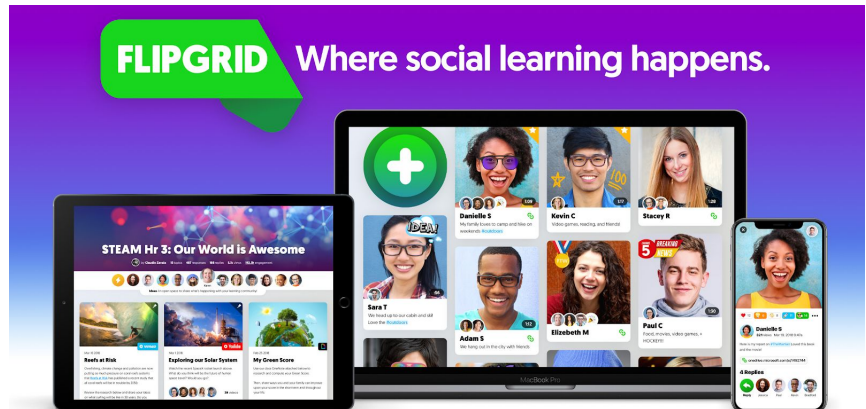# Tech Snacks: Three Cool Tools

Learning technology apps, tools, and websites are constantly being created, updated, closed down, sold off, or bought out. There are some great learning tools available online, but it can be hard to wade through all the confusion to find technology that actually solves a problem. Here are three new (or newly updated) learning technology tools to take a look at!

## FlipGrid

### www.flipgrid.com



### What is it?

FlipGrid is a platform that enables instructors and students to have discussions in video format. Instructors create short video prompts, and students record a video response on the site or in the app. Students can also respond to classmates' videos, and there are several social media response and filter options to make the experience fun and rewarding.

### How do I use it?

FlipGrid has both a website and an app. The platform is very intuitive and, best of all, it doesn't require students to create their own login credentials. You simply set up an instructor account at www.flipgrid.com, create a "grid" (class), and start creating "topics" (discussion forums) for students to participate in. To keep track of your students, you can import or enter a classlist and assign each student a simple username (e.g., LindseyB). Students then just use this name to get into the "classroom" from the link or code you provide.

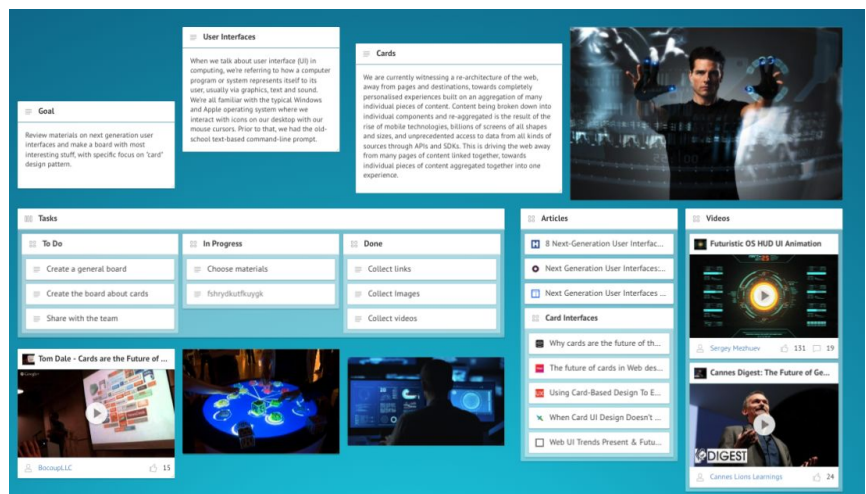### What problems can it solve?

FlipGrid is particularly well-suited to an online-only class, as it can help students and instructors put a face to a name and create some of the community-building that is difficult to achieve online. You would likely use this as an occasional substitute for written class discussions in Brightspace. Bonus: FlipGrid has a repository of discussion topic ideas from other teachers that you can browse.

## Webjets

### www.webjets.io



### What is it?

Webjets is a virtual, cloud-based whiteboard. Users create their own boards where they can place and organize virtually any kind of content. Images, links, text, videos, documents, to-do lists, mindmaps, live Google documents—all can be easily added and rearranged. Boards can be shared with others to work collaboratively.

