Padlet: a useful web tool for class projects

☆☆☆☆☆ by Max52, 27 February

There are lots of websites for sharing information in an educational context, but one specifically has caught my attention. We have been using the Padlet website in my English class for group projects and I would like to give you an overview of this collaborative online space.

There are a whole host of reasons why Padlet appeals to students and teachers, but probably one of the main advantages is its user-friendliness. Despite never having used it before, I managed to set up Padlet pages for different projects so that the other members of my group and I could post and share our work. The interface is intuitive and after a few minutes I quickly got the hang of how it works. There's a help menu for any queries or doubts you have about the settings. The great thing is that you can write directly on the board or upload information in a variety of formats including written text, audio, video or images. Once uploads are complete, there's the option to comment on the content and to share via the typical social media channels. Alternatively, the walls can be kept as password-protected private spaces to ensure that only people from your class can access the space. A further advantage is that students can access the wall both in class and outside class, making it a versatile learning tool for classwork and homework.

Despite the numerous advantages, there are certain downsides that should be highlighted. One issue is that of privacy. Walls are not private by default, so you have to make sure you alter the settings to ensure complete privacy. In addition, the lengthy URL – the webpage address – can be shortened, but this involves an extra step during the set-up stage. Furthermore, despite offering a range of layout formats, certain formats lend themselves to certain projects and it is up to the user to identify the best one to showcase each project. It's also worth mentioning that your posts are not automatically visible to everyone – the teacher has to set themselves up as a moderator and accept or reject your post to make it visible to your classmates.

On balance, I certainly think the benefits of Padlet outweigh the disadvantages. I have found it invaluable in producing high-quality collaborative projects, so if you're looking for a user-friendly, collaborative website, I suggest you give Padlet a try.

Top Tips for writing

1. State clearly what you are reviewing.
2. Give opinions and facts, but save your overall evaluation for the last paragraph.
3. Give a balance of negative and positive points.
4. Give your recommendation in the last paragraph.
5. Use vocabulary specific to your topic, e.g. in this text:
   - upload
   - password-protected
   - settings
   - share
   - interface
   - URL