

BACKCHANNEL DISCUSSIONS

Discussion Strategies for Various
Learning Environments



OLATHE PUBLIC SCHOOLS USD

Backchannel Discussions

Let's discuss!

In-Person or with Safety Measures in Place

1. A digital conversation that runs concurrently with a face-to-face activity; it allows every student to have a voice.
2. It is a student-led discussion.
3. Teachers use this for students to process information.
4. Teachers use this to develop higher-level questioning.
5. Teachers can use this to ensure 100% participation in a discussion.

**Tools that can support Backchannel: Nearpod Collaborate, Google Slide Q&A

**In a socially distanced class, each student uses their own device.

Online Learning

1. Utilize the Chat in Zoom as a way to have a Backchannel Discussion.
2. Google Slides has a "Q&A" feature that can be used while a teacher presents that can be utilized as a Backchannel Discussion.
3. After opening the Google Slides presentation, click on the drop down arrow next to the "Present" button in the upper right-hand corner.
4. Select "Presenter View."
5. Click the "Audience Tools" tab.
6. Click "Start New" at the bottom of the screen.
7. There will be a link to copy and share with the class and a website will also appear on the teacher's presentation slide for students to see to access the "Q&A" during the presentation.
8. Teachers can display the questions for the class at any time throughout the presentation.