

Social Learning Platforms

Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning

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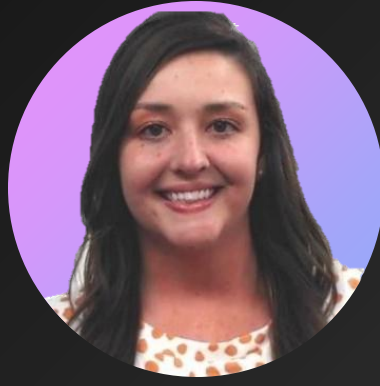
Tennessee
TECH

Meet the Instructional Designers



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Session Resources

- Session will be recorded.
- Slide deck will be shared.
- CITL team will be in the chat to answer any questions.
- Book a consultation with your instructional designer!

Agenda

- What are social learning platforms?
- Why would I use one?
- How do I use them?



Perusall



Padlet



Wakelet



MS Whiteboard

Poll Question

Which of these social learning platforms have you heard of before (if any)?

Instructional Technology

eGlass

Yula Media

Video Conferencing

Poll Everywhere

Qualtrics Insights Platform

Respondus Suite

Turnitin

iThenticate

OneDrive

Office 365

Swivl

LinkedIn Learning

Lightboard Studio

WordPress

Disclaimer

We are in the exploratory phase for three of the platforms discussed in this session (Perusall, Padlet, Wakelet).

Since they are not formal parts of our Instructional Technology suite, there may be some feature and tech support limits.

Contact your instructional designer if you have questions!

What are Social Learning Platforms?

Social learning platforms integrate social networking features into educational environments, enabling students to collaborate, share resources, and engage in discussions.

Key Features:

- Collaborative learning spaces
- Interactive, student-driven content
- Peer-to-peer interaction and knowledge sharing
- Real-time feedback from peers or instructors

Examples in Higher Education:

- **Perusall:** Social annotation tool
- **Padlet:** Collaborative digital bulletin board
- **Wakelet:** Digital content curation
- **Microsoft Whiteboard:** Real-time collaboration canvas





What about iLearn Discussion Boards?

- **Strengths:** already built-in to iLearn; student familiarity
- **Drawback:** not available after term ends

The screenshot shows the iLearn interface for the 'Discussions' section. The top navigation bar is purple and contains links for 'Content', 'Assignments', 'Quizzes', 'Discussions' (highlighted with a yellow box), 'YuJa Media', 'Grades', 'Course Tools', 'Resources', and 'Course Management'. Below the navigation bar, the page title is 'Discussions'. There are four tabs: 'Discussions List' (underlined), 'Subscriptions', 'Group and Section Restrictions', and 'Statistics'. Below the tabs, there are two buttons: 'New' (blue) and 'More Actions' (grey). At the bottom, there is a 'Filter by:' section with 'Unread' and 'Unapproved' options.

Why use a Social Learning Platform?

Collaboration

Promotes group work and shared contributions in real-time.

Engagement

Encourages active participation through interactive features.

Organization

Helps structure and present materials in clear formats.

Interaction

Facilitates discussions, brainstorming, and idea sharing.

Personalization

Supports tailored learning experiences and unique approaches.

Visualization

Provides creative and visual tools for mapping and displaying ideas.

Poll Question

Which of these uses would enhance your course(s)? (Multiselect)

Perusall[®]



Social Annotation Tool

"Transform nearly any type of course content into a social learning experience, driving meaningful engagement and deeper understanding."

[Perusall Accessibility Statement](#)

“

Perusall has been an effective tool for promoting active reading and peer collaboration, enhancing students' engagement with course content.

-Dr. Eunsung Park, *College of Education & Human Sciences*

”

Perusall Basics



Instructors build a *Library* & create *Assignments* from *that Library*

- Instructor uploads web pages, podcasts, .docs, .pdfs, .xls, .ppts, and/or videos to **library** (including entire textbooks)
- Students post comments and reply to peers' comments via **assignments**

The screenshot displays the Perusall interface for a course titled 'NURS-4300-50...'. The main content area shows two sections of questions:

Questions During Reading

1. Does this make sense to me?
2. Do I need to look up any unfamiliar words?
3. Do I need to reread difficult material? Or will this be explained further if I read on?
4. Is the author using signal words (first, next, therefore, as a result, etc.)?
5. How is this information related to what I know?
6. How is this section linked to the previous section?
7. Can I summarize this section before going any further?
8. Can I answer my prereading questions? **Can I formulate new questions?**

Below this section is a cursor icon.

Questions After Reading

1. Do I understand the main points?
2. Can I outline the content?
3. **How is this related to previous learning?**
4. How would I use or apply this information?

The interface includes a left sidebar with navigation options like 'My Courses', 'Library', and 'Assignments'. A right sidebar shows a 'Current conversation' window with a comment input field and a list of comments.

