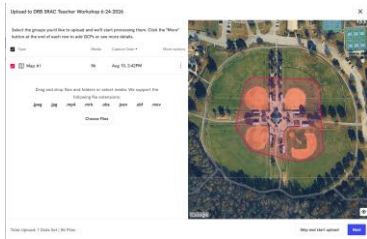
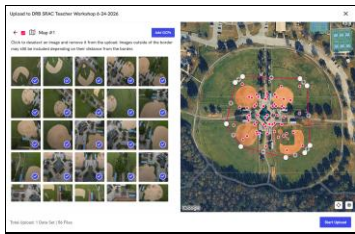
A. Connection Data • Number of Satellites • RC Controller signal strength • HD signal strength B. SD card storage available C. Drone Battery % left D. Flight Cards • Current Flight Plan • Where are you at in the time, and how long is the estimated flight to completion? • You can pause, do a manual flight, and then restart as needed. You can also add additional flights by simply clicking the E. Flight Telemetry Information F. Emergency Return to Home Button	
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Appendix L: High Accuracy Flight Planning Basics

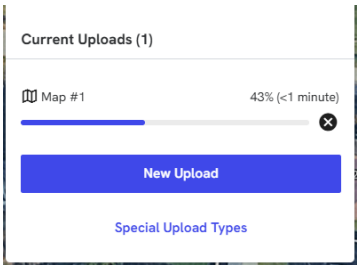
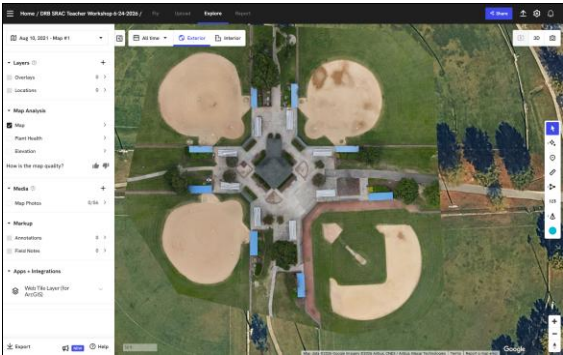
1	Altitude	• Generally, lower flight altitudes generate higher accuracy. • Start with 100-200 ft above the ground for higher accuracy.
2	Flight Plan Style:	• Enhanced 3D “off” for topographic surface mapping • Enhanced 3D “on” for structural or otherwise vertically prominent features. • Terrain awareness on when possible.
3	Ground Control Points	• Use to Maximize Accuracy. • Regardless of whether you are using RTK or not.
4	Relative Accuracy	• It is the accuracy within the map (Ex. how accurate is the scale).
5	Absolute Accuracy	• how accurately positioned in the world's surface your maps are compared to reality.

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Appendix M: Upload, Processing, and Map Building Detailed Reference

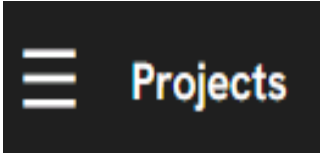
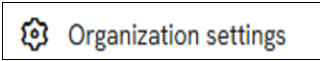
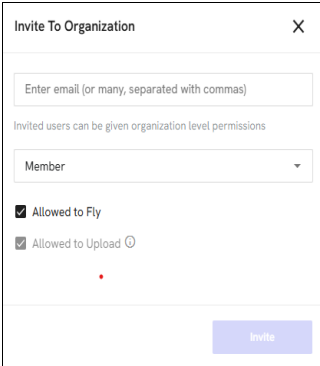
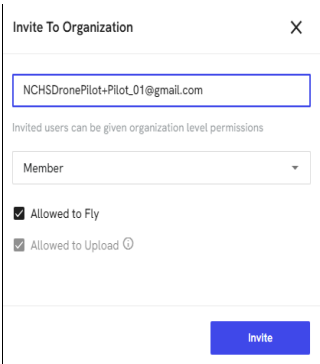
Topic	Teacher Instruction	Visual Reference
Sample data	Use a school-approved sample dataset or field-captured image folder. If using the old Google sample link, verify the link, ownership, and sharing settings before class.	
Start upload	Open the correct project/map and choose Upload/New Upload. Confirm students are in the correct DroneDeploy organization before uploading.	
Select images	Upload the complete image set from the project folder or SD card copy. Do not upload partial image sets unless the lesson is explicitly about troubleshooting. Verify the number of photos and then click “Next”	 
Ground control	If the lesson uses GCPs, checkpoints, RTK, PPK, or custom coordinates, follow the current Accuracy & Ground Control workflow before relying on measurements. Click “Start Upload” to complete setup.	 