**How do I use it?**

Webjets is an intuitive, flexible tool for any kind of group project or curation task, whether it's being done by you or by your students. If you want students to complete a group project on a particular research topic, this would be an alternative format to simply having them submit a PowerPoint slide. You can log in with an existing Google account, or quickly create a new account. The initial free version has a limit on how many "cards" you can create, but educators can request a free premium account.
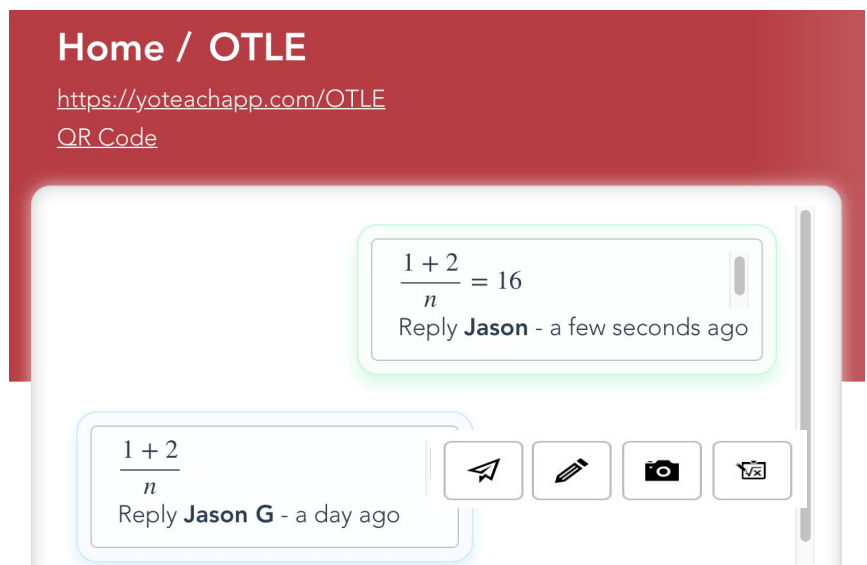
**What problems can it solve?**

Use Webjets as an alternative to assigning PowerPoint presentations. Let students work in groups to curate links and resources on a particular subject. Use it as a personal use tool for brainstorming, mindmapping, collecting resources, and organizing a topic before a lecture or presentation.  If you ever spend time researching or collecting resources and find yourself with a computer screen full of windows and browser tabs, this is a solution for you!

# YoTeach!

## www.yoteachapp.com

**What is it?**

YoTeach is a low entry, low effort chatroom app that helps students and instructors communicate and problem solve collaboratively and on-the-go. Even though it says "app" in the web address, it does not require an app download. There are no free trial limitations, no passwords (unless you want), no fees, and it is easy to use.

### Home / OTLE

https://yoteachapp.com/OTLE
QR Code

$$\frac{1+2}{n} = 16$$

Reply **Jason** - a few seconds ago

$$\frac{1+2}{n}$$

Reply **Jason G** - a day ago

https://yoteachapp.com/OTLE

**How do I use it?**

Go to the site, create a room, give the students the name of the room or QR Code and that's it! The students will be required to enter a name so they can be identified when asking their questions. If you do want a little more control of the room, there are some admin settings that can be activated to make the learning environment more secure.

There are four communication options in YoTeach.

- The first icon is a basic text tool that allows users to communicate using simple text.
- The second icon is the drawing tool, and allows quick freehand sketches when a whiteboard is not accessible.
- The third icon lets users upload pictures from their phone, which can be annotated with text or freehand drawing before being posted.
- The last icon is a math tool and is very unique. As you write freehand in the bottom space it will recognize the numbers and symbols and translate them into a formula. Even when you draw with a mouse or finger, it is very accurate in deciphering less than perfect handwriting.

**What problems can it solve?**

YoTeach! can help you communicate with students in noisy environments or when they're scattered over a large area. It also lets you give quick updates to the class or answer quick questions outside of class. There are a number of uses for this simple but powerful tool, in or out of the classroom. It is compatible with mobile and desktop devices, but some of the drawing features were difficult to use on the phone. From the Math classroom to COTS labs, this tool can fill a useful niche.