

Chapter 1

Technology Target, Tool, Task, and Tweet

With your district team, read the following and complete the activities. The information in this section highlights a technology tool that can be used in BYOD.



Target: Backchannel conversations are background conversations that take place at the same time as teacher-led activities or lectures. The backchannel is where students are able to ask questions of and receive immediate feedback on thoughts and ideas from the teacher and other students and share ideas and websites without interrupting the teacher or other students. Students can ask the teacher, neighboring students, or the entire class a question. While there are several collaborative online sites available to use for backchanneling, TodaysMeet is one of the easiest to use as it is free and teachers don't have to pay to create an account. Other great backchanneling sites are Chatzy (www.chatzy.com) and Backchannel Chat (www.backchannelchat.com).



Tool: TodaysMeet (<https://todaysmeet.com>) offers several helpful features when users register for a free account. For example, teachers can keep all of their backchannel rooms in one place, set security features, and create quick response (QR) codes (symbols that can be scanned using apps on mobile devices) to create easy links for access. There are video tutorials posted by educators on YouTube that demonstrate how to use TodaysMeet. The following are a couple of helpful YouTube videos that include brief summaries.

- "Todays Meet for Classroom Backchannels" (<http://bit.ly/TodaysmeetBYOD>) explains what a backchannel is and shows users how to use backchannels in the classroom.
- "Socratic Circles With a Technology Twist" (<http://bit.ly/SocraticSeminarBYOD>) offers a real-life example of a high school English language arts class using the tool.



Task: Create a TodaysMeet backchannel for your team. Silently, complete the following steps and then collaboratively discuss the reflection questions from the chapter using your backchannel.

1. The group leader enters a reflective question in the backchannel room.
2. Group participants have up to two minutes to respond to the question.
3. Group participants have up to two minutes to read the backchannel transcript of the other participants' comments.
4. Group participants respond to at least one other post by entering the @ sign and then the participant's username before entering a response (for example, @Kipprogers).
5. Repeat the process for each question.



Tweet: Tweet an instructional benefit of BYOD to the hashtag #BYODchat. Then, retweet someone else's tweet from the same hashtag.