



ENGAGING ONLINE CLASSES THROUGH JAM BOARD- A WEB 2.0 TOOL

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Abstract

Technology has created a flexible learning environment. Technological innovations have made learning possible at anytime and anywhere. Online education is the buzz word and in fact, the order of the day. It is playing a vital role in changing the educational landscape. However, student retention and engagement is a major challenge to be addressed by the educators and the teachers. Many researchers have suggested several strategies to enhance student engagement and involvement during online education. The use of Web 2.0 tools while teaching online is one method the teachers can adopt to engage the students meaningfully in online learning. Web 2.0 tools are called participatory tools as they enable student participation and enrich peer learning. The present paper presents the use of JAM Board, a lesser known and used Web 2.0 tool.

Keywords: Flexible Learning Environment, Technological Innovations, Student Engagement, Peer Learning, Web 2.0 Tools.

Introduction

Technology has brought in revolutionary changes in the way we are living today. Technological advancements have made learning possible beyond classrooms and learning at the comfort of home. Technology is vital to stay connected with students and explore various teaching and learning opportunities. Owing to the pandemic, there is a paradigm shift in the teaching. Online teaching is adopted. There are several video conferencing platforms like Google Meet, Slack, Discord, and Microsoft Teams etc., which allows a teacher to familiarize the learners with the theoretical aspects of the subject. However, when the students work on projects, there is a need for a common platform which allows them to post their work, queries and suggestions. There are several and popular web 2.0 tools for the students to work collaboratively. Jam Board is a less known and used white board, popularly known as Google Whiteboard. Till recently, Jam board is available as a separate app in the Gmail along with other apps like Google Docs, Google Classroom, and Sheets etc. Recently, it has also been incorporated in the Google Meet, a popular and widely used video conferencing platform. The key feature of any web 2.0 tool is, it allows collaborative learning, team work and promotes peer learning. Going by the definition, Jam Board can be called as a web 2.0 tool. Jam Board offers an interesting and collaborative experience for heterogeneous teams and classroom projects.

Navigation of the tool

Jam board is available in the Gmail as one of the apps in the Gmail. Click on the dotted box icon for Google apps. Scroll down to find jam board. A new frame pops up on the window with the following instructions. 'You don't have a Jam yet. Tap + to create one. The + symbol is on the bottom left corner of the window. Tap the + icon

After opening the new jam, on the top right corner you find untitled jam. Click on it to rename.

The background of the Jam board can be made interesting by clicking on the background option. There are six options apart from the white background.

The share option on the top right corner enables it to share to other educators and to students.

On the Jam Board, towards the left corner, you find icons of a pen, erasers, select, sticky notes, add image, circle and a text box. Several Jam Boards can be created by clicking on the icon expand frame bar available on the top middle of the board.

If your school or college is using Google Meet Platform for online classes, then Jam Board is available within the meet. Next to the icon 'Share Screen' click on the three dotted line to find the Jam Board. If the Jam Board is used in the Google Meet, the teacher can present the Jam Board to explain difficult concepts.

Some of the few crucial skills that are ubiquitous for the students to face the Industry 4.0 revolution are virtual collaboration, design mindset, social intelligence and adaptive thinking. The road map to take up Industry Revolution 4.0 is possible by developing the Twenty First Century Skills such as collaboration, learning through peers, team work, critical thinking and ability to identify and solve problems.

Advantages of a Jam Board

Jam board can be used in flipped classroom teaching. A Jam Board can be used for assigning a group project to promote collaboration, peer learning and to promote creative thinking skills. A jam board can be used to brainstorm and develop ideas. Jam board can be used in pre-learning, during learning and post learning. The teacher can create a group gmail id for the class and share the jam board with instructions on completing any group task.



Jam Board can be used by any educator or learner with basic computer skills. Jam board can be shared to unlimited number of people. Jam boards are automatically saved and hence the teacher or the students can edit at any point of their convenience. Unlimited Jam Boards can be created either by the teacher or by the students. Jam board can be downloaded, saved as PDF or an image for future use. Jam Board can be used as an engaging teaching learning tool both during the class and after the classroom. The JAM Board is simple to use and effective to collaborate.

