



Ideas to Support Remote Community Dialogue/Engagement

1. Padlet

Padlet is ideal for Community Dialogue, Affinity Mapping, or Chalk Talks.

[Padlet](#) is a web-based tool for collaboration and discussions that can be useful when you are presenting or sharing information, or hosting a virtual group dialogue. You can post one or more statements, questions, videos or photos as a prompt, and ask your community for their thoughts, reactions, or reflections on what you posted. Participants can then dialogue via 'notes' to each other in the Padlet.

Padlet can also be used for virtual [Affinity Mapping](#) using the thumbs up "Reactions". (An explanation of how to use this feature is mentioned briefly in the last couple of minutes of the tutorial linked below). It can also be used during a virtual [Chalk Talk](#) by having participants comment on one another's responses. Additionally, participants have the ability to rotate through multiple Padlets as you can include links for each Padlet on an agenda.

[Here](#) is a **tutorial** for using **Padlet**. Padlet accounts are free, and participants do not need an account to view or participate in a Padlet.

How an UP team used Padlet for a Chalk Talk:

1. One team used a "Wall" in Padlet to 'show' the work they've done around the strengths and concerns they found in their data. ([Padlet with Concerns](#))
2. They posted images containing the strengths and areas of concerns found in the data followed by a statement: These are some of the root cause ideas we've identified in our data.
3. They posted some questions for people to discuss:
 - a. *What thoughts do you have about this information?*
 - b. *What solutions come to mind to address those root causes?*
4. Participants held a dialogue via 'notes' to each other in the Padlet for a designated block of time.
5. The team plans to narrow down the information gathered in the Community Dialogue into one or two do-able actions.

[Example of Padlet using Grid option](#)

2. Photostories

Photostories are ideal for eliciting feedback from the community.

Photostories are an ideal way to visually present pictures of your work. You can create a photo story that tells the story of your work, and then ask for input from the community based on what they watched. You can collect feedback on a Google Form and use this information to determine the next steps for your team. There are many ways to go about a photostory. **WeVideo** allows you to import a variety of resources into your presentation including PDF documents, pictures, videos, and text. Your team could also create a **Google Doc or a PDF** to share through your school's website, newsletter, or email. It can also be shared on Front Porch Forum to ensure that more community members are engaged.

[Here](#) is a tutorial on **WeVideo**. WeVideo accounts are free, and participants do not need an account to view or watch a video.

[Here](#) is video on **Google Forms**

3. Flipgrid

Flipgrids are ideal for hosting virtual dialogues, sharing, or presenting information.

Flipgrid is a website that allows facilitators to create "grids" for participants to have discussions, and share or present information. Each grid is like a message board where facilitators pose questions, called "topics," and participants can post video responses that appear in a tiled grid display. You can view or add video, text, and resources at any time. *Student-to-Student* replies allow participants the opportunity to respond to one another within a Flipgrid Topic and participate in ongoing dialogue. Flipgrids can be used to get community input about something you are working on and has a feature that allows participants to vote on the subject.

[Here](#) is a tutorial for using Flipgrid. A Flipgrid account is not needed to view or participate in a "grid" or "topic", however a free account is needed to start a flipgrid.

4. Zoom and Google Meet

Zoom and Google Meet are ideal options for live virtual community dialogue.

Two of the most common platforms for hosting community dialogues are Google Meets and Zoom. These platforms allow participants to have a conversation just like they would in person. There are a number of features on each platform to help you successfully manage the conversation - from sharing your screen, to muting participants, to creating breakout rooms. ([Here is a video](#) from the Tarrant Institute on how to create breakout

rooms in Zoom). When you plan a community dialogue event using one of these platforms, you should structure this conversation just like you would if you were in person, making sure everyone has an opportunity to share their thinking. Start by creating an agenda with clear goals for the conversation. Some goals might be to share data, discuss next steps, ask for input on your work, or bring in a variety of presenters to share out where they are with their work.

Zoom and Google accounts are free. Participants do not need either account to participate. Zoom subscriptions do offer more features for community events. When using Zoom, it is important to enable the waiting room feature and have a password for participants to use when accessing the event/meeting. [Here](#) are some other helpful security tips.

How UP Teams are Using Zoom for Community Dialogue Events:

1. One UP team created an agenda based on their goal of getting input on priorities found in their data. After carefully planning the facilitation of the meeting, including organizing breakout rooms, they sent out a Zoom invite to stakeholders.
2. By sharing the screen, the facilitators presented the priorities they discovered in their data and opened up the microphones for clarifying questions.
3. Participants then joined one of three breakout rooms to share and gather root cause and solution ideas. Each room had an assigned notetaker.
4. After a set amount of time, everyone came back together and shared out their findings.
5. The team plans to reconvene and pick one or two actionable ideas on which they can work.

**Some ways to reach out to stakeholders during this time includes sending out invites via Front Porch Forum or a regular school newsletter.

[Here](#) is a link to a variety of Zoom Tutorials

[Here](#) is a tutorial on using Google hangouts (Live meetings start at 4:40)

The Vermont Agency of Education shared this document with other virtual meeting options. Check it out at: <https://teachfromhome.google/intl/en/>