# How to Create Active and Engaging Learning Experiences with Zoom Breakout Rooms

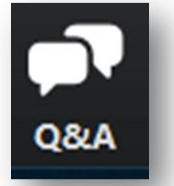
We will begin shortly. Please answer the brief poll question. If you have any breakout room activities you'd like to share, please post them in Q&A.

**Ron Owston, PhD**
**Research Associate, Contact North**
**Professor Emeritus, York University, Toronto, Canada**

# Agenda

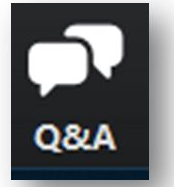
1. Why use breakout rooms?

2. How to set up breakout rooms




3. Breakout room activities

4. Return to whole class and sharing



# 1. Why use breakout rooms?

# Breakout rooms…

- Support active learning
- Maintain engagement
- Foster community building

Harvard Study on active learning
https://www.pnas.org/content/116/39/19251

# Guiding principles…

Equitable distribution of labour

Sustained work may be better

Grade competition within group?

Assign prework

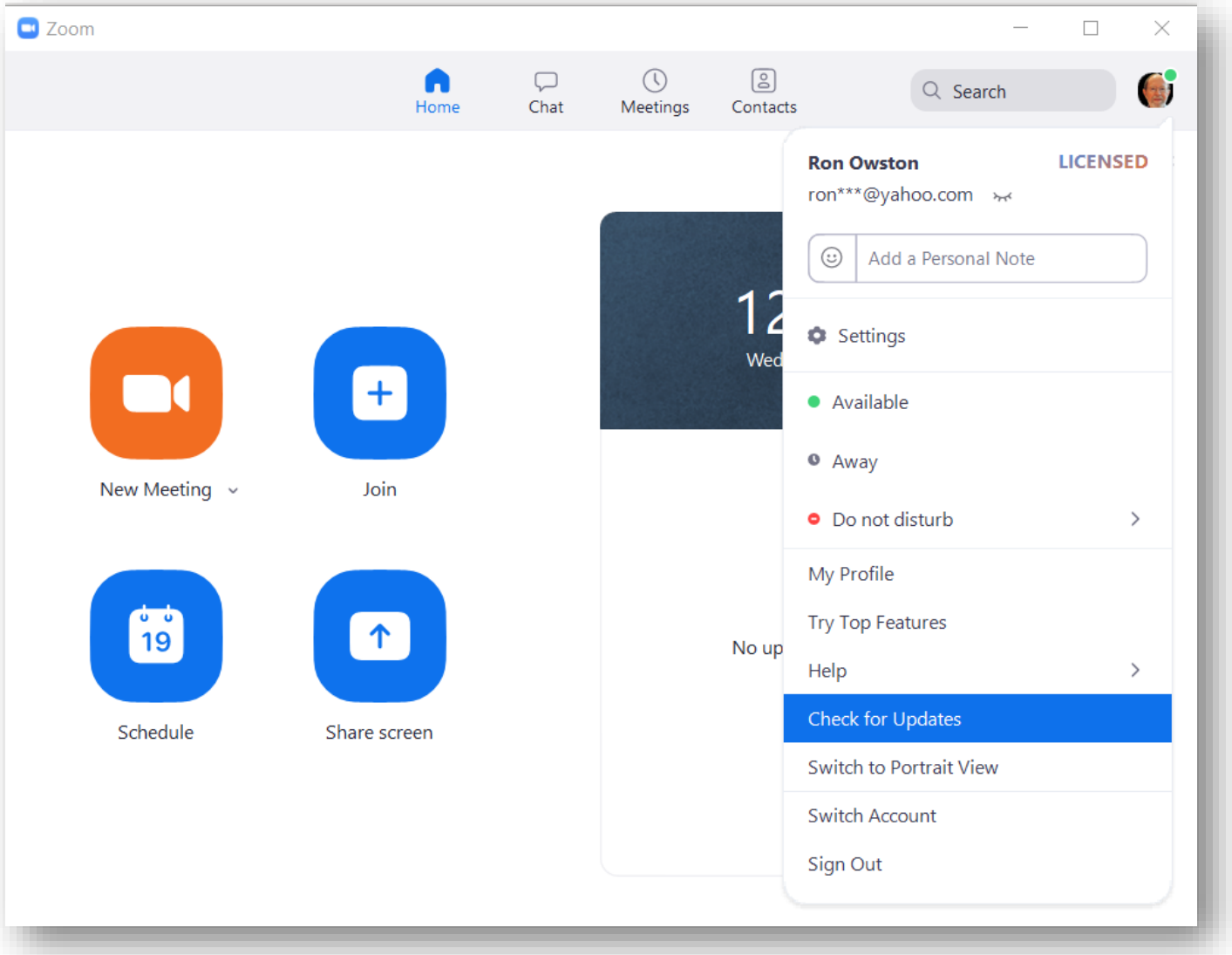
Define activity boundaries

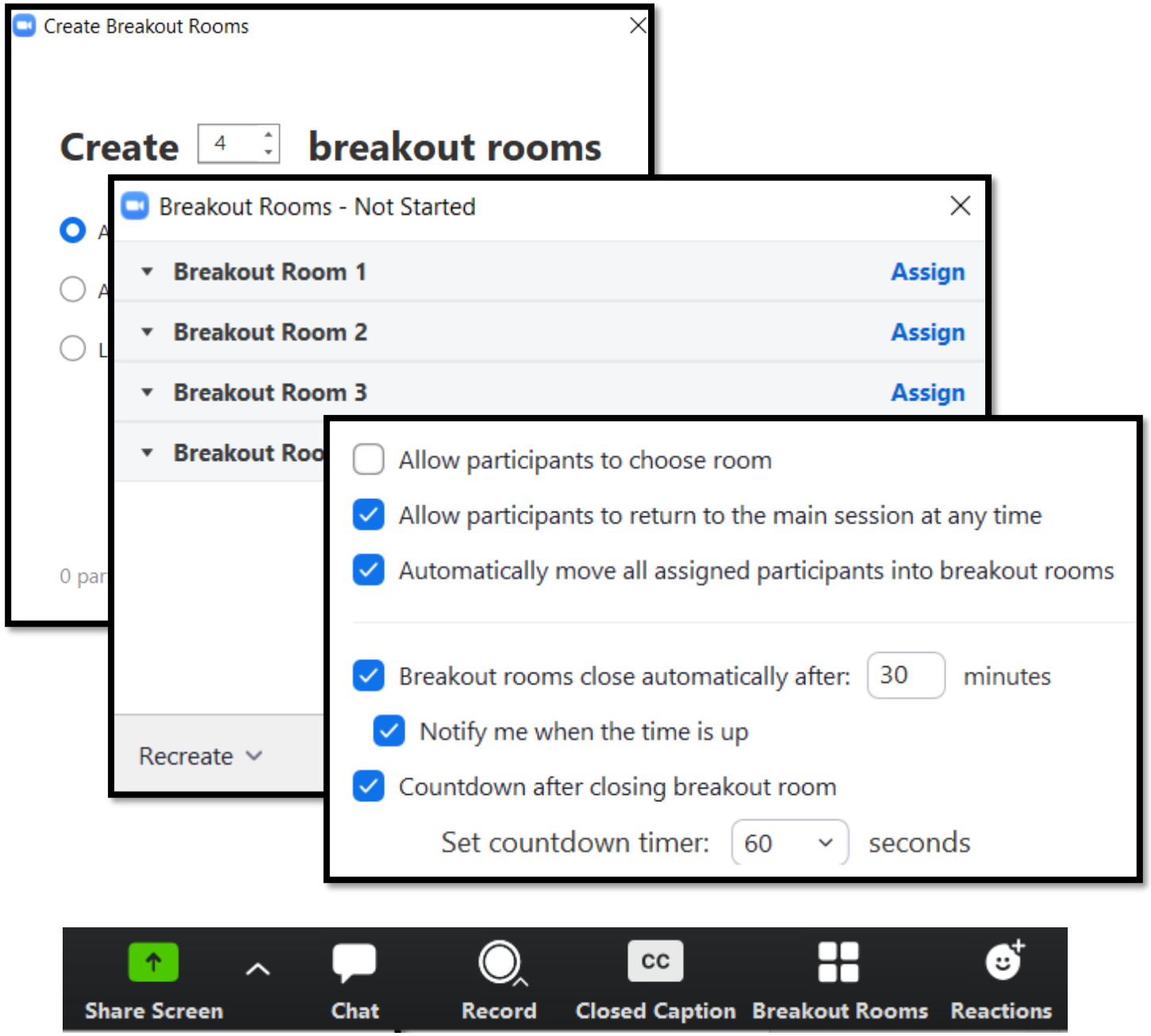
Davidson et al, *Inside Higher Education*

# 2. Setting up breakout rooms

credit Business Insider

# Update your app (desktop client) !

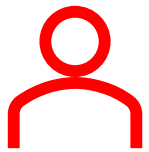



Create Breakout Rooms
Create 4 breakout rooms
Breakout Rooms - Not Started
Breakout Room 1 Assign
Breakout Room 2 Assign
Breakout Room 3 Assign
Allow participants to choose room
Allow participants to return to the main session at any time
Automatically move all assigned participants into breakout rooms
Breakout rooms close automatically after: 30 minutes
Notify me when the time is up
Countdown after closing breakout room
Set countdown timer: 60 seconds
Recreate
Share Screen
Chat
Record
Closed Caption
Breakout Rooms
Reactions

