

## What is Padlet?

Padlet is an online post it wall. It allows individuals (and large/ small groups) to post their comments, questions, and resources in one place that is easily accessible to everyone.

## What are the advantages and disadvantages of the tool?

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Easy access for the students</li><li>- Easy set up for the tutors</li><li>- Free version</li><li>- Pedagogically varied – you can use it for different purposes (please see below)</li><li>- A lot of useful functions (including privacy settings, comments, reactions – likes, grading, stars)</li><li>- Shows real time updates</li><li>- You can easily change the web address which makes it easy for your participants to type in the address if the link is not provided</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Whilst there is a free version it only has 3 walls per account. You can delete and clear walls as you wish but you will only have three active walls at a time</li><li>- Once posted and once you've left the wall you can only go back and edit if you have the account</li><li>- There is a 25MB limit on direct video uploads</li></ul>

## How can Padlet be used for online teaching?

### Gathering answers to questions during a lecture/ tutorial.

Padlet can be a good way of gathering students' ideas during either a recorded lecture (when for example you ask them to pause and think about something) or during a synchronous session when one of the activities is asking students to post their answers/ opinions. If you have a small group you can review responses as they are being posted and identify any that you might want to discuss. If you have a bigger group you can identify couple to discuss during the session and afterwards go through the rest, identifying common trends and post a response in the form of an overall comment or video to the group.

## **Gathering feedback**

Padlet can offer a quick anonymous way of collecting student feedback at crucial points in time. Mentimeter can allow you to do the same thing, however, in Padlet the comments option can be enabled and is a very useful addition that Mentimeter doesn't have. The comments option allows you to reply to certain comments and this reply will be visible to all users. This way you can immediately demonstrate how you act on feedback and encourage more of a dialogue with your students.

## **Checking students' understanding - The muddiest point**

There are a couple of ways in which you can track students' progress and check their understanding in an online setting. You can formatively assess with a short online quiz (either on Mentimeter or Blackboard), you can embed short quizzes into your Panopto recordings or you can ask your students what the muddiest point of the session was, i.e. what is the aspect of the material that they still don't fully understand or they struggle with. In this instance, Padlet could be a good way of gathering student feedback as:

- it can be anonymous (usually only students who have Padlet accounts can be recognisable, but you can turn on the option that will allow everyone to be anonymous). Anonymity will encourage more students to come forward with what they still do not understand
- the comments sections allow students to help each other by posting their own explanations – this removes the responsibility for you to provide all the answers and encourages students to form more of a learning community where they can share knowledge and resources (anonymously)
- the like buttons can allow students to vote on what the most common issues are. You can use this either to provide supplementary resources, or you can ask students to vote what they would want further explanation on that can be a starting point of the next session or the topic of a short video recording

## **Collaborative work on producing a resource or researching a topic**

You can use Padlet as a platform for showcasing group work. For example, if students' task is to research a topic, Padlet can be a good outlet for showcasing the main results of their research. It has the potential to gather all of the relevant resources in one place that can be shared with the whole class. A Padlet resource is also one that can be expanded upon by others and developed further.

## **Facilitating reflection**

Reflection can be a difficult thing for students to understand. Reflection is often assessed through reflective writing which can be even more difficult. Allowing students to create reflective Padlet walls where a lot of sources can be incorporated – audio, video, image – has the potential to help them be more reflective through other means than reflective writing.

## Useful things to consider/ remember

### Restrictions on free use

In recent years Padlet introduced a free version and a paid version. The free version has restrictions on the number of walls you can create. If you mostly want to use the wall for whole class use to gather students' ideas and responses (i.e. the first three uses above) then the free version will suffice. If you need more than three walls running at the same time you will need the paid version that will allow you to create and store multiple walls.

