Transcript for FLO EdTech Sandbox Series – Padlet (November 15, 2023)
BCcampus event hosted November 15, 2023
Facilitator: Lisa Gedak
Host: Gwen Nguyen

GWEN NGUYEN:
Welcome to our session three of BCcampus FLO EdTech Sandbox Series, Padlet with Lisa Gedak. Thank you very much for joining us today. My name is Gwen, and I am a learning and teaching advisor with BCcampus. A few housekeeping items that I would like to go over. The first part of the session will be recorded and you're welcome to keep your camera on, and feel free to rename yourself to participant. So live captioning has also been enabled for this session. I would like to express my special thank you to my partner, Britt, she's also in the room. And also my colleague, Kelsey Kilbey for her invaluable support behind the scenes during the bustling October and November events at BCcampus. Before we dive into the session, I'd like to begin with the territorial acknowledgment. BCcampus actually has two offices located in the unceded territories of the Tsleil-Waututh, Squamish, Musqueam, W̱SÁNEĆ and Esquimalt and Songhees Nations of the Lekwungen-speaking people. As we respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission call to action, we continue our journey of learning and relationship building. Personally, I'm joining everyone today from my home office in Victoria in the traditional lands of the Lekwungen-speaking people, including the Songhees and the Esquimalt people. It's a very wet day in Victoria, but since I come from Vietnam, a place with a summer vibe all year round, I'm very grateful every day for the experience of living and working in a place with four beautiful seasons, even on a wet day. Please feel free to share your introductions in the chat if you wish.

Typically, we share the survey link and promote some upcoming events at the very end of the session. However, recognizing that some of us might have very tight schedules, I want to mention this upfront. We invite you to participate in a short anonymous survey. And your feedback will help us shape our future professional development events. And the link is in the chat, and our EdTech Sandbox Series is going to be on Sticky Notes with John. Please join us and the registration link, you can find BCcampus Events.

I also want to share the BCcampus Info Sheet. With this QR code, you can go and see all the links to our upcoming events. Thank you and let's circle back to our topic today on Padlet by Lisa Gedak. Lisa is a teaching and learning strategist, an educator, an online learning designer. And she's deeply committed to fostering more personalized as well as meaningful learning experiences. One interesting fact about Lisa is she's very passionate about nature. Besides work, you can find Lisa spending time in forests or by the ocean. We are very excited to have Lisa as our EdTech Sandbox leader today. Please, please join me in welcoming Lisa. Here you go, Lisa. Thank you.

LISA GEDAK:

Thank you so much, Gwen. Wow, what an introduction. And I also want to thank you, Britt and Kelsey for being amazing and all of the folks at BCcampus for always providing these awesome learning opportunities and methods of connection with each other, which is really, really great. I am located on the W̱SÁNEĆ territories, traditional territories of the W̱SÁNEĆ Nation, in the Salish Sea, or the colonial name by the Georgia Straight. And today it's Pender Island, which is behind me here. And I am very grateful to live and work in this place. As educators and as designers of learning, we often have experiences to be able to help to advance Indigenization of the curriculum in our settings. And Padlet, as I'm going to show you, is one way that we can begin to incorporate some of the languages, traditions, and cultures of Indigenous peoples in the places that we live. And to help our students also understand the importance of the culture and the language and the places that we live and study.

Padlet, as I mentioned, is actually a really great tool that we're going to get into and learn about the settings and the configuration. And some awesome case uses that you can use in post-secondary. And actually I've seen it used in corporate settings, educational settings, lots of different settings. But as far as using it to help indigenize our curriculum, there are a couple of ways that we can easily do this using this tool. One of those ways, either visiting the Native Land link, which many of us are familiar with, as well as the Whose Land website, which both sites can provide some insight into not only where you are geographically in the traditional territories that you may be residing, working, or studying on, but also can provide some insights into language and culture and even community events that are happening around you. So it's a really rich place to take your students to. Kelsey, if you wouldn't mind popping in the chat the link to the Turtle Island Padlet. It's okay if you're not comfortable using Padlet at the moment. You don't have to have an account to use it. Kelsey is going to pop a link in the chat that you can go to. I can actually just quickly share my other screen here to show those that may not be going to this place, what that can look like.

