“Realtime Board Tutorial”

Transcript

Okay beautiful people today we are going to learn about RealtimeBoard. Now, RealtimeBoard is a virtual whiteboard that you can use as sort of a traditional white board, or you could also use it as a sort of collaborative planning tool for your classroom and for your students. RealtimeBoard offers a lot of really cool features and we are going to explore some of those today. So the first thing you see when you go to RealtimeBoard.com is this homepage. I’m not going to play this video in the middle otherwise there would be no point in me making this video, so instead we’re just going to dive right into it.

If you’re new to RealtimeBoard you can sign up by clicking up here in this little blue box and that will bring you the option of signing in through Facebook, through Google, or through making a traditional account. I signed up through Google because I think that’s really easy and it would also be easy to do for your students too if they have a Gmail account. So just for times sake I already have it logged in on this tab and this is sort of the dashboard that they bring you to. So on our dashboard this is my account, this is sort of where I can access all of the boards I have created, favorite, or boards that people have shared with me. I can also see in this column under Active boards if anyone is looking at my boards in real time, so that’s kind of cool.

So what we’re going to do now is we’re just going to create a board. So I clicked “Create a Board” and now it brings me to this and I have to think of a title for a board so I’m just going to say, ‘Tech class is awesome.” Here I can make it private or public. If you have a free account, like I do, you can only have up to three private boards. So you might not want to make them private. That sort of restricts you on how many you can have. I’m going to leave mine private for now. Right here you will see “Invite participants.” This is just like Google Docs or any of the applications we use on Google Drive where you can share it with others through email and they can collaborate with you. This is exactly the same. I’m not going to fill this out now because I don’t think anyone’s online but me. But I’m going to just go down here and click Create.

Now it brings me to the different templates you can choose from. There are a lot of cool ones here. I invite you guys go explore them. They have Venn diagrams, calendars, there is a timeline down here, a visual story map; really cool things for the classroom, but just because I sort of want to take us on a sort of whiteboard journey I’m going to click on this blank one right here. We’re just going to start out fresh and clean. So the cool thing about RealtimeBoard is it has a lot of options that are similar to the ones we explore through SmartBoard. The only difference is that this is online on your browser and multiple people can be working on a display board at once. So, if you’re a teacher and you want to use it as a traditional whiteboard that’s awesome, but if you’re a student and you want to sort of collaborate with your classmates on a project or you want to study together or review notes together, this is also a great tool for that as well. So here’s my blank whiteboard, and you can see that it’s not actually blank. There are some gridlines here. This is really great if you want to draw a graph or make something that has to be more structured or exact, this would be a really great space to do it.

Our main toolbar is down here. A lot of these functions I think most of us will be familiar with. We have zoom in/out down here. This hand grabby tool let’s me grab and drag my whiteboard to different parts of it, much like we see with Prezi for example. We have a cursor down here, a pen tool down here so I can write notes. Yay! Writing notes is fun. If I didn’t want to hand right them I could use a typing tool so I could type my notes instead. Oh I can’t spell, that’s fine. I can draw shapes. So again for graphs or for anything mathematical, geometric this is really cool. If you want to make a graphic organizer this would also be really awesome. Sticky notes make everything dynamic. “Did you know…” I don’t know, “I love sticky notes??” I’ll bet you didn’t know that. I didn’t know that until just now because I made that up.

Okay, so I’m going to move that around here. Now, the great thing about RealtimeBoard is that if you run out of space you can just grab this hand tool, click here, and I can drag it and suddenly make new room. This is really great as a teacher if you want all of your notes for a unit to be on the same whiteboard then all of your instruction is centralized and it gives you a really great access point so you can just distribute this one whiteboard to all of your students and they can have all of the notes and all of the things they need to know and that’s awesome.

So let’s say I have more notes here and I share it with my students and my students who can access this whiteboard can actually comment on the board as well. Similarly, if they were using this for a planning project or for a presentation or any sort of assignment you can give instant feedback through this comment tool. So I could say, “Mr. Countryman, I don’t get it!” I don’t know. And suddenly I have a comment. So when I go back to this whiteboard I can see what other people think. You can have instant feedback, that’s really important for differentiated instruction. So I really like that tool; I think it’s awesome.

So, like I said before you can sort of make these graphic organizer things with the shapes and everything, but if you want to sort of turn it into a flow chart, not only do you have access to this arrow thing, but you can also link things like this, and this sort of turns it into a lucid chart type thing where I can make a sort of flow chart that way, and that’s really exciting. But let’s say I didn’t want to do that, I can just click this handy dandy undo button right here.

Lastly on our toolbar we have “Add pictures, documents, or videos to this board.” This is awesome. So I can click on this and if I click the “From URL” one down here at the bottom I can enter a link to any video or a link to any image and it will just pop that image right here on the whiteboard. So that’s really cool. Alternatively I can upload files from my own computer. There aren’t any on here. That’s neat. Let’s see, up here we have another toolbar. This Home button will take me back to the dashboard where we started earlier. This brings me to a shortcut where I can again visit the boards that I have made, favorite, or shared. Here I can invite collaborators, people who can view my board and also add to my board. So I could invite my students, my peers, my partners for a project, anything I want. This guy is a default and he looks really weird and creepy. You can see they have really handy contacts for Facebook and for your Google contacts. So I won’t have to go around searching for email addresses.

This library function up here is really neat. Iconfinder is sort of like a clipart gallery so you can make really nice infographics or presentations using this gallery feature. I can also connect to my Google Drive and pull any files or images I have saved from my Google drive and plop them right here onto the whiteboard.

Up here we have our handy Share button. That gives me a lot of options. I can download this board so if I want it saved to my computer if I’m a student who wants to use it as a study tool I can just save it. I can save it as an image, a PDF, save right to my Google Drive, which is awesome it will save to the cloud, I can embed it into a website. So for example If I was a teacher and my class had a website or school blog this would be really helpful. I can post it to Facebook. Also another cool feature up here is this chat button. So let’s say I have several collaborators on this whiteboard we can sort of chat to each other off the side about what we’re working on at the time, and that can be really helpful for a student who is working on a project.

So that’s RealtimeBoard and I’ll just quickly zoom out so I can show you; so this is sort of what your whole board would look like, let’s close that chat window. You can see how just sort of having an endless board where I can put all of my notes for my unit or all of my planning for a project creates this really dynamic space and I think it’d be really cool for a classroom. So I hope you guys enjoyed the video. I highly encourage you to look up RealtimeBoard. It’s really fun. I think it could be really nice for all the classrooms and it has a lot of pros that I think SmartBoard also had. It sort of eliminates that one student at a time disadvantage with the SmartBoard. So I think this is really cool, of course it’s free and that’s always nice, and yeah! So play around with it. Enjoy! Oh my God that was such a weird voice. All right, cool.