# Breakout room roles

New

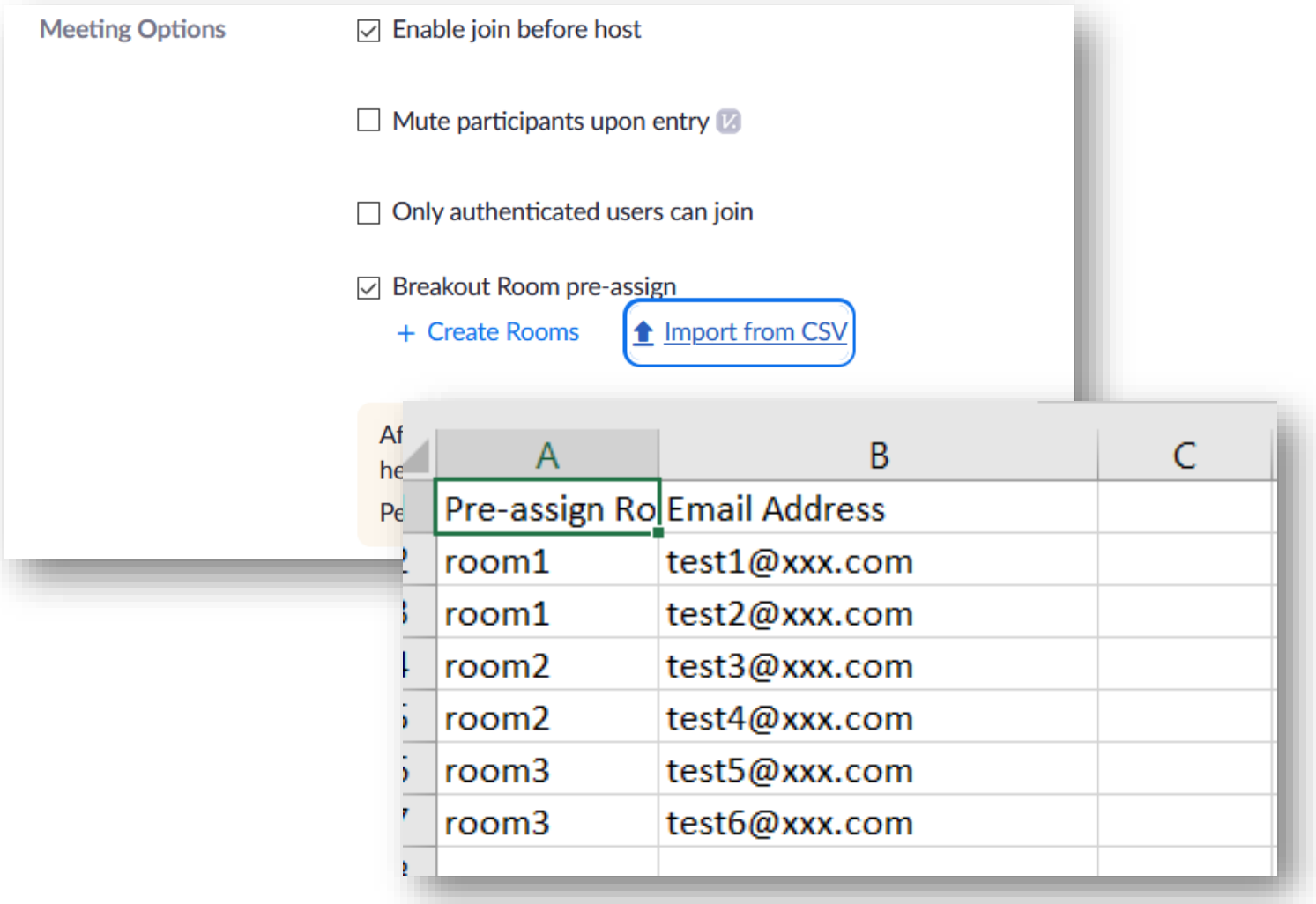
## Co-host



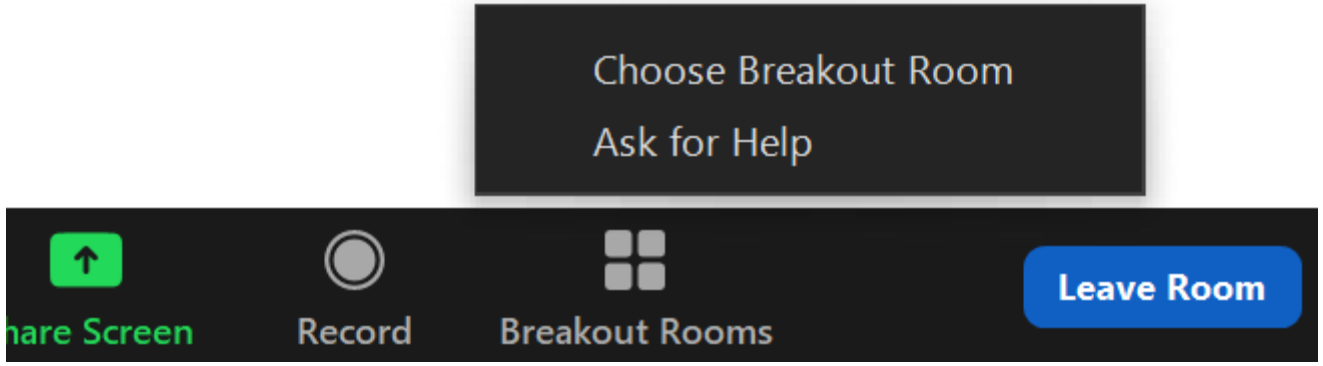
## Alternative host

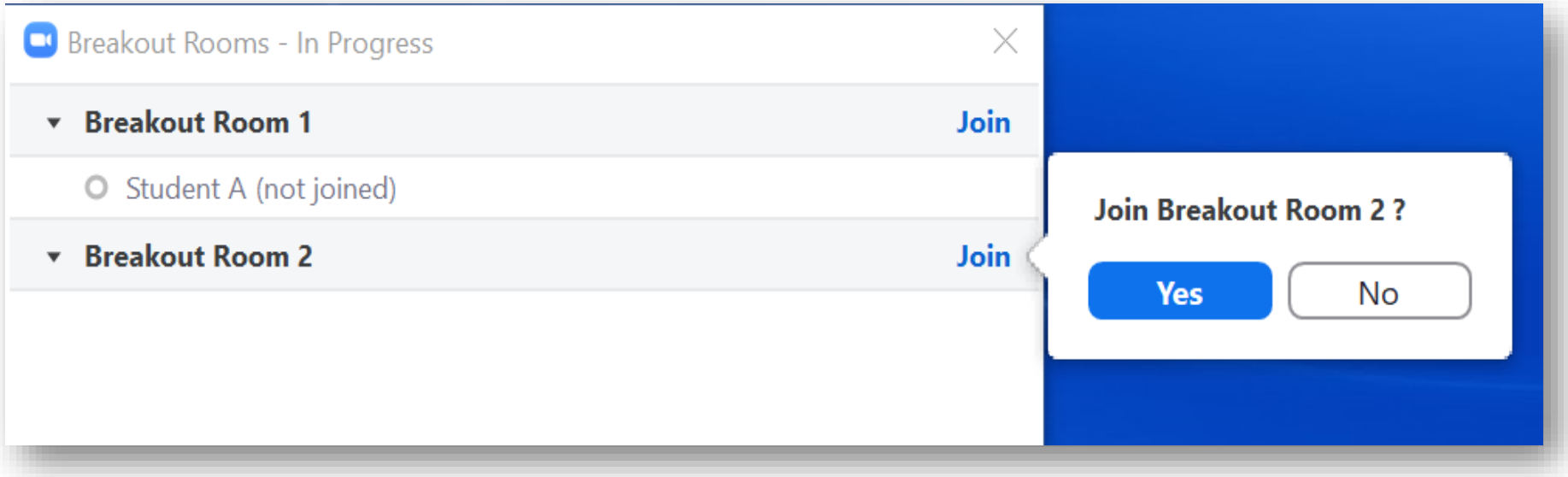
- Both can now assign students to meeting
- Co-host can only be assigned in meeting
- Alternative host assigned in advance and can start meetings