### Openness settings

Padlet has a range of privacy settings:

1. Private – Padlet is hidden from public. Even if someone manages to get it, they should not be able to access it. This is a secure setting that will only allow the owner to have access to the wall. You can show it to others but only through displaying it through the account the wall was created in.
2. Password – the Padlet is hidden from the public. It can be shared but only people who have the password will be able to access the content.
3. Secret – the wall is hidden from the public but can be accessed by others by sharing the link
4. Public – the wall can be accessed by everybody even without the link (it can be searched via the Padlet site and Google)

It is important to consider the nature of the assignment (how personal it is), the audience it is aimed at (is it a resource that will be open to everybody, is it in the students' interest to reach a wide audience outside of their tutors/ cohort – for example is it a resource for outreach?) and quality assurance (will the assessors and external examiner be able to see the work) in relation to these privacy settings.

### Useful settings

Reactions buttons – these can be a good way of engaging the audience. You have an option of the following: none, like, vote, star and grade. Like and vote options work very well and they carry no judgment as can be mostly used for indicating which questions should be answered or where further support is needed.

Comments – you can decide whether you want to enable or disable this option. Having comments can be a good tool for encouraging communication, collaboration and sharing of ideas between your students.

Attribution – you can decide whether students with Padlet accounts will be associated with the posts they are making. If you turn this option on, their username will appear. For all the others the comments will appear as coming from 'anonymous'. It is important/good? to consider how important recognition of individual contribution is. If it's a muddiest point/ feedback type of activity then this option is best turned off to encourage students to be honest and speak freely. If you are using Padlet for group work and want some way of tracking contributions, then that option can be useful. If you still want to acknowledge individual contributions but don't want your students to get

an account, ask them to indicate in each post they make who the author is. This needs to be explained early on to make sure everybody understands and will follow the guidelines.

Filter profanity – as the name explains any inappropriate language can be flagged up. If needed, you can always set the settings so that the posts need to be approved first.

## **Rights**

There are several rights that your audience (Padlet wall users) can have:

Can read – this means that your audience will only be able to view your posts. They can't post, modify or edit or approve others' posts, delete and modify walls, or invite collaborators.

Can write – your users can view and add posts. They can't add and approve others' posts, can't delete or modify walls, or invite collaborators.

Can edit – can view and add posts, edit and approve others' posts. They can't modify or delete walls, or invite collaborators.

Can administer – can view and add posts, edit and approve others' posts, modify and delete walls, and invite collaborators.

If you want to encourage collaboration, sharing and discussion the most appropriate setting is 'can edit'. If you assign individual walls to students or groups of students and want them to have greater control over what it looks like (e.g. the background that they use) then make them administrators.

## **Editing posts**

If you have an account then you can edit a post anytime as long as you are logged on to your account. If you do not have an account, your editing rights will be limited. You will be able to edit your own posts as long as you have the wall open. If you want to go back to it later and edit a question, you will not be able to do that. That is something that applies to using Padlet with large groups when they post comments or questions.

## **Linking to Blackboard**

Blackboard can sometimes look like a repository for links and resources which might not look visually appealing. Padlet has an embed code which means you can embed your wall in the same way it appears in your browser. Any posts can be made from there and will be reflected live.

## **Saving/ printing/ providing a permanent record**

If you would like a copy of your wall stored somewhere locally (or you run out of your limit but want to keep a record on the questions that were asked) you can save your wall. You can save it as an image, pdf, csv or excel spreadsheet.

## **Formative or summative assessment?**

Padlet can be used for both forms of assessment. The majority of purposes and examples above relate to formative assessment and facilitating further learning. However, reflection and group work could be gathered and assessed on Padlet. If you want to use Padlet as a platform for showcasing summative assessment there are two things to consider:

- the criteria – they need to be well developed and communicated to the students and the tutors. As Padlet is a visual tool it is important to decide how/ if this is to be incorporated into the criteria. If this is not important then you need to design the criteria in such a way that students who take the less creative route are not disadvantaged.
- Record for quality assurance – summative assessment needs to have a permanent record so these walls will need to be stored. This can be done through downloading a pdf version of the wall for records.