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**21st century tools for teaching and learning**

**Backchannels**

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| What is it? | * Micro-blogging tool or text chat tool
* Synchronous / Real-time
* Primarily text based
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| In what context? | * Alongside and in reaction to a spoken event, video, image, presentation, etc.
* Question asking / Question answering
* Communication forum
* Shared space
* Feedback tool
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| Why? | * Engages students who otherwise may not contribute
* Evens the playing field for involvement
* Can't be dominated by the loudest voice
* Allows students to ask Q’s without waiting until the end
* Allows teachers to answer Q’s on the fly without interrupting
* Gives students the chance to answer Q’s from their peers
* Allows teachers to see where the understanding or confusion may be happening as live events unfold
* Demands engagement with the material to participate
* Provides a record of the discussion or other interaction for reflection
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| Some free examples to try | [www.todaysmeet.com](http://www.todaysmeet.com)[www.neatchat.com](http://www.neatchat.com) [www.chatzy.com](http://www.chatzy.com)[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) <http://hootcourse.com/> <http://micromobs.com/>  |