Collaborative Tools

Collaboration is a powerful and authentic instructional method to engage, improve, and direct student learning. Online collaboration tools are a great way to get students to actively engaging in course material. There are so many ways to utilize these tools in the classroom but here are some of our favorite activities.

Digital Whiteboards

A digital whiteboard enables students and faculty to interact with handwritten content in real-time. Specific activities include:

- Concept Maps - to help students understand their mental structures how new ideas and concepts fit within those maps

- Equation-based problem solving - traditional text based documents are challenging to use when content involves equations or complex structures or diagrams.

- **Software Recommendations:** Google's Jamboard, Padlet, Google Docs, Zoom's whiteboard functionality, Box Notes

- **Hardware Recommendations:** any pen-input device.

- **Quick Tip:** For those without a pen-input device (students particularly), we recommend using a camera + pen / paper + Google Doc workflow. This is a low tech inclusive practice that can be easily implemented for interactive classes.

- Resource: How to share handwriting in Zoom.

Classroom Assessment

These are simple, non-graded, anonymous, in-class activities designed to give you and your students useful feedback on the teaching-learning process as it is happening. Specific activities include:

- Muddiest point - activity involves asking students to jot down a quick response to one question "What was the muddiest point in the (lesson, discussion, etc)?"

- Minute paper - instructor begins or ends class by asking students to write a brief (one minute) response to the question like "What was the most important thing you learned during class" or "What important question remains unanswered?".

- **Software Recommendations:** Google Docs, Box Notes

- **Hardware Recommendations:** laptop or smartphone

- **Quick Tip:** Reminding student their responses are anonymous can help generate better discussion and answers.

- Resource: Classroom Assessment Techniques (CATs)

Digital Annotations

Collaborative annotations help students construct layered meanings of text, allowing for multiple close readings, as well as external and multimedia links and annotations. Specific activities include:

- <u>Collaborative Annotation in the History classroom</u> — web annotation can enable young people to become more informed and engaged commentators on historical text.

- <u>Annotation as Multimedia Writing</u> - another way of students engaging with reading assignments in a creative way.

- **Software Recommendations:** <u>hypothes.is</u>

- **Hardware Recommendations:** laptop

- **Tech Tip:** <u>hypothes.is</u> has a great <u>'quick start guide for teachers'</u> which contains everything you need to get your students started.

- Resource: <u>hypothes.is</u> resource guide (<u>link</u>)

Communication Tip

Communicate with students before class to let them know the tools you'll be using (also send links to documents) and why you'll be using them. This will significantly reduce technical difficulties and better prepare your students for the activity.

Classroom Discussion

Inclusive discussion in class can be challenging in the blended classroom due to physical distancing and the mixture of F2F and remote learners. Collaborative documents

- Collaborative data entry and analysis - discussion around data can happen at the same time as students are collaborating on data using a collaborative spreadsheet.

- Collaborative note taking / discussion facilitator - While short responses can be facilitated by the chat functionality in Zoom, a collaborative document allows for more long form responses and can grow into a valuable resource for students after class.

- **Quick Tip:** Pre-populating your document with student names can be helpful when asking your students to response to a prompt

- **Software Recommendations:** <u>Google Docs</u>, <u>Google Sheets</u>, <u>Box Notes</u>

- **Hardware Recommendations:** laptop or smartphone

- Resource: <u>Getting started with Google Docs for Teachers</u>, <u>Box Notes Support</u>