Perusall Advanced Features



Automated Grading

Instructors can choose to have Perusall assign grades based on number and quality of posts and replies

Differentiated Instruction

Instructors can assign different readings and quizzes to both individual students and student groups

Peer Reviews

Instructors can create folders for student uploads and assign rubric-supported peer reviews



Some Logistics...

Costs?

- Sliding scale available with \$0 as an option if only uploading content
- Entire digital texts available at market prices through the bookstore

Integration with iLearn?

- One-click access to assignments in iLearn

Introduction to Perusall (Practice Assignment) ▾
External Learning Tool
Due January 22 at 11:59 PM

Perusall[®]



Strengths

- Student collaboration on web pages, podcasts, .docs, .pdfs, .xls, .ppts, some videos
- Instructors can view detailed student engagement data
- Perusall frequently adds features based on instructor feedback

Limitations

- Student learning curve, especially on how they are graded on engagement
- Students can't yet easily upload videos



Collaborative Digital Bulletin Board

- Interactive Discussions
- Resource Sharing
- Student Portfolios
- Collaborative Projects

“



I have always used threaded iLearn discussions in my courses, but students indicated they dreaded these assignments. I switched to Padlet in 2023 both for delivering content and for discussions, and students tell me they enjoy this user-friendly platform, which in my thinking is more akin to the appearance of social media platforms to which they are accustomed.

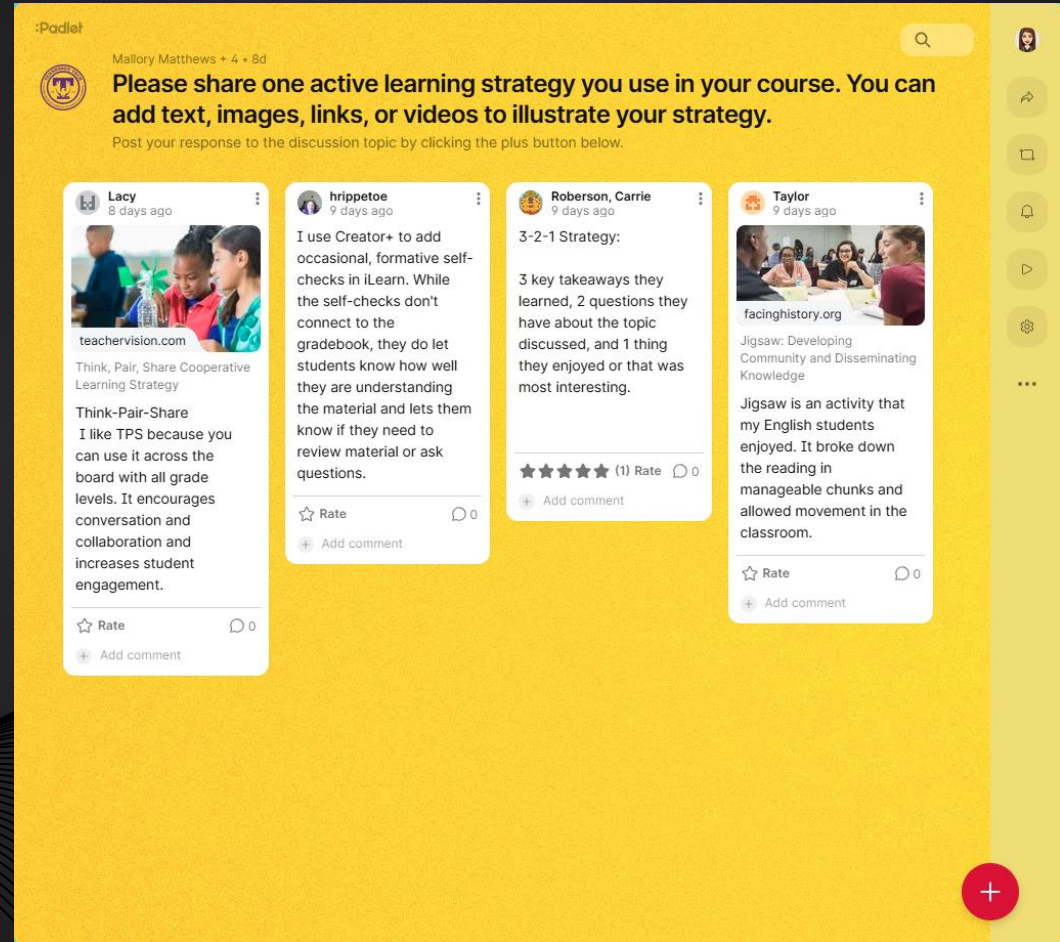
-Dr. Janet K. Isbell, *College of Education & Human Sciences*

”