# Pre-assigned breakout rooms

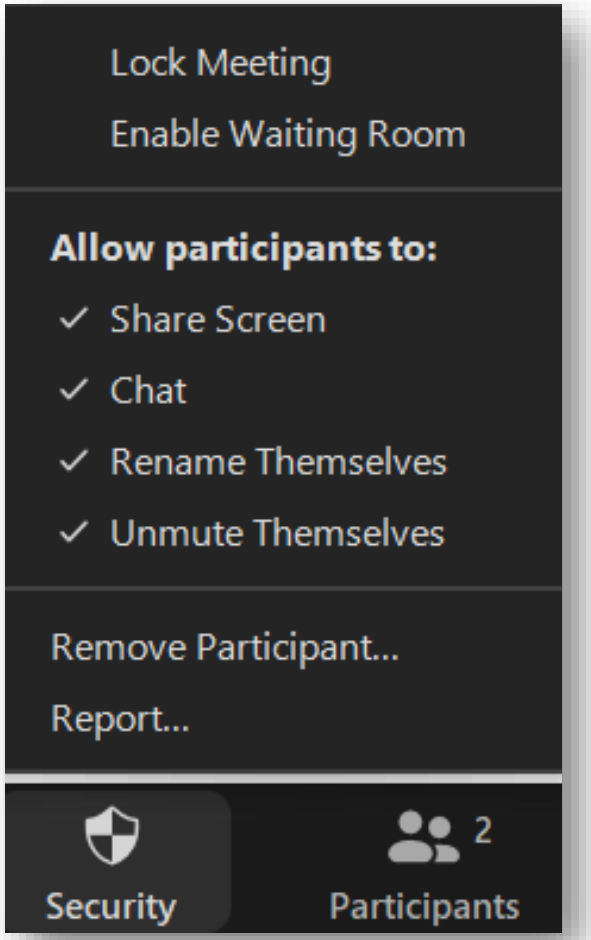


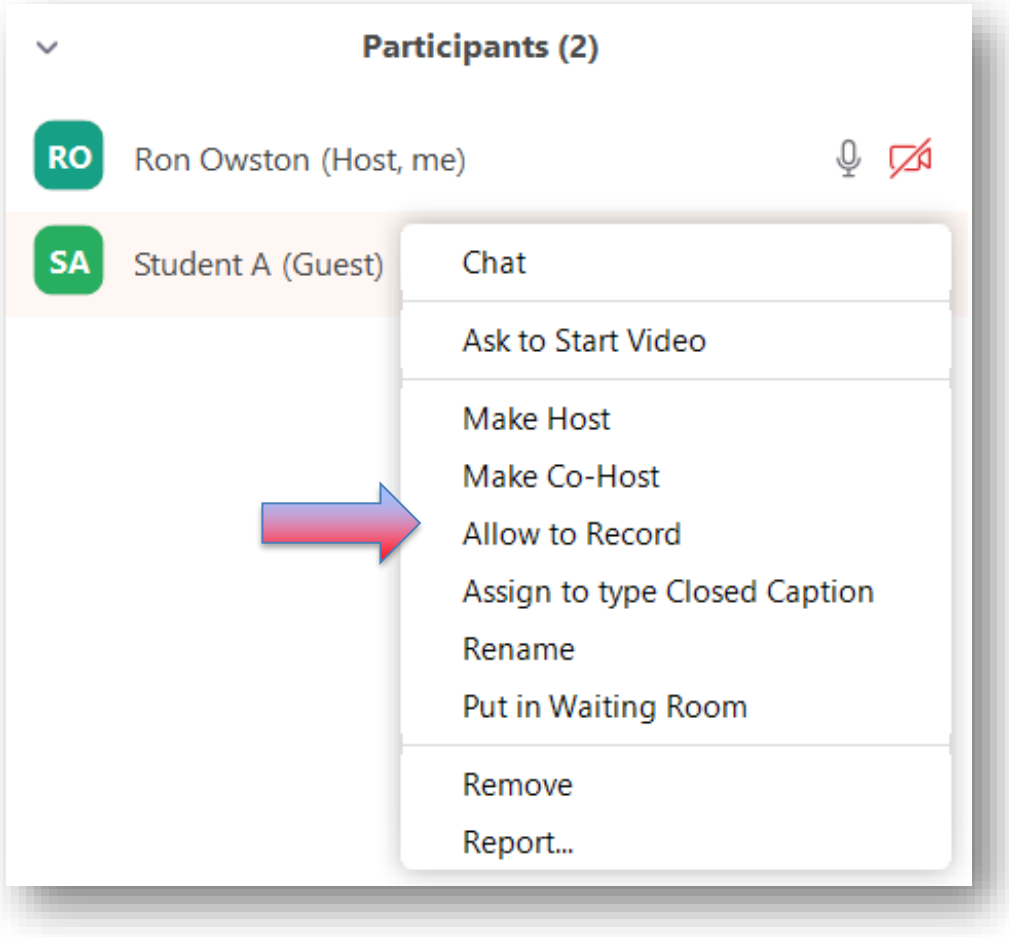
# Self-selecting breakout room – student view