So you can actually put a pin where you are located in the world. Again, with students, do the exercise and activity of actually going to learn about where they are in the languages and the cultures. And then encouraging them to consider their relationships to that place and possibly ways that they have honoured the culture and possibly participated in events or ceremonies or celebrations, for example, can be a really powerful activity that can lead you to a place of deeper discussion and consideration for how we can indigenize our curriculum and be explicit with our students in post- secondary about that process. I think it's a really powerful tool and a simple tool to use. So I'd encourage you this morning to feel free to place yourself in the territory that you're on, on that map. And consider possibly how you honour the culture and the lands that you are on and connect it to the community so it can be used for that purpose as well. This individual has shared, Bobby Joe, 2021, a really cool Padlet. It's not mine. It's one that's been provided publicly that discusses some of the histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada and also provides some additional information and resources in a timeline Padlet. So we'll talk about the different formats that Padlet comes in. But certainly, no matter the context that you're teaching in, considering how you might do these types of activities to start having

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those really important discussions about indigenizing the curriculum and decolonizing the curriculum. Very cool that Padlet can do some of those things and there was a QR code there as well.

I will, of course, share all of the slides, my lesson plans, and anything related, all of the links that we are going to explore today using Padlet. So we're going to start off by really just situating the tool. What is it? What types of settings and features might this tool support? Then I'm going to provide you with 10 different case uses that have been used in post- secondary education. Some ideas for particular things that you might like to do with your students. Also, we're going to explore just openly what other possibilities Padlet may have in your context. We will situate it in your own context as well and ideate some case uses potentially that you may want to adapt or adopt. And we will explore and collaborate through these various 10 Padlets. I will talk about what they could do and then we will share some links and let you explore those places that you're interested in. And then again, contextualizing it for yourself and actually being able to leave this session with some practical ideas on how you might incorporate it as an activity or an assessment will be really helpful. So having some small discussions about what that might look like after you've explored and started to generate some ideas. And then finally, optionally, at the near the end of the session, I will provide instructions on how you can actually create a Padlet account that is free for up to three Padlets. Essentially they're like a bulletin board that you can collaborate on with your students. You can have three of them for free, and it's quite easy to set up an account. So optionally anyone that would like to do that, we will go to that place.

I will just quickly have a look at the chat and make sure that there are no burning questions here before we get started. I think we're good. What is Padlet? Essentially, as I mentioned, it is a virtual bulletin board, which is generally how it's described. Those individual boards are called Padlets, and in those spaces, there is a diagram of one here. There's different layouts and I'll look at those different layouts with you, that you can create with your students. That they can share regardless of the format. They can upload and organize different content types and files. It's all in real time. If you want it to be, you can also use it as an asynchronous activity. But as I was sharing my screen, we saw a couple of people pop a pin on there to indicate where they were in the world. It can be used real time as well, so there's been flexibility there. There are quite a variety of file types that can be shared, including gifs, and images, and files. It is portable. IOS, Android, and Kindle apps are available. I will talk about the accessibility of it as well. There are leaps and bounds that are needed with this tool, as there are with a lot of tools when it comes to screen readers, being hands free, and those types of important things that we're working towards. I will talk a little bit about some of the limitations, but there's also been some success stories when it comes to collaborative notetaking, for example, which can empower students in a great way. Also, you can decide if it's viewable only. Like perhaps you are going to create a timeline that we shared in that first slide. And you just want to simply provide content to your students. That's also possible for you to do with Padlet or you can set it so that students can actually collaborate with you in these spaces depending on your activity. So that is what it is.

And so we'll just get into some of the features in the settings and what that looks like. Here is one with the Star Wars franchise. It's kind of our example here. There is a cogwheel just like in a lot of the different tools and technologies that we use. And that's where all of the settings are hidden in Padlet once you create your Padlet. And that is going to let you decide everything about what it looks like and about what you're posting in those places.