Padlet Basics

Instructors make or choose a **digital board** to facilitate **collaborative activities**

- **Gallery** allows you to create from a **template** or begin as a blank slate
- Several **category** options
- Supports **uploading** of various media types, including **documents, images, videos, and links**
- **Share** the board with others
- Facilitate real-time discussions through **commenting** and **reactions**, enhancing student engagement



The screenshot shows a Padlet board with a yellow background. At the top, the board title is "Please share one active learning strategy you use in your course. You can add text, images, links, or videos to illustrate your strategy." Below the title, there are four user posts. Each post includes a profile picture, name, and time posted. The posts contain text descriptions of learning strategies, some with images and links. The first post by Lacy includes an image of students and a link to teachervision.com. The second post by hrippetoe describes using Creator+ for self-checks. The third post by Roberson, Carrie describes a 3-2-1 strategy. The fourth post by Taylor describes a jigsaw activity with an image of students and a link to facinghistory.org. Each post has a 'Rate' button and an 'Add comment' button. A search bar and a plus button are visible at the top right and bottom right of the board interface.

Padlet Link Example



Some Logistics...

Costs?

- Free Plan allows creation of up to 3 active Padlets (boards or sandboxes)
- Padlet pricing and plans

Integration with iLearn?

- Padlets can be shared via direct links within iLearn, providing easy access to collaborative boards.
- Can be embedded using embed codes
- Students have the option to make an account or post anonymously

Padlet



Strengths

- User-friendly and intuitive interface
- Supports multimedia posts (text, images, videos)
- Can be embedded in other platforms
- Great for brainstorming and visual collaboration
- Flexible layouts for various activities
- Instant syncing allows live collaboration

Limitations

- Free version
 - Limits to 3 Padlets
 - Storage and upload size restrictions
- Lacks deep integration with iLearn
- Can get cluttered with large groups
- Does not provide detailed data on student activity or engagement
- Public Padlets can be accessed by unintended users if not set up correctly

wakelet



Digital Content Curation

- Organize and Share Resources
- Facilitate Collaborative Learning
- Develop Digital Portfolios
- Ease of Finding Resources

Wakelet Accessibility Statement

Wakelet Basics



Search or Explore for a topic

- Create a **Collection** to house items
- The **My Library** includes **Items**, **Collections** and also **Shared with Me**

Student Uses for Wakelet

- Curate resources for a research project
- Develop an annotated bibliography
- Build a digital CV
- Use Spaces with peers to create a shared collaborative set of collections

Effective Teaching & Instructional Design Wakelet Board Sample



Some Logistics...

Costs?

- Free plan allows creation of up to 4 public collections and 3 collaborative collections
- The free plan offers limited storage; higher storage capacities are available in paid plans
- [Wakelet plans and pricing](#)

Integration with iLearn?

- Wakelet does not offer direct integration with iLearn
- However, you can share Wakelet collections via links or embed them into iLearn using HTML embed codes
- Collections can be exported as PDFs for uploading to iLearn

wakelet



Strengths

- Free to use for basic needs
- User-friendly and easy to navigate
- Can be embedded in other platforms
- Allows multimedia curation (videos, links, PDFs)
- Collaborative collections
- Works best for organizing and sharing resources that can be accessed later

Limitations

- Limited analytics for tracking engagement
- No direct integration with iLearn
- Can get cluttered with large groups
- Can become overwhelming with large collections
- Less interactive compared to some platforms