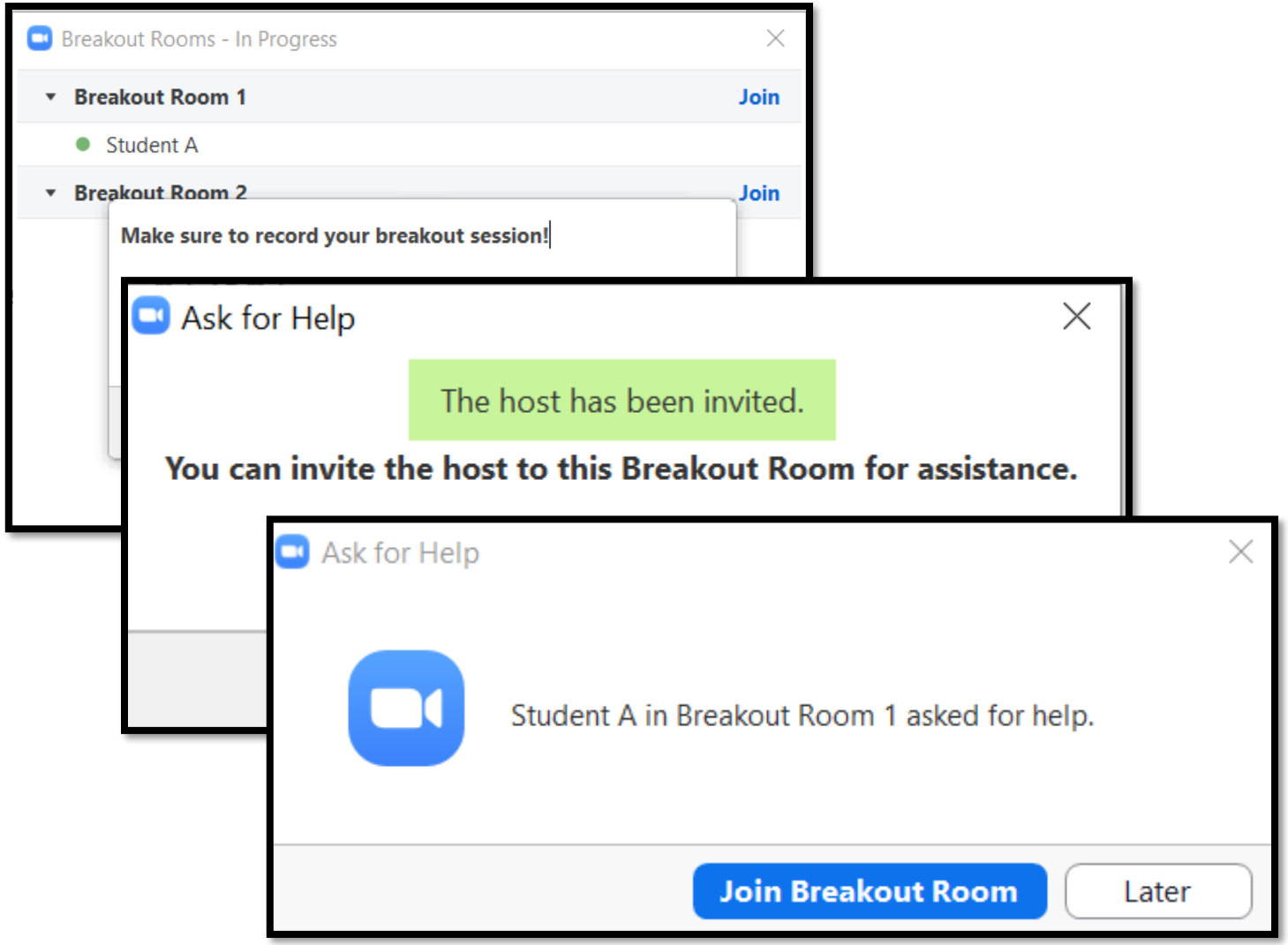



# Enable desired tools before moving to rooms

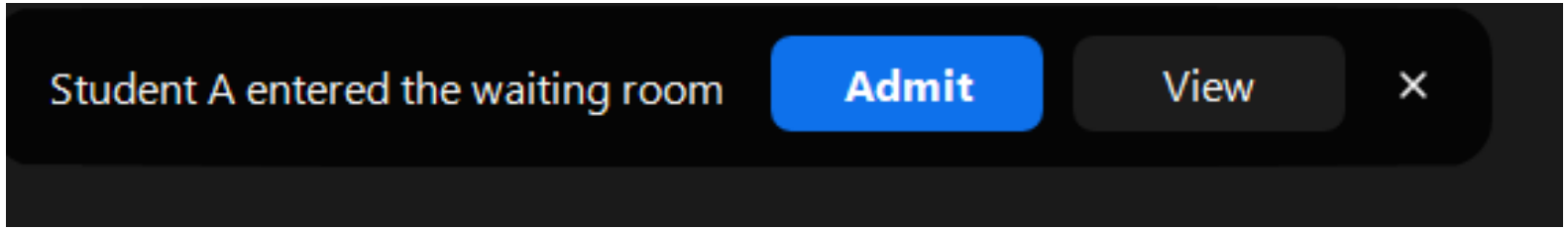


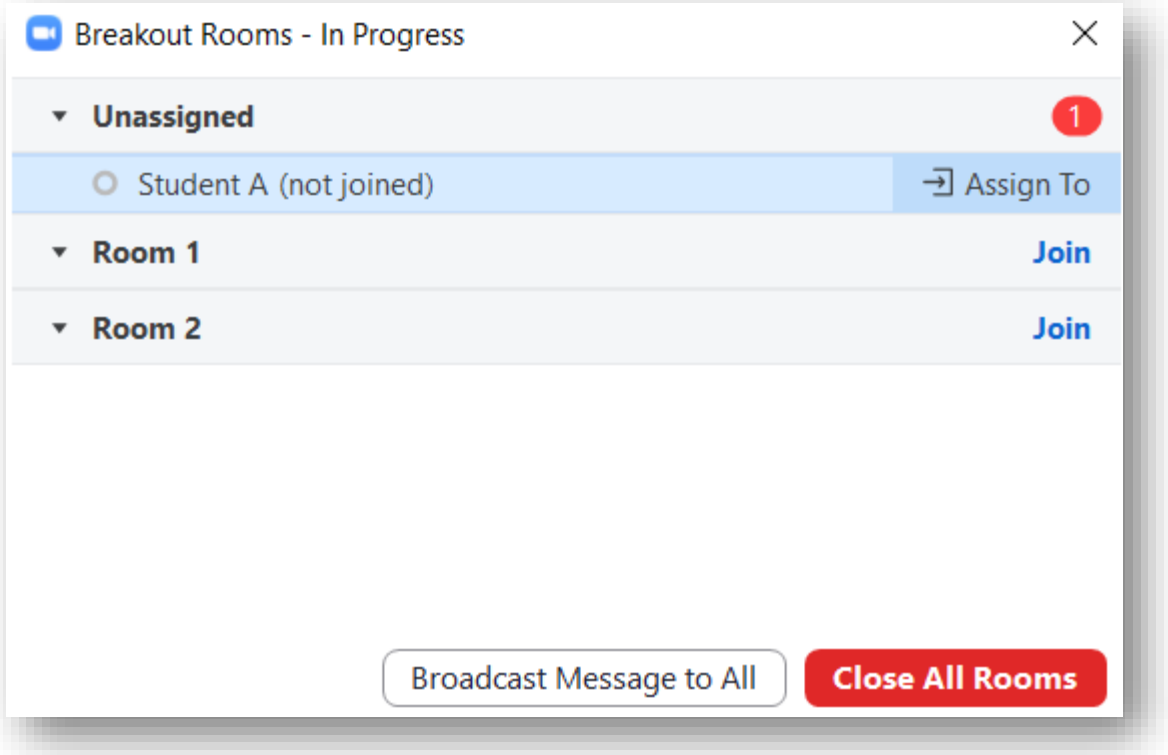



# Communicating with rooms

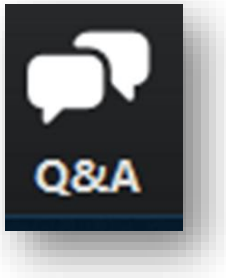


