

Video recording sheet (Secondary): Online discussions

Backchannels: Using an online tool for students to record and discuss ideas and questions during a video

Why use an online tool?

Recording thoughts before, during and after a video can help students focus their learning and better engage with what they are watching.

Note-taking before the video will help both teachers and students assess what is already known and understood before taking on the new learning in the video. Some students will already have experience flying drones, and discussion before the video will allow the class to learn with and from these students – or debunk some myths!

During the video, students will engage more with new information that confirms or contradicts ideas they may already have noted and will connect their new knowledge with other learning.

Sharing their thoughts before, during and after the video gives students an opportunity to engage in social learning, rehearse communicating their understanding with their peers, and practise using new vocabulary and exploring concepts in a safe environment.

How is this kind of discussion managed?

It's important for discussion in backchannels to be safe so that students feel free to take risks and explore the topic fully. Make sure that rules for communicating online are established and that everyone gets equal opportunity to be involved.

Some helpful tips:

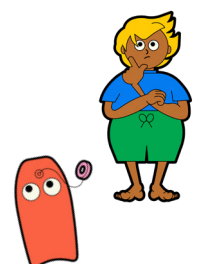
- Provide structure to the discussion. A simple example is given below.
- Guide the discussion – keep an eye on the backchannel as students record their thoughts. Just like in the classroom, guiding questions might be needed, students may need encouragement to engage. Off-topic or repeated comments may need to be guided back to the focus on drone safety.
- Help students to synthesise or summarise their common points at the end of the discussion. Ask them to select the important points are that they have raised or questions they still have.

What tools can be used?

There are many tools available, and what is used in each school context will vary. Talk to your school IT team if you are unsure about what will work in your environment. If you are using an online meeting platform, it may already have facilities for holding backchannel discussions. Below are some suggestions for you to explore.

Online whiteboards and discussion tools:

- Padlet <https://padlet.com/>
- Miro <https://miro.com/>
- Google Jamboard <https://jamboard.google.com/>
- Kialo <https://www.kialo.com/>
- YoTeach! <https://yoteachapp.com/>



Online meeting tools with chat and whiteboard functions

- Microsoft Teams
- Zoom
- Blackboard

Example discussion formats

Brainstorm then sort concepts:

- Before, during and after the video, ask students to record their thoughts about drone safety using the tool's chat or sticky notes functions. Treat this as a brainstorm, where any relevant ideas are accepted and recorded. After the video, ask students to group the concepts they have recorded in a way that makes sense to them, and then summarise the important concepts based on this sorting.

KWL:

- Depending on the discussion tool you use, it can be helpful to set up three areas headed K, W and L before the discussion begins.
- Before the video have students record what they **Know** and **Want to know** about drones and drone safety.
- During the video and afterwards, have students record what they have **Learned**.