So going through the settings, this is from top to bottom. If you clicked that cogwheel, what you would actually find there. So it's going to ask you for every element of your Padlet and what you would like it to do and show and be. First of all, you're going to have an option to provide a heading in a description for every Padlet. You do not have to provide a description, but you will be prompted to provide the title at the very least, so you'll title your Padlet and you'll provide a description if you would like to. Generally this description place for me if I'm using it with students often situates what the Padlet is about. Just a real quick sentence or two that says what this Padlet is for. We're using it for an introduction, for example. I know a lot of instructors have moved away from using forums in their LMS and they're using other mechanisms of people introducing each other. So this is one way that you could do that as well, putting that right in the description. The appearance, there's a lot of built in wallpapers that Padlet has and so you don't really have to go outside of the tool in order to sort of aesthetically design it in a way that you might like. You can choose it to be dark or light. You can... Limited font choices, but you can change the font to a degree. So there are more accessible fonts in here than others. But you certainly can change the font. And the size of your post. It can either be narrower, standard, or wider. But the wallpaper choices, they are limited, of course. There's quite a few wallpapers you can choose from in there. Some of them are images, some of them are just simply colours. But you can, and in some cases, the ones here today I have used customized wallpaper. You can just import an image or import whatever colour that you've chosen for hex code, you can slip it in there. You definitely can customize the background of the virtual bulletin board with either the built in wallpaper or one that you've chosen. There are a variety of formats in the free version as well as the paid version of Padlet. There's the standard formats, which I will show you in a minute. Then they've just recently created a whole bunch of pre-made ideas for Padlets. So I noticed that there was one that was an organizational chart, for example, that they've already set up. Or a timeline that they've already set up. You can also copy Padlets. If there's anything, for example, that you like today that I show you, you could copy my Padlet into your own Padlet account and then customize it. It would not capture the posts that people put on that virtual bulletin board. It just sort of stays blank and lets you manipulate that.

The different formats that I talked about. And I'm just going to hide my own camera here because it's in the way. Different formats. So there's a wall as it looks, just sort of a standard format that sticky notes or a bulletin board may come in. A stream where there's one below another. There's a timeline. And that is from that first example that I would show you again what that looks like once we get to our exploring place. Those would go chronologically from left to right. Great for history context as well as any history in any context really. What's the

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history of fashion design, for example? And you could place that just simply as content or have students create a timeline themselves. The grid, which is really similar to a wall, but it's just movable. A Canvas, you can connect one post to another. You can do some remedial mind mapping in this tool as well, using that layout. And it makes it much more of just a free place to post things in whatever order you choose. Then the map is the Padlet example that I showed you in the original territorial acknowledgment where you could select to put a pin. There are different maps that are in that choice as well that you can choose from. The one that I chose is the real Earth, the look of the real Earth. And then there's other ones that are much more like traditional maps that we would find on paper that you would unfold, for example.

Now here's where you can decide, are you going to let your students collaborate? Are you going to actually want people to provide comments and posts? So you would just slide that slider. Do you want them to leave comments? Yes, there's also reactions. There's some limited ones. You can do votes, you can do star ratings, and you can do likes, for example. You can also just leave it as none. So if you want some peers to like other people's posts or engage in other people's posts that way, you can choose to do that as well.

The post fields, this has been a recent update to the Padlet formats, is in those posts that you generally have the opportunity to put a subject in there and then you can, if you like, put an attachment or an image with it and then the text field itself. Out of those three fields, you can choose to hide them if you like. If you don't want students' posts to have a subject, for example, and you only want them to have an image and the text. Or if you didn't want them to be able to post an image or a file, you can also hide that part of the field. You can choose how the posts are created as well. You can also decide if you would like to moderate the posts. Do you want to approve them before they actually appear on the Padlet or are you just going to allow people to post those posts whenever they like? And it's not going to be moderated at all. This is the option that I spoke about below moderation, which is your remakes. And that is if you would like to be able to let people create a copy. That's nice if you want other people in your institution or beyond to be able to use it, and for it to be open, for example, and possibly more renewable as far as sharing it.

You can also establish a custom URL. This is not going to be in the address bar itself, but when you're sending it to people, then it will appear with the name that you've chosen to put in there. So there is a bit of a customization to your URL if you choose.