# Admit student while you're in a room

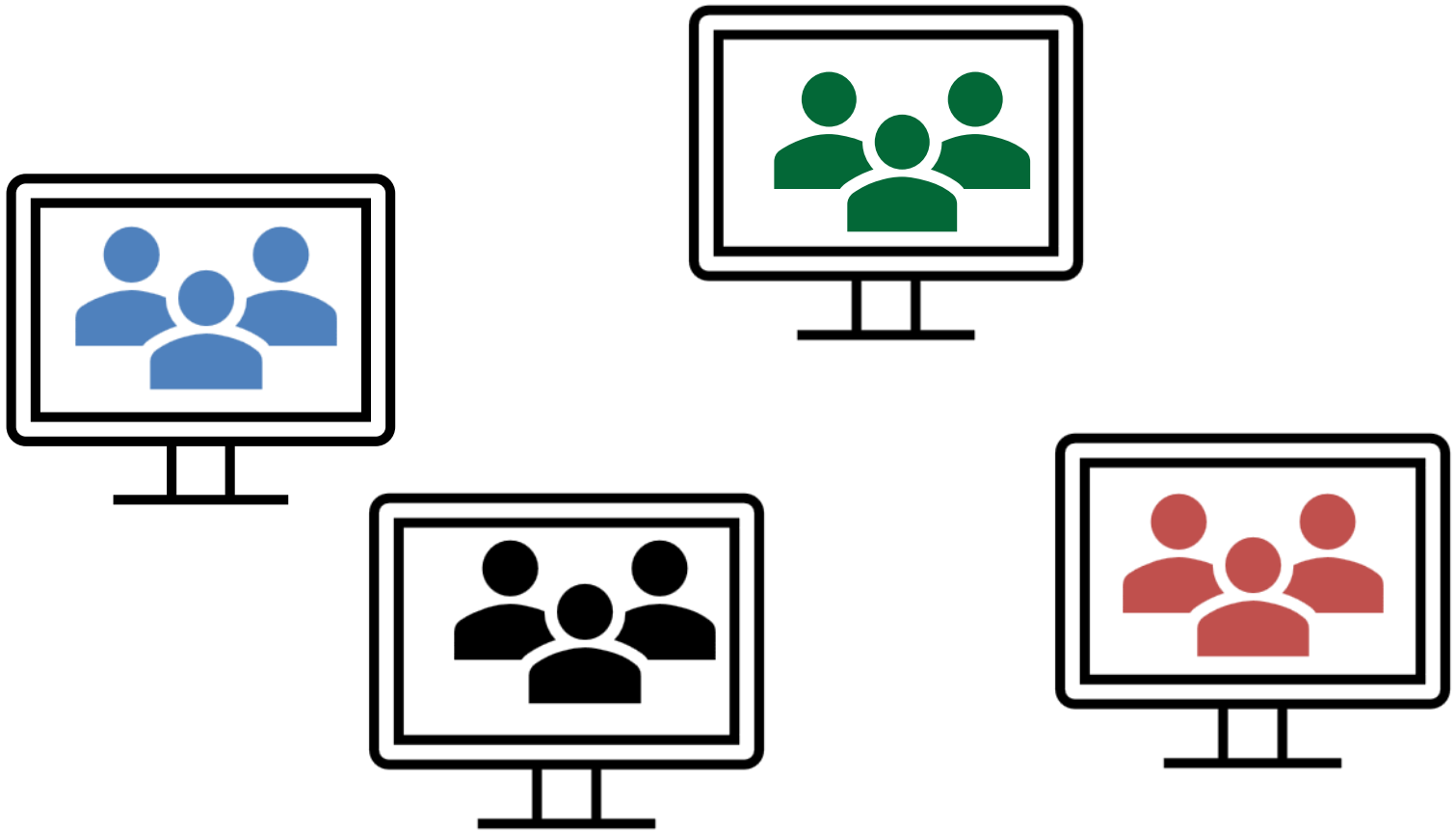


# Questions and poll

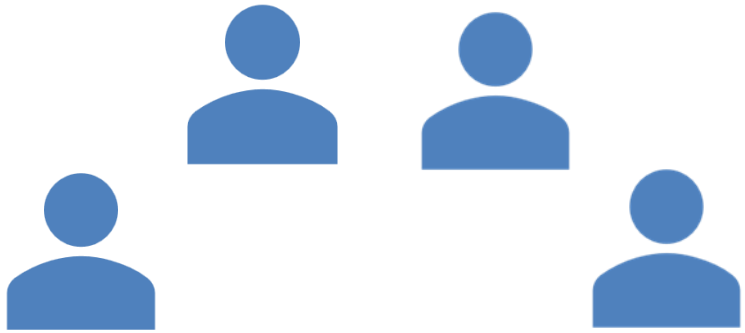


# 3. Engaging breakout room activities



# Discussion groups

Make sure to structure task



Assign student responsibilities eg facilitator, recorder, researchers, reporter