Jam board provides authentic learning experiences for both educators and students alike, as networking is made easy and possible. Students gain a lot of knowledge by engaging themselves with jam board, which fosters communication and information literacy skills which are essential in the twenty first century. A sample Jam board activity is given below in figure 1

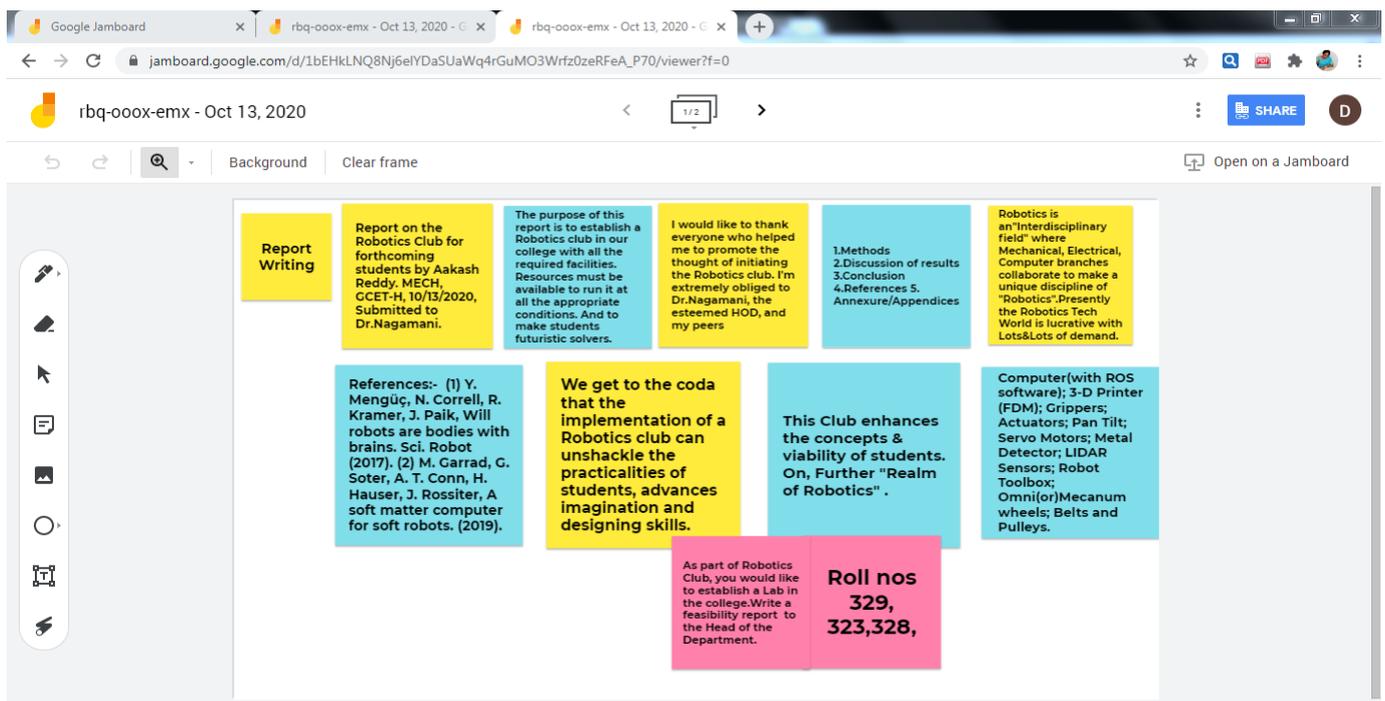


Figure 1- Sample JAM Board Activity

Challenges in using the Jam Board

Firstly, Jam Board is convenient to use for subjects which does not require writing numbers. It is a bit difficult to use the pen to write the numbers. Secondly, sharing JAM Board individually to a group of students is difficult. The JAM Board can be shared easily to a group of students, if a group mail id is created before sharing the JAM Board.

Conclusion

Students learn to collaborate and work in real time situations. This provides lot of space for discussion and expressing opinions.

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