Now, I mentioned about accessibility, so it's WCAG A level compliant. They actually expressed that they're aiming for a double-A rating, which I think is really kind of missing the mark as far as providing a goal there. So I think always providing pressure on vendors to do better is always good if we have that opportunity. So that's something that I continue to do with this vendor and others as well. Is to encourage the advancement of these features and the importance of these features. The dashboard itself is entirely navigable by keyboard. However, that isn't the case with the settings, and that's where it becomes an issue for people that may have some accessibility needs that wouldn't be met there. If somebody would actually have to configure or

set up the Padlet and then it would be navigable. There is better contrast than there used to be. They are definitely considering that, as well as the increased usability of screen readers. I think there's complex challenges with screen readers due to the complexity of the posts in the section of the post. I think it might be difficult or challenging for students to listen to the posts being read out. It could create a barrier and also just disengagement, I would think, so be aware of that. Now that said, I have worked with some people who have used it for collaborative note taking, for example, which can be a great strategy to be more inclusive in classrooms and have students make meaning together. There's definitely some positives, but there's also a long way to go before I would consider it a fully accessible tool, which many of them as we know, are not.

Then the final thing is about sharing and collaborating. You can decide how you're going to share, and if you're going to share with others. There's simply a share arrow. Just a couple of options above your cogwheel in Padlet.

And this is where you can either invite people to collaborate with you, if they're already a Padlet user, you can just add their email or their username into that space. But you can also just grab a link as well, and you're going to decide if they're going to be a reader or a collaborator. And you can share it with these different options of permissions, so only people that are added as a collaborator, for example, a reader. And this is what I have made everyone for the different Padlets we've created today. That you can actually read the post, you can write comments, and you can add reactions. You can generate a link by clicking on one of those.

You also will decide on the level of privacy. Now, if this is an institutional account, for example, your administration may set it up so that it is within your institution for sharing, and then you would have to change that setting in order to share with the public or people beyond your wall at your institution.

You can copy the link to a clipboard and just share it that way. You can also generate QR codes, which makes it nice and you can embed it into your blog or your website. A lot of different tools and platforms and LMSs, for example, are starting to have Padlet integrate and be able to embed really nicely in those places. And then students can interact right in your LMS, for example, instead of actually clicking a link and going to the Padlet. And it can make it much more interactive and dynamic feeling depending on where you're actually embedding that code.

There are a lot of different uses for using it, for teaching and learning that I've encountered. And there's certainly many, many more uses that you could use Padlet for in your teaching and learning. And I think once you start to explore, you're going to start to generate some really great ideas about how you might use it in your particular context. But generally you can use Padlet for various reasons. Language learning, for example, is a really good context for Padlet to be used. And I'm going to provide some uses for these contexts before we actually get you doing some activities yourself. You can also use Padlet to build community. You can use Padlet

for group activities to help support students with reflecting and making meaning together, which is really nice. And supporting more inclusive learning environments. A couple of examples for language learning is "name that item." You could provide images on a board for students to identify in the language that they're learning. You could do it the opposite way as well and use words almost like you're using flip cards. But the images can be really powerful and help students to learn the language. Also doing a five-minute journal using Padlet, just writing, one or two students. Students identify daily goals in the language that they're learning on their Padlet or weekly. You could use it for that. Building community. I have recently seen an instructor using this. It has been really successful as far as students connecting. Actually, she saw an increase in her attendance in her online classes. On Monday, she was finding that on Mondays there was a bit of a blah. Students were either joining late or they weren't joining. This is actually evoked in a real feeling of support. And for students to have a space to share more holistically who they are. Just to feel a little bit like we're dipping our toe in the water. It's Monday morning so let's just meet up for 10 minutes and share what we've done on the weekend or how we're feeling. Text gifs, and students are sharing a lot in that space. And that's been a nice way to use it to help build the community. You could also, as I mentioned, use it instead of a forum. A lot of students, of course, are taking multiple courses, and generally, that's the way that we ask students to introduce themselves is in a forum. So you could simply ask them to place their preferred names and their pronouns onto a Padlet. Or also deeper reflective prompts that you could have. What their ideas and thoughts and feelings are about the topic or concept on the first day. And then they could use it as a growth measure at the end of the semester as well, to see how much they've changed those thoughts, feelings, and ideas at the end.

You can also use it for group activities. There's a lot of different ways that Padlet can be used for that. Team agreements is one great use for that. Every team gets a Padlet, and they're all going to go through the steps of creating a team agreement together on the Padlet and then to share that out. Brainstorming and the one format that I shared, the Canvas format, you can connect them as well. And I've seen it used in annotated bibliographies, for example. if students are doing inquiry-based learning and they are wanting to connect some of those key concepts or also to problem-solve for brainstorming could be a really great use for group activities.

