Blended Learning Essentials: Getting Started

Crib Sheet: Padlet

What is Padlet?

Padlet is an attractive web application that allows users to create simple online spaces that look like a piece of paper, or a blank wall. Users can attach 'sticky notes' by double-clicking anywhere, and upload - or link to - images, files, videos and sound recordings. Web pages and media will appear and play directly on the Padlet wall, providing a very appealing user experience. This provides an easy way for learners to collaborate and curate web-based resources, or generate ideas together. Padlet describes itself as a "somewhere between a doc and a full-fledged website builder". Unlike many other kinds of wiki, it allows for multiple users to edit at the same time. There are multiple settings to allow users to modify the Padlet wall, by adding different 'wallpapers', setting privacy and permissions and customizing the wall's weblink. While the default format is free-form, other formats (list or grid) may provide an easier viewing experience if a large number of posts is expected. The classic version of the tool is free, but there are premium versions that offer more privacy, security, branding, user management and monitoring, including a version specifically for educators, Padlet Backpack.

Where can I find out how to use Padlet?

Padlet is very easy to use and simple instructions can be found here. Many video tutorials made by educators are available, including videos by the Blended Learning Essentials team.

How can Padlet be used in learning and teaching?

Padlet can be used to increase learner interactivity in a number of ways. In class, a link to a Padlet wall can be shared with learners (for example, as a QR code that learners can scan with their smart phones or tablets). The ease with which it is possible to add to the wall encourages engagement, and the results are instantly shareable with other learners. Padlet can be linked to or embedded within a VLE such as Moodle, and learners can view or share multimedia resources with each other easily.

Within the Vocational Education and Training sector, possible uses of a Padlet that could be adapted to your own educational context are:

- Sharing evidence of learner practice e.g. construction apprentices share photos of their work;
- Performing arts learners sharing photos or videos of productions;
- Literacy learners compiling a CSI-style evidence wall of quotes, articles or images to explore an issue, fictional character or debate;
- Learners brainstorming ideas within and beyond the classroom;

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- Ice breaker activities for online courses, e.g. learners share photos and introductions
- Teachers or trainers sharing images, websites and videos
- Learners curating a collection of web-based resources for project work individually or in groups e.g. a wall of hairstyles for short hair.

Using Padlet in the Vocational Education and Training Sector

Level 2 Marketing

The teacher or trainer creates three Padlet walls dedicated to the following groups: over 65s, children under 11 and college students.

- In pairs, learners search the web for 20 minutes to find examples of successful marketing targeting the three groups;
- For each target group, pairs post links to images, videos or webpages that provides an exemplar of marketing aimed at one of the three groups on the on the relevant Padlet wall;
- Pairs add their names to the post and provide at least one reason for their selection;
- The teacher or trainer shares the Padlet walls with the whole group via the Smart Board or projection screen and invites the learners to justify their choices

Level 3 Travel and Tourism

The teacher or trainer creates a Padlet wall for each group of four learners to build a profile of a specific country with potential as a tourist destination for British visitors.

- Over the course of a week, groups add tourist resources to the Padlet wall, in the form of images, maps, videos, hotel information, sports and leisure activities, food and drink, natural resources, music, local language and menus.

- In class, each group presents their Padlet wall to the others, explaining their choices;

- The groups analyse the potential of each country for tourism aimed at the following groups of British visitors - singles, couples, families, honeymooners, stag or hen parties and creates a list of their top 5 destinations for each group.

- As an extension task, groups compare their top 5 lists to similar lists created by holiday guides such as Lonely Planet.

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