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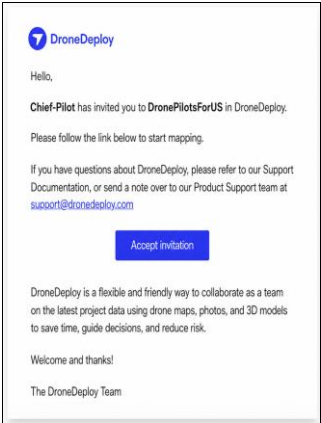
Topic	Teacher Instruction	Visual Reference														
Upload progress	Monitor upload progress and keep the browser open if required. Record upload time, crew, aircraft, image count, and processing notes. You will receive an email once your map has been processed.															
		 Once processing is complete, you will receive an email.														
Processing complete	Wait for the completion email/dashboard status, then open the map and complete a review checklist before analysis or sharing. Click on the “ View Map ” to be taken to your newly created map.	 <table><tr><th colspan="2">Map Processing Report</th></tr><tr><td>Date Captured</td><td>Aug 10, 2021</td></tr><tr><td>Date Processed</td><td>Jun 24, 2026</td></tr><tr><td>Image Quality</td><td>High texture images</td></tr><tr><td>Median Shutter Speed</td><td>1/240</td></tr><tr><td>Images Uploaded (Aligned %)</td><td>56 (100%)</td></tr><tr><td>Camera Optimization</td><td>0.01% variation from reference intrinsics</td></tr></table>	Map Processing Report		Date Captured	Aug 10, 2021	Date Processed	Jun 24, 2026	Image Quality	High texture images	Median Shutter Speed	1/240	Images Uploaded (Aligned %)	56 (100%)	Camera Optimization	0.01% variation from reference intrinsics
Map Processing Report																
Date Captured	Aug 10, 2021															
Date Processed	Jun 24, 2026															
Image Quality	High texture images															
Median Shutter Speed	1/240															
Images Uploaded (Aligned %)	56 (100%)															
Camera Optimization	0.01% variation from reference intrinsics															
Data Analysis	The map will open in the “ Explore ” tab at the top and some option will be available in a menu on the left.															

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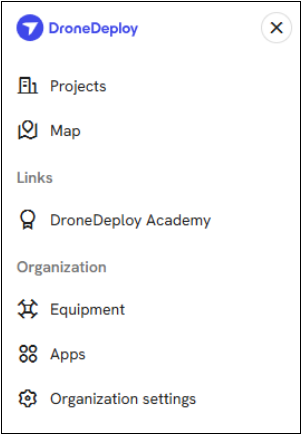
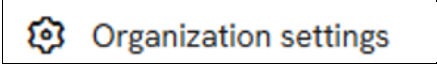
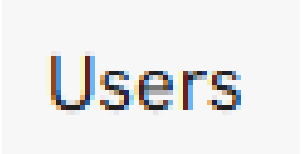
Appendix N: Adding Students to the Organization

Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
1	Only instructors or managers with the correct organization permissions should add student accounts.	
2	Open Organization settings and select the Users area.	
3	Choose Invite and enter approved student email addresses.	
4	Assign only the access needed for the class activity, such as viewing, uploading, or flying if the school allows it.	
5	Confirm the invited email address, role, and permissions before sending the invitation.	

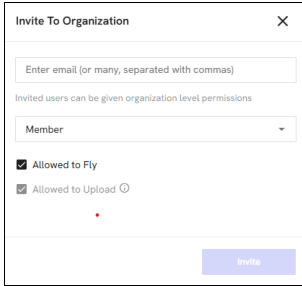
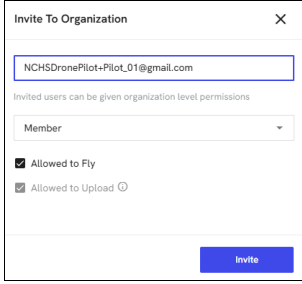
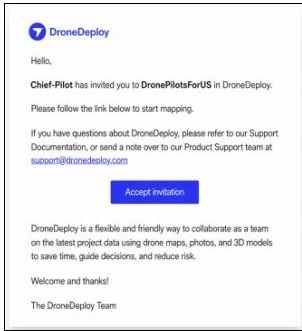
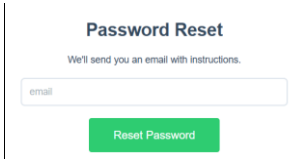
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Step	Instruction	Visual Reference
6	Tell students to use the organization invite link instead of creating an unrelated personal project workspace.	

Appendix O: Student Account Setup Detailed Reference

Topic	Updated Teacher Instruction	Visual Reference
Organization menu	Open the DroneDeploy organization menu and confirm you are in the correct school or class organization.	
Organization settings	Open Organization settings only if your role allows user management.	
Users	Open Users and review existing student/member accounts before inviting new users.	
Invite	Use Invite to add approved student emails. Use school-managed accounts or approved aliases when possible.	