# Other discussion ideas…

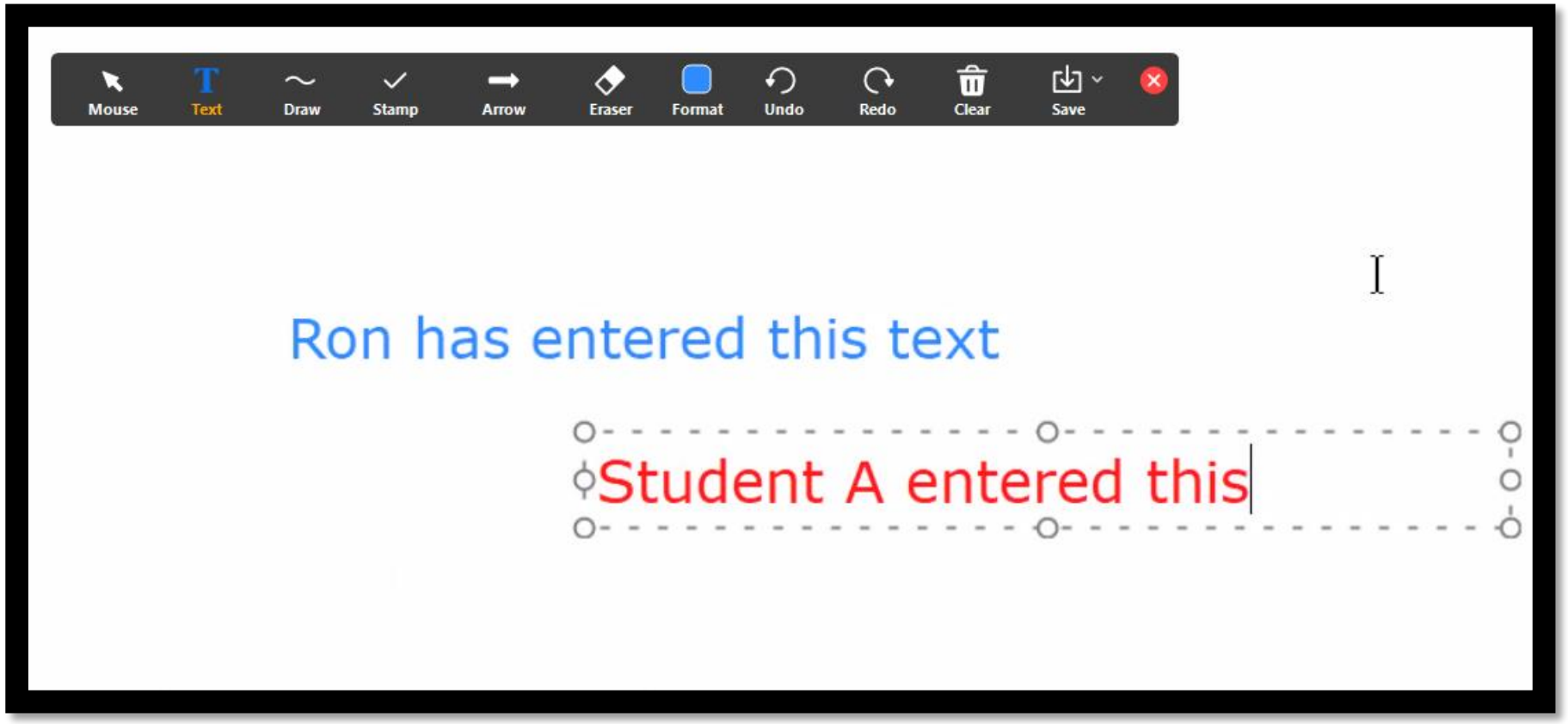
**Think – pair – share**
**or Round Robin**
**or Jigsaw**

**3 – 2 – 1**

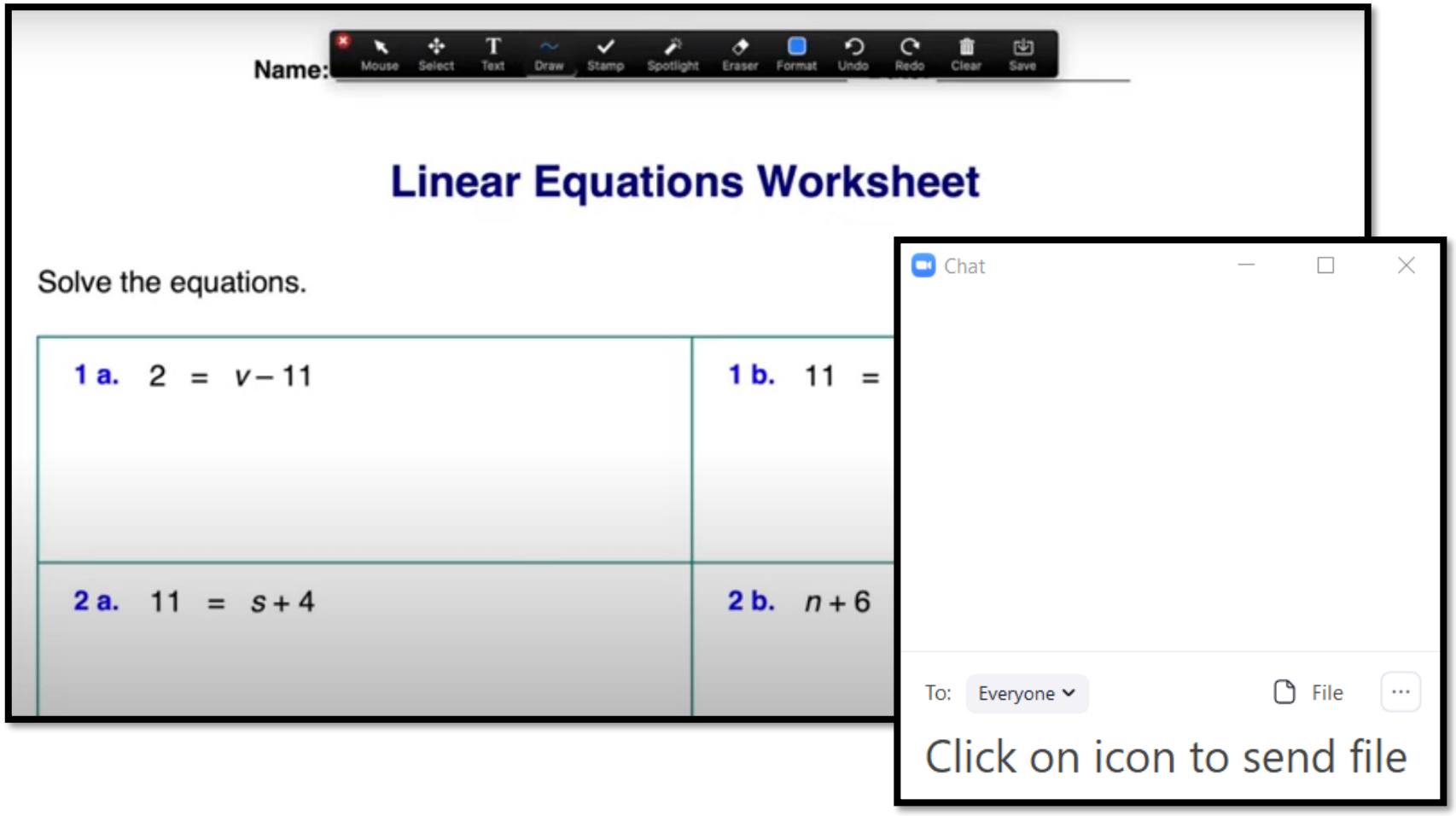
- **3 things learned**
- **2 interesting points**
- **1 question to discuss in groups**