Reflection. Using prompts, you could pop onto your Padlet and help students think more deeply about the concepts and the topics that they're learning. Also you could ask them to share an image or a gif or a video or a file or whatever it is that you would like them to share that represents their ideas and what they're learning in class. Just simply asking them to share something that surprised them or that they're suddenly more aware of since you've engaged in whatever activity you've engaged in in your class. Things that they could empathize with or relate to, having them share, and how that connects to the real world and their learning.

Then finally, another way that you can use Padlet is to support more inclusive learning environments. Using an exit ticket, which many of us probably have used in this room, to assess your learning. Find out what the needs are of your students. Having them give you regular

feedback about what's working. What do they want to learn more about? What's muddy for them and they're not quite sure about it? What concept are they having challenges with? And identifying patterns that students might need support with can be really helpful. And it also gives them a voice for learners that may not feel as safe sharing in a verbal way or in other mechanisms. You can make your Padlet completely anonymous and that can really make learners feel safe and supported in being able to share their voice. You can also have them identify and prioritize their values. Prompt a discussion about their cultural contact. How did those values emerge? Recognizing and sharing each other's values, and understanding and appreciating the differences of those values. Also being able to incorporate pictures of food and culture, and language and other pieces that make the students who they are is a really great opportunity for you to celebrate the individuality of your students and have them appreciate the diversity in their classroom spaces.

That is definitely some great ways that you can use Padlet in a variety of contexts in post-secondary. As I mentioned, I have created 10 case-use Padlet boards that I would like you to be able to explore and contribute to should you feel that you would like to. I would suggest visiting at least two of the boards to get an idea of what Padlet could look like. They're structured very differently from one another depending on the context and the use that it's been created for. I've also included in that list the two Padlet boards that I shared at the beginning that you could also explore. And that's the Turtle Island territorial map and Bobby Joe's Decolonizing the Curriculum Timeline that you would be welcome to explore.

At this time, I'm going to share a PDF that has all of these wonderful links that are categorized by the different headings that I've just shared. Language learning, for example, providing reflective experiences. They are all categorized there. Kelsey, if you wouldn't mind sharing the one OneDrive link as well, then we've got two different formats that people can access those places. That's what we're going to do. I would like you to just explore based on your interest and have a look at least two. And contribute or collaborate in those places and see what Padlet is all about. I'd like to take 20 minutes to do that. And then we're going to come back and we're going to actually break up into smaller groups and discuss what we've discovered and possibly some ideas that have been generated from your exploration. Are there any questions at all about the exploration part of this activity?

GWEN:
Kelsey has helped popping the link in the chat. In the chat, you could find the link to the PDF five as well as the OneDrive. If you have any questions, please let us know now before you go into your exploration.

LISA:
Yes, thank you, Gwen. And we'll be here. So, it's 10:30 on the nose, so if we convene again at 10 to 11, at 10:50 that gives people 20 minutes to dig in. Maybe you can get through all 10.

Okay, so first of all, one of the questions that were in the chat, was in the chat was about what does a free account look like versus a paid account? Right now, a free account includes up to three boards. So you can keep creating, but you have to delete any existing boards that you have made before you can make another board. You can never have more than three boards in your dashboard. 25 megabytes of storage space is all that's available there. If you do want to have unlimited numbers of Padlets and unlimited numbers of space, you do have to use a paid subscription. There's premium monthly subscriptions. You are slightly cheaper, if you pay for a premium subscription on an annual basis. They do start as it says here, $8 a month to $12 a month for teachers. And your students can use it for free, as you know, you've used it, even if you didn't have an account in this session. For you to create an account, it enables your students to participate in these spaces as well. They don't need to have an account. I just renewed my premium PebblePad account for $99 because there was a code that I used. So it was even slightly cheaper than this one. Just good old Google machine with promo code for Padlet. I was able to find a promo code for my annual subscription and made it slightly less. If you're contributing to somebody else's, it doesn't add to your quota. It's only in your dashboard itself. As far as who owns it that gets trickier. Based on if it's an installation or an enterprise purchase through your institution. They will have their own specific server storage contracts as well as the different policies and procedures for how things are shared and what is shared. It'll also depend on province, etc. But if you're using Padlet itself, then the Padlet information would be stored in the U.S., your information if it's just through Padlet.com. But if it's in your own install, it would depend on, obviously, what your institutional policies are. I don't know why I lost that. I'll click that back on there. Yeah, that's what we're moving on to is creating an account. So before I do that, let's pause and talk about any of that that I just mentioned as far as paid accounts, free accounts, privacy, all of those things. I think your safest way if you're really concerned about student privacy and data security, any technology field trip we take our students on, it's much better for them to be anonymous and not putting any information in those spaces. It would be probably best for you to be the one creating the account or using an institutional account that might be housed on Canadian servers, for example. But yeah. Any questions about that? And then we'll move on to how to actually create an account.

