Engaging Students & Creating Community Virtual Panel Tool Summaries

This tools summary was captured during the second Teaching Remotely Virtual Panel Session about "Engaging Students & Creating Online Community (July 9th, 2020)"

This summary focuses on (1) what the tool is, (2) how it can be used, (3) if it can be integrated into Avenue, and (4) if there are associated costs.

Brainstorming/Mapping tools

- Plectica is a visual mapping software, that connects information on the same page. You can create individual cards on a canvas, and organize, arrange, and connect them in real-time, with multiple contributors. You can use this program for brainstorming, identifying connections and patterns, and more. You do not need to download any software, but you must create an account. The Basic package is free, but Student and Pro packages have associated costs ($3/month and $8/month respectively). This cannot be integrated into Avenue.

- Whiteboard Fox is a simple online whiteboard, letting you draw on a virtual whiteboard, where people can watch and contribute in real-time. You can also easily take a screenshot of the whiteboard, allowing you to save the content created. You do not need to download software or create an account, and a link to your whiteboard can easily be shared with students to view and participate. There is no cost. This cannot be integrated into Avenue.

- Microsoft OneNote is often used for notetaking, but by sharing Class notebooks, you can collaborate in real time on notes or larger written projects with others. Create new tabs and pages for each topic, and share through a wide variety of means, including through integrating OneNote on Microsoft Teams. This app requires a Microsoft365 account, which McMaster provides to all students.

- Microsoft Whiteboard is a simple and free whiteboard app, letting you draw, use post-it notes, and more in a collaborative environment. There are templates to start from, or you can select a blank whiteboard. The app is free, as long as you have a free Microsoft account or paid Microsoft365 account (which all students have access to through McMaster). The app does not integrate into avenue, but does integrates seamlessly into Microsoft Teams.

- Padlet is a web-hosted board, where you can easily add post-in notes, rearranging content and connecting content with lines and arrows. Changes are autosaved, and the host can limit access to collaborators, including read-only, writing-only, admin access, or revoke access. You can also upload and/or embed a wide range of file types, including spreadsheets, photos, and videos. This can be used for brainstorming, creating a live question bank, check-ins or check-outs, article discussions, and more. The host will need to have a free account, but students can contribute

and collaborate through a simple link sharing (or through a free downloadable app). This can be integrated to Avenue using widgets.

- ExoBrain is a simple mind-mapping program with limited functionality, making it easy to learn and use. The base account is free, while the Pro account is $3/month. This cannot be integrated into Avenue.

- Coggle is a program designed to easily make mind maps in a real-time and collaborative environment. You can easily add people to join your board to collaborate and use a chat function to discuss any changes you are making. The basic plan is free but requires all collaborators to have an account to work. The "Awesome" plan ($5/month) allows for collaboration by link, instead of by account access. This can be integrated into Avenue using widgets.

Real-Time Student Engagement Tools

- Flipgrid is a video-based social learning platform that you can use for discussions and to create an online learning community. You can create a "grid" or online learning space for your course and invite students to create and share videos with their peers; for example, you can use Flipgrid for student introductions, reflections, and mini-presentations. Students can record their selfie style videos directly on Flipgrid, can add uploaded photos or videos, and can add engaging features like a whiteboard, video styles, text, emojis, and inking. Instructors can enable or disable closed-captioning and can edit the captions on students' videos. Flipgrid is free to use and can be embedded into Avenue using an embed (</>) code. Check out this step-by-step video by Katie Moisse to add Flipgrid to your Avenue course.

- Mentimeter is an interactive presentation platform that you can use to engage with and collect feedback from your students both synchronously and asynchronously. Mentimeter features customizable content, quiz, and question slides, with up to four interactive question slides per presentation on its free version. Question types include wordclouds, multiple choice, open ended, ranking, scale, and Q&A options, with added options to anonymize or allow multiple responses based on type. After creating a Mentimeter presentation, you can share the access code with your students and review their responses in real-time. You can also show and download the results, close voting, and clear the responses for reusing the presentation. Mentimeter has a free account option for educators (with unlimited presentations but a limit of four question slides per) and paid basic ($6.99/month) and pro accounts ($14.99/month) account options are available. Mentimeter cannot be integrated into Avenue to Learn.

- Zoom polls: Zoom's polling feature allows you to collect real-time feedback from your students during a Zoom meeting. You can create poll questions when scheduling a meeting or in real-time during the meeting. Poll questions can have up to 10 options, and students can select either one response (i.e., single choice) or as many responses as they would like (i.e., multiple-choice). Each poll can have multiple questions, and you can create up to 25 polls per meeting. The meeting Host can launch, monitor, and close polls, and responses can be shared back with students and downloaded as a report at the end of the meeting. Zoom polls must be enabled on a licensed Zoom account (free to McMaster staff, faculty, and students) and they cannot be integrated into Avenue.