# Pre-assigned discussion example

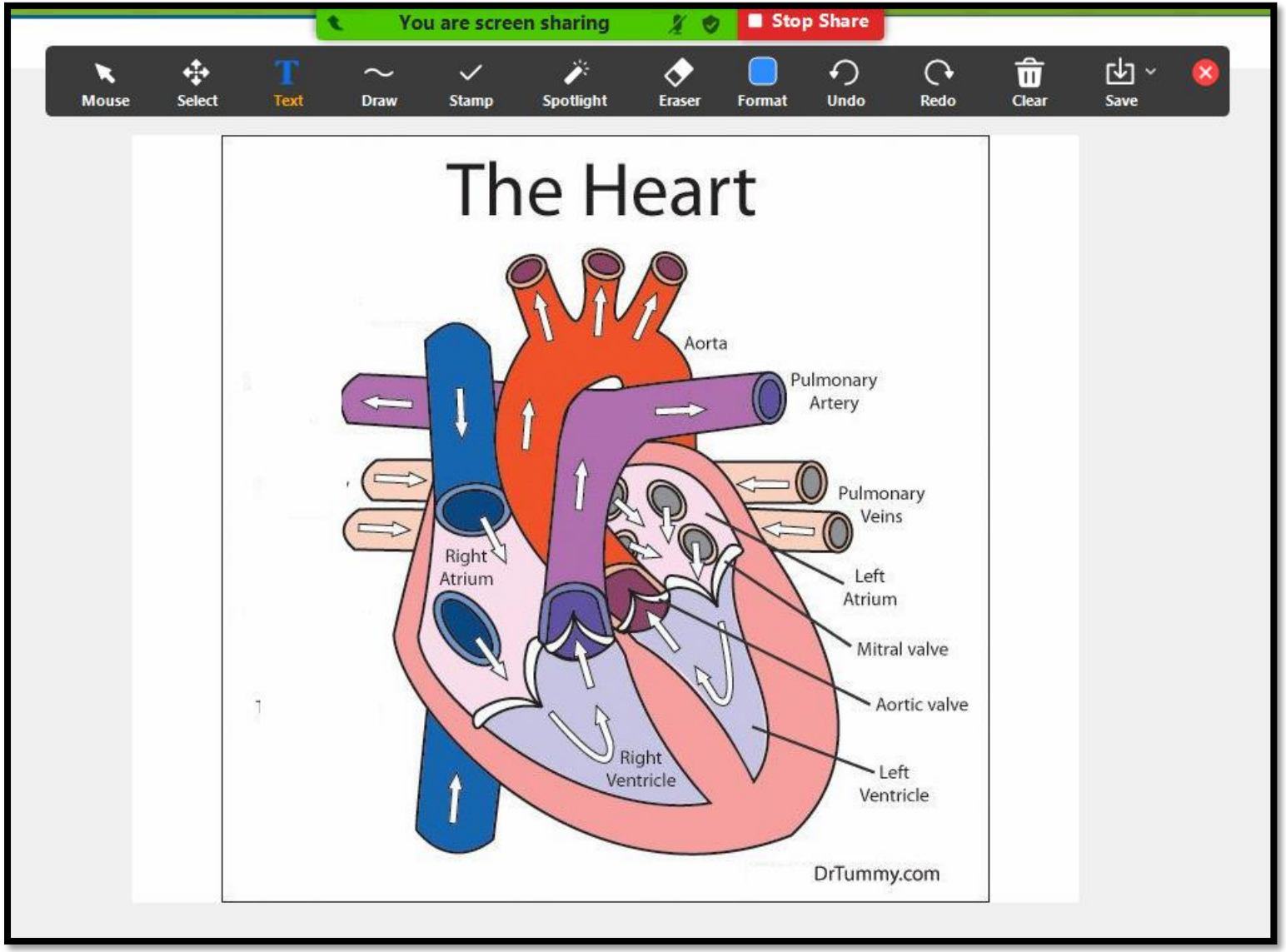
# Zoom whiteboard collaboration



# Instructor-prepared whiteboard activity