PARTICIPANT:
I have a question. So if you want to see the name of the user or the learner on the Padlet when they contribute to it, they need to have an account. Yes? Or else it just says "Anonymous."

LISA: Correct.

PARTICIPANT:
They can't change "Anonymous" to their name without an account?

LISA:
I don't believe so. No. I think you're just always anonymous. I haven't actually tested that and of course every day there's new features that are happening. I wouldn't be surprised if that

becomes something that you can do in most tools now, is actually rename yourself. Put your pronouns like all of those pieces so that if that comes along. Emily?

EMILY:
Yeah, I was just thinking then maybe it wouldn't be the best place to have student introductions for example.

LISA: You would provide instructions to ask them to put their preferred name, their pronouns. I usually would put a post that requests those things. So even if it was an anonymous install, then they can still provide you with what their preferred name is and their pronouns.

EMILY:
I guess that would also depend on the type of account, Padlet account ,and whether it's a free one versus a paid subscription.

LISA:
It wouldn't matter if you're asking them to share it on a post. They could still share that information on a post whether it was free or if it wasn't free. It just wouldn't come up as the author stamp. It wouldn't have their name on it. It would say "Anonymous." So in my post, I would have to say Lisa Gedak. She/her.

EMILY:
Right. Okay. Thank you.

LISA: Yeah, no problem. Okay, Leona.

LEONA:
I have a question. Can you as the teacher see who the anonymous post is? But the students don't?

LISA:
You can't. So at this stage it's either anonymous or it's not anonymous as a post. If you were to put moderator on and people were not anonymous, then you're going to see who it is. Because you're going to decide that you're going to see every post before it's posted. You have that option. But yeah, it would just be one or the other.

LEONA: Okay. Thank you.

LISA:
And no other questions about that at the moment. Okay. So I think some of you already have a Padlet account. For the last bit of time that we have, I'm going to show you how you would create a PebblePad. Sorry. Now I'm in PebblePad mode. How you would create a Padlet account and help you get started creating a Padlet, if that's something that you're wanting to

do. So that is what we're doing next for those that are wanting to do that. If you've already got a Padlet account, then you may want to just hang around for the conversation. Or this might be the end of your participation in this activity if it's something that you're already familiar with.

You simply are going to visit Padlet.com and click the Sign up for free button. You will easily find how to have a paid subscription. And of course, they're going to pester you with emails once you sign up to woo you into having a paid subscription. But you definitely don't need to. And I had a free subscription for a very long time actually without very much pestering. You definitely can just maintain a free account, always keeping in mind you only have up to three tablets. So you're just going to click on Sign up for free. And then it will prompt you to add your email address and your password. You could also use your Apple ID or your Google ID or your Microsoft sign in in order to create that as well. Obviously, you can start with a free plan, and at any time you can upgrade. Then once you are signed in, you simply click Let's Go, or Create a Padlet to create your Padlet,

I'm going to give you these slides afterwards, of course. There's a lot of support that's built in. They've got email portals and WhatsApp chats and blogs that they keep as well as a knowledge base. There is quite a bit of support that Padlet provides as a company, but generally it's straightforward. Gwen and I were actually talking during the breakouts about the fact that most students and most faculty I've helped, I'm going to say 400 faculty get onto Padlet and use it with students as well as using it a dozen times myself with students. I haven't had any real issues. Students generally have a really intuitive sense of how to use it. We haven't really run into too many issues. User issues, that is. That said, I am going to hang around and help you get started if it is something you're interested in. So let me know if you're signing up, if you're encountering any issues, or if you have any questions about getting started. Once you're in there creating a Padlet, I can help you with the setting should you need help.