- **Teams polls**: Using the Microsoft Forms extension, you can create an instant, real-time polls within your Microsoft Teams' channel or chat. Each poll includes one single or multiple-choice question with up to six response options. You and your students can see the results roll in in real-time, and you can track students' individual responses to the poll at forms.office.com. MS Teams Polls are free to use for all MS Teams users. They cannot be integrated into Avenue to Learn, though MS Teams meetings can be added as a widget.

- **Kahoot!** is a freely accessible game-based learning platform that allows users to create new quizzes or choose from a repository of over 40 million "ready-to-play" games and questions. You can use Kahoot! to create engaging "live" quizzes for students to complete with (and "compete" against) their peers during synchronous class time or use a student-paced Kahoot! quiz to "challenge" students to apply and self-check their understanding asynchronously. Students enter the game PIN on their device to play and receive real-time feedback on their responses throughout the quiz. You can use quizzes for test practice and review, and to identify knowledge gaps or areas that may require additional instruction. Kahoot! does not integrate with Avenue to Learn, though Kahoot! quizzes can be shared asynchronously through Microsoft Teams.

Survey tools

- **Lime Survey** is a free, open-source statistical survey application that can be used to create and publish online surveys, collect student feedback, generate statistics, and export response results. Question types include multiple choice, five- or ten-point choice arrays, ranking, dropdown lists, open text, radio buttons, numerical input, and more. Surveys can be public or restricted, anonymized, accessible at set times, and imported or duplicated. McMaster students, staff, and faculty can register for a free McMaster Limesurvey account to access the McMaster-branded survey template. Limesurvey cannot be integrated into Avenue to Learn.

- **Google Forms** is an online survey tool that allows users to collaboratively create, edit, and administer surveys at the same time. You can use Google forms to collect feedback from your students through a variety of question options including multiple choice, checkboxes, dropdown lists, linear scales, open texts, and grids. The survey can be public or restricted to McMaster email accounts, and anonymized or tracked by respondent. You can review a summary of compiled student feedback, including automatically generated bar and pie graphs depicting frequency of responses, or review by individual question or respondent. Google Forms is free with a Google account, and is included in the Google Drive office suite. It cannot be integrated into Avenue to Learn.

- **Avenue survey**: The Avenue to Learn survey tool allows you to create and integrate surveys directly into your Avenue course shell. You can use the survey tool to collect student feedback across a variety of question types including true/false, multiple choice, open text, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and Likert scales. Survey responses can be anonymous or connected to students' MAC ID's, and both class and individual statistics are generated for review. Avenue's survey tool is free to use and automatically integrated under the "Course Adminstration" menu, making it a popular choice for course evaluations.

- **Microsoft Forms**: Microsoft Forms can be used to create online surveys, polls, and quizzes, and export results to Microsoft Excel. You can use a Form survey to collect real-time feedback from your

students using multiple choice, open text, rating, ranking, and Likert scales. You can also use a Form quiz to check students' understanding during or following a lesson and can share this quiz in a Microsoft Teams learning space. Quizzes can be automatically graded as correct or incorrect with an option to provide feedback to students based on their response. Quiz statistics include the average time to complete the quiz and the distribution of responses across each question. Microsoft Forms is free to all McMaster students, staff, and faculty with an Office365 account. Forms cannot be integrated into Avenue directly, though Microsoft Teams meetings can be integrated through the custom widgets list.

Peer-to-peer learning/feedback tools

- PeerScholar is an online peer and self-assessment tool where students submit assignments to get feedback from their peers. After submitting their own assignment, students receive an anonymous sub-set of assignments from the classroom to provide feedback, encouraging students to help each other communicate more effectively and think more critically. The program also allows for self-assessment, reflection, and revision of their own assignments. PeerScholar is a free program, but each student will need to create an account. This is not integrated into Avenue.

- Kritik is a peer-to-peer learning platform, to help develop higher order learning (e.g., critical thinking, effective communication). Through the platform, students submit assignments, evaluate other students' assignment, and provide feedback. Students can work independently or in group projects and can dispute evaluations they disagree with. Data-driven insights also allows instructors or TAs to flag at-risk or disengaged students, to help keep them on track. It is free for educators and basic plans are free for students (premium plans are capped at $40/year, although financial assistance is available). This is not integrated into Avenue.

Social Reading/Collaborate Annotation

- Perusall is a social reading platform that allows students and instructors to annotate assigned readings. Students can write comments, upvote comments, use hashtags, attach links, and even use emoticons. Perussall is free for students, instructors, and educational institutions, however, there are costs associated with certain content. For example, instructors can upload their own content for students to annotate for free, and Open Educational Resources can also be used in Perusall for free. But if instructors want to assign a textbook or other monograph for use in Perusall, students will need to purchase the text from Perusall's catalogue of 200 000+ titles from leading publishers. Perusall can be integrated into learning management systems by following the instructions here.