Microsoft Whiteboard



Real-time Collaboration Canvas

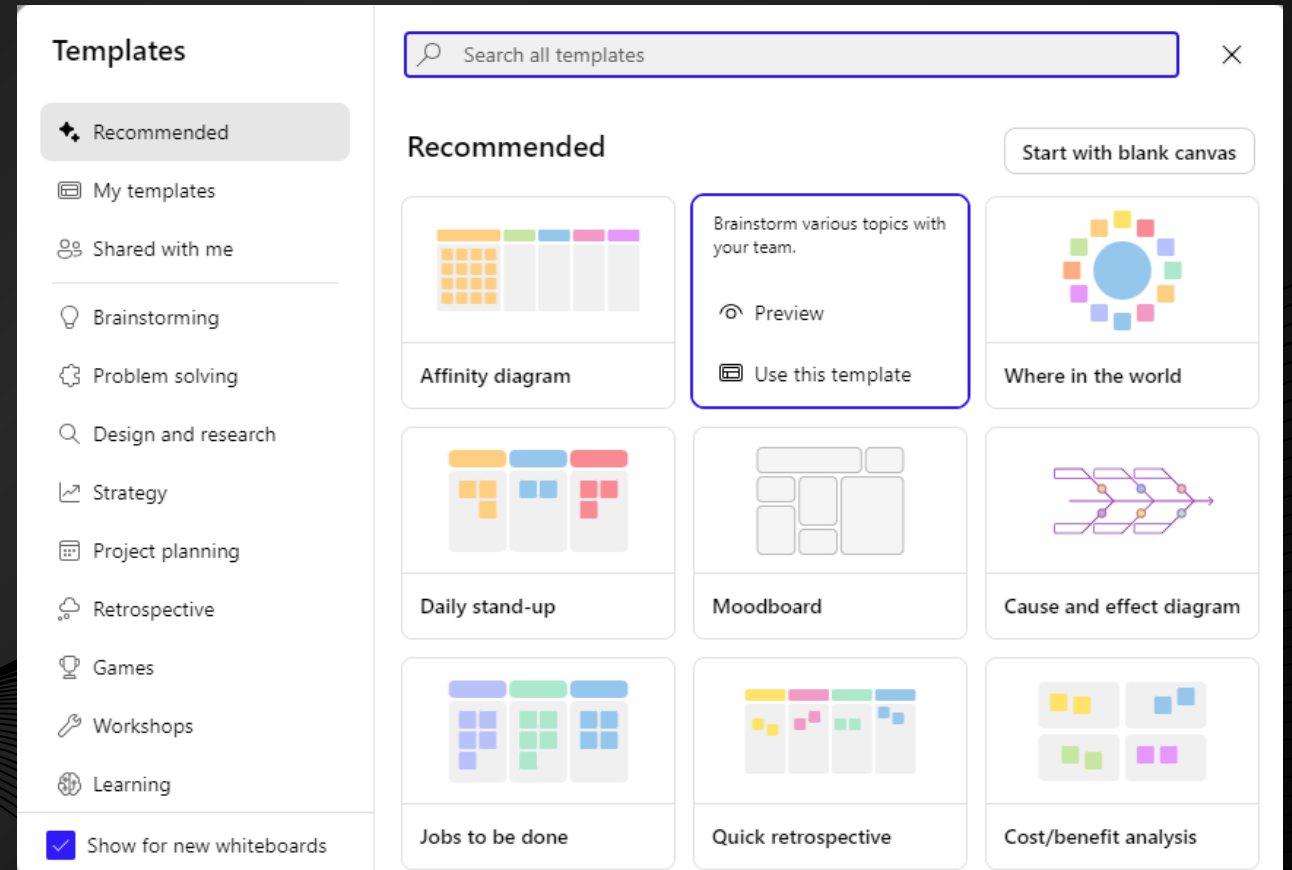
- Collaborate on an infinite canvas
- Integrates with Microsoft Teams
- Supports various layouts
- Fully supported by TN Tech

Microsoft Whiteboard Basics



*Can be accessed from your
Microsoft Account*

- New Whiteboard options come with **Templates**
- Several categories to choose from
- Can create your own with “**Start with blank canvas**”
- **Share** the whiteboard with others
- Collaborate in **real-time**



Some Logistics...



Costs?

- **Free for faculty and students** through university-provided Microsoft accounts
- A limited free version is available for personal accounts, with premium features requiring a subscription

Integration with iLearn?

- Microsoft Whiteboard does not directly integrate with iLearn
- Whiteboards can be shared by
 - Sending Links
 - Exporting as PDFs/images to upload to iLearn
- Works seamlessly with other Microsoft tools, such as Teams and OneDrive, which can support indirect sharing in iLearn

Microsoft Whiteboard



Strengths

- Free with university Microsoft accounts
- Real-time collaboration with multiple users
- Extensive templates available
- Intuitive and user-friendly interface
- Supports multimedia elements (text, images, drawings, sticky notes)
- Auto-save feature ensures work isn't lost
- Infinite canvas for expansive creativity

Limitations

- Can feel overwhelming for first-time users with large groups
- No built-in analytics for tracking engagement
- Some features may require additional setup (e.g., syncing with Teams)
- Performance may lag with heavy multimedia use or large groups
- Lacks advanced design customization options



Microsoft Whiteboard Exit Ticket Example

Practical Uses in Your Course

Peer Review

Enables students to provide constructive feedback on each other's work, fostering critical thinking and reflection.

Discussion Facilitation

Create space for ongoing class discussions or debates, encouraging deeper engagement with course topics.

Project Organization

Keep group projects or assignments organized, tracking progress and contributions from all members.

Ongoing Access

Students can access resources and collaborative work even after the semester ends.

Learning Reflection

Provides a space for students to reflect on their progress and course content over time.

Formative Assessment

Use the platforms for quick, informal assessments to gauge student understanding.

Resources:

- [Perusall](#)
- [Padlet](#)
- [Wakelet](#)
- [MS Whiteboard](#)

Thank you!

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

[Feedback Survey](#)

Next Week's Session:
Tech Trendsetter Highlight
[Register](#)