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Topic	Updated Teacher Instruction	Visual Reference
Role and permissions	Assign the least access needed: view, upload, fly, or admin-style permissions only when required by the lesson and school policy.	
Confirm email	Check spelling, role, and permissions before sending the invitation.	
Invite email	Tell students to accept the organization invite rather than creating a separate personal workspace.	
Sign-in support	If students cannot sign in, use the DroneDeploy password reset or school-approved account recovery process.	

- Remove or disable student access when the course, semester, or project is complete according to school policy.
- If temporary aliases are used, keep the teacher-controlled recovery information in a school-approved location.
- Do not publish student names, emails, or project links in screenshots used outside the classroom.

Appendix P: Reporting and Analysis Tools Detailed Reference

Use this appendix after the map/model has processed. Icons are representative classroom icons, not official DroneDeploy UI icons. Tool names, locations, and availability can vary by account plan, project type, and DroneDeploy updates.

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Analysis Tools

Tool	How Teachers and Students Use It	Evidence and Cautions
 Map Quality / Processing Report	Use this first after processing. Open the completed map, inspect coverage, blurred areas, stitch quality, warped geometry, and any processing/accuracy report. Have students write a short limitation statement before they take measurements.	Evidence: processing report or map-quality screenshot. Caution: measurements should not be treated as final if coverage, blur, or accuracy problems are visible.
 Point Annotation	Open Explore, choose the annotation toolbar, select Point, click the map location, rename it, and add notes, attachments, comments, elevation, or coordinates as needed.	Evidence: point marker screenshot with title and note. Caution: label points clearly so later reports make sense.
 Distance / Line Tool	Select Distance, click each point along the feature, then double-click or press Enter to finish. Review units, 3D length, horizontal length, surface length, slope, and profile information when available.	Evidence: measurement screenshot with units. Caution: verify scale and accuracy before using results for design or construction decisions.
 Area / Surface Area	Select Area, trace the boundary, close the polygon, name it clearly, and record whether the result is 2D area or 3D surface area. Use for pads, fields, roofs, disturbed ground, or work zones.	Evidence: area screenshot and method note. Caution: boundary placement changes the result, so zoom in and trace carefully.
 Rectangle / Radius / Count	Use rectangle, circular/radius, or count tools for repeated or shaped features such as trees, drains, vehicles, materials, or inspection items. Label the count or shape immediately.	Evidence: count/shape screenshot and object list. Caution: counts should be visually checked against the imagery.
 Volume / Earthworks	Select Volume, trace the pile or excavation perimeter, choose the appropriate base plane, and review cut, fill, net volume, and mass if available.	Evidence: volume screenshot with baseplane note. Caution: poor baseplane choice can create misleading stockpile or earthwork numbers.
 Base Plane Selection	After drawing the volume polygon, open the Base Plane dropdown. Use Linear Fit for many standalone piles, Lowest Point for bins or adjacent piles, Triangulated for uneven/large/sloped piles, and Custom Elevation when a known floor height is available.	Evidence: selected baseplane plus explanation. Caution: account plan controls some baseplane options.
 Inspections / Field Notes	Open the image, media, or 3D inspection view; click the problem location; create a Field Note; then complete type, status, summary, severity, and closeout information.	Evidence: field note and inspection report entry. Caution: keep status current so reports do not show resolved items as open.
 Overlays / Drawings / BIM / DXF / IFC	Open Layers or Overlays, add the file, align it to identifiable map features, adjust transparency, and document whether alignment is exact or approximate.	Evidence: overlay screenshot and alignment note. Caution: do not assume an overlay is survey-grade unless control and alignment were verified.
 Elevation Layer / DSM / DTM	Open Map Analysis, select Elevation, choose DSM or DTM where available, adjust histogram/intensity/opacity, and export elevation data when needed.	Evidence: elevation screenshot with DSM/DTM note. Caution: DSM includes visible surfaces; DTM is terrain-focused.

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 Contours	Enable contours/elevation in the model or analysis view, set interval and display options, and export DXF or SHP if the account supports it.	Evidence: contour screenshot or exported file note. Caution: contour quality depends on elevation accuracy and map quality.
 Plant Health	Open Plant Health on the 2D map, choose the proper filter/algorithm for the camera type, adjust the histogram, and use grid or zone tools when appropriate.	Evidence: plant-health layer screenshot with sensor/algorithm note. Caution: VARI works with RGB imagery; NDVI requires suitable NIR/multispectral data.
 Map Accuracy / Checkpoints	Use checkpoints when accuracy matters. Review checkpoint error and RMSE in the accuracy or processing report, and explain relative versus absolute accuracy to students.	Evidence: accuracy report screenshot and checkpoint summary. Caution: checkpoint results are validation evidence, not optional decoration.
 Progress AI	If enabled, open Progress AI and review Dashboard, Drawing, Trends, Capture, and Reports. Compare AI progress output with visible imagery before sharing.	Evidence: Progress AI dashboard or report screenshot. Caution: Progress AI is an add-on and should be verified by a person.