- Hypothes.is is a free, open-source tool that allows users to collaboratively annotate classroom readings, news, blogs, scientific articles, books, terms of service, ballot initiatives, and more. To use Hypothesis, users must add the extension to their browser and create an account. Hypothesis can also be integrated into learning management systems, like Avenue to Learn, which enables students to engage in discussion right on top of course readings. Both students and instructors can then add comments and start conversation in the margins of texts. To set this up, you will need to contact the Hypothesis directly, which you can do here.

- **Manifold** is an open-source publishing platform for scholarly publishing, allowing users to annotate, highlight, discuss, cite, and share passages from any Manifold text. Authors and publishers are also able to include additional information beyond the scope of the article or book (e.g., supplemental resources, raw data, videos). Grant funded, this program is always free to use, but is not incorporated in Avenue.
- **Genius** allows you to annotate any webpage without downloading additional software or browser extensions. Students will need to create a free account, but can then easily share their annotated web pages, or view them on their profile at a late date. As an instructor, you can also request a semi-private class page, to better monitor students' work, organize assignments, and more. This is free to use, but cannot be integrated into Avenue.

Digital Storytelling Tools

- **ThingLink** is a digital tool for creating interactive graphics. Users can augment images with audio, video, text, and informational links. ThingLink offers deep integration with Microsoft Office 360 – content creation for image, video, and 360 media is fully supported inside Microsoft Teams and interactive content sharing is supported to OneNote and Teams. Instructors can create a free account that allows for the creation of interactive images in public mode. There is also a premium option for $35.00/year and an institutional license starting at $1000.00/year.

- **Storymap JS** is a free digital tool that allows users to tell a story by highlighting the locations of a series of events. Users can add slides for each place in a story, setting the locating using a basic address serach. There are a number of preset maps available, or users can customize their own. It is also possible to tell stories with large photographs, works of art, historic maps, or other image files. Storymap JS can pull in media from a variety of sources, including Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo, Dailymotion, Google Maps, Wikipedia, SoundCloud, Document Cloud, and more. Completed storymaps can be embedded on a variety of sites, including Avenue to Learn.

- **Timeline JS** is a free, open-source digital tool that allows users to tell a story in a timeline format. Users can create visually rich and interactive timelines using a Google spreadsheet. More advanced users can use JSON to create custom installations. Timeline JS can pull in media from a variety of sources, including Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo, Dailymotion, Google Maps, Wikipedia, SoundCloud, Document Cloud, and more. Completed timelines can be embedded on a variety of sites, including Avenue to Learn.

- Omeka is web-publishing platform for sharing digital collections and creating online exhibits. There are two options: omeka.org and omeka.net. The decision whether to use omeka.org or omeka.net will depend on your project goals. Both versions support collaborative authoring. Neither version can be integrated directly into Avenue.
    - Omeka.org is free digital curation platform. It is highly customizable and there is no storage cap; however, it is more difficult to manage and make changes. The user is also responsible for maintenance.
    - Omeka.net is a paid digital curation platform. It is easy to manage. Omeka will update the site on your behalf as updated version of the software are released. There is a storage cap (dependent on the plan you purchase) which can make certain kinds of content difficult to work with, such as large video or audio files. Pricing begins at

$35.00/year for the basic plan.

- [Scalar](#) is a free, open-source publishing platform designed to allow users to write long-form, born-digital scholarship online. Scalar enables users to curate media from multiple sources and juxtapose them with their own writing in a variety ways. It requires minimal technical expertise while allowing users to take advantage of the unique capabilities of digital writing, including nested, recursive, and non-linear formats. Scalar supports collaborative authoring and reader commentary. Scalar is completely free to use and supported by the University of Southern California. Users simply need to create an account to get started. Scalar cannot be integrated directly into Avenue.

- [Timemapper](#) is free, open-source tool for creating interactive timemaps – timelines with data points connected to a geographic maps. Timemaps are created using data entered into a google Timesheet. Completed timemaps can be accessed online or embedded in your own website, including Avenue to Learn.

Office Hour Scheduling tools

- [Calendy](#) is a free online tool to help simplify booking meetings. Either by sharing a link or creating a widget for your Avenue course home page, students can pick from timeslots that follow the rules you've created (regarding availability, and length of time, etc.). Once they've picked a timeslot, it syncs to both calendars, and sends a reminder email to the student. This is a free to use tool and can be integrated in Avenue using a widget. Check out the [step-by-step video](#) by Katie Moisse to add Calendy to your Avenue course page.