Reporting, Export, and Sharing Tools

Tool	How Teachers and Students Use It	Evidence and Cautions
 Export Data	Open Export from Explore, select layer, format, projection, resolution, crop, and overlays, then submit the export request. Common outputs include GeoTIFF, JPEG, PDF, raw elevation values, contours, DXF, and SHP where supported.	Evidence: export settings screenshot and exported file. Caution: verify coordinate system and resolution before submitting.
 Inspection / Field Note Report	After creating Field Notes, go to Reports, filter by type, status, or date if needed, and generate the report for review or follow-up.	Evidence: inspection report PDF or screenshot. Caution: reports are only as accurate as the field notes entered.
 Roof Report	For eligible Enterprise accounts, outline the building with the Area tool, open Export, select Roof Analysis, enter recipients, and export the report.	Evidence: roof report delivery or building-area annotation. Caution: availability depends on account access and capture quality.
 Progress / Construction Report	Choose the available report type, select date, map, filters, and views, review the included content, then export or download for stakeholders.	Evidence: report PDF and recipient/purpose note. Caution: report conclusions should match visible map evidence.
 Private Project Sharing	Invite named users by email, choose role or permission level, confirm they have access, and document why the project was shared.	Evidence: share record with user, role, and purpose. Caution: only share with authorized users.
 Public / View-only Link	Use only when policy allows. Generate view-only link access, test the link, and record the purpose and intended audience.	Evidence: link record and permission note. Caution: public links may expose site, customer, or student data.

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Appendix Q: Source List

This manual was updated from DroneDeploy public help pages reviewed on June 24, 2026. Verify live pages before use because product interfaces, supported drones, and account features can change.

Source	URL	Use in Manual
DroneDeploy Help Center	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us	Current categories, support resources, and training references.
Recommended and Supported drones	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/1500004964842-Recommended-and-Supported-drones	Supported/recommended drone and processing categories.
Set Up for Flying - Start Here	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/1500004964262-Set-Up-for-Flying-Start-Here	Pre-flight setup, firmware, safety, app use, and manual-control guidance.
Flight Plan Settings Overview	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/21487229726487-Flight-Plan-Settings-Overview-Web-app-Mobile-app	Flight settings, overlap, Enhanced 3D, Travel Altitude, offline planning, LAANC, RTK coverage, and other settings.
Recommended front and side overlap	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/22589691164183-What-is-the-recommended-front-and-side-overlap	Overlap recommendations for standard and high-accuracy/3D/uneven-terrain missions.
Accuracy & Ground Control	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/categories/22883091167127-Accuracy-Ground-Control	RTK, PPK, GCP, checkpoint, high-accuracy, and custom coordinate workflow references.
Analysis	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/categories/1500000549581-Analysis	Annotations, inspections, overlays, volumes, elevation, plant health, accuracy review, reports, and analysis categories.
Upload & Process	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/categories/1500000549561-Upload-Process	Uploading, processing, and troubleshooting processing workflows.
Reports & Sharing	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/categories/1500000549591-Reports-Sharing	Report, sharing, and delivery references.

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Source	URL	Use in Manual
DroneDeploy Annotations	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/1500004860821-Annotations	Point, distance, area, count, volume, annotation management, locking, grouping, and sharing.
Conducting Inspections with DroneDeploy	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/1500004860741-Conducting-Inspections-with-DroneDeploy	Field Notes, inspection mode, open/closed status, and inspection reports.
Volume baseplane options	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/10330708951063-What-baseplane-should-I-use	Linear Fit, Lowest Point, Triangulated, Custom Elevation, and volume cautions.
DroneDeploy Elevation	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/1500004964002-Elevation	Elevation layer, DSM/DTM, histogram, elevation profile, and elevation exports.
DroneDeploy Contours	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/1500004963982-Contours	Contour layer and contour export guidance.
DroneDeploy Plant Health	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/1500004860861-Plant-Health	Vegetation indices, RGB/NDVI cautions, grid/zone management.
How Accurate is My Map?	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/1500004964062-How-Accurate-is-My-Map	Relative/absolute accuracy, checkpoints, RMSE, and accuracy interpretation.
DroneDeploy Progress AI	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/35922904796311-What-is-Progress-AI	Progress AI dashboard, trends, capture coverage, and reports.
DroneDeploy Roof Report	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/articles/1500004861021-Roof-Report	Roof report components, access, and export workflow.
Release Notes	https://help.dronedeploy.com/hc/en-us/categories/24608629850775-Release-Notes	Current release-note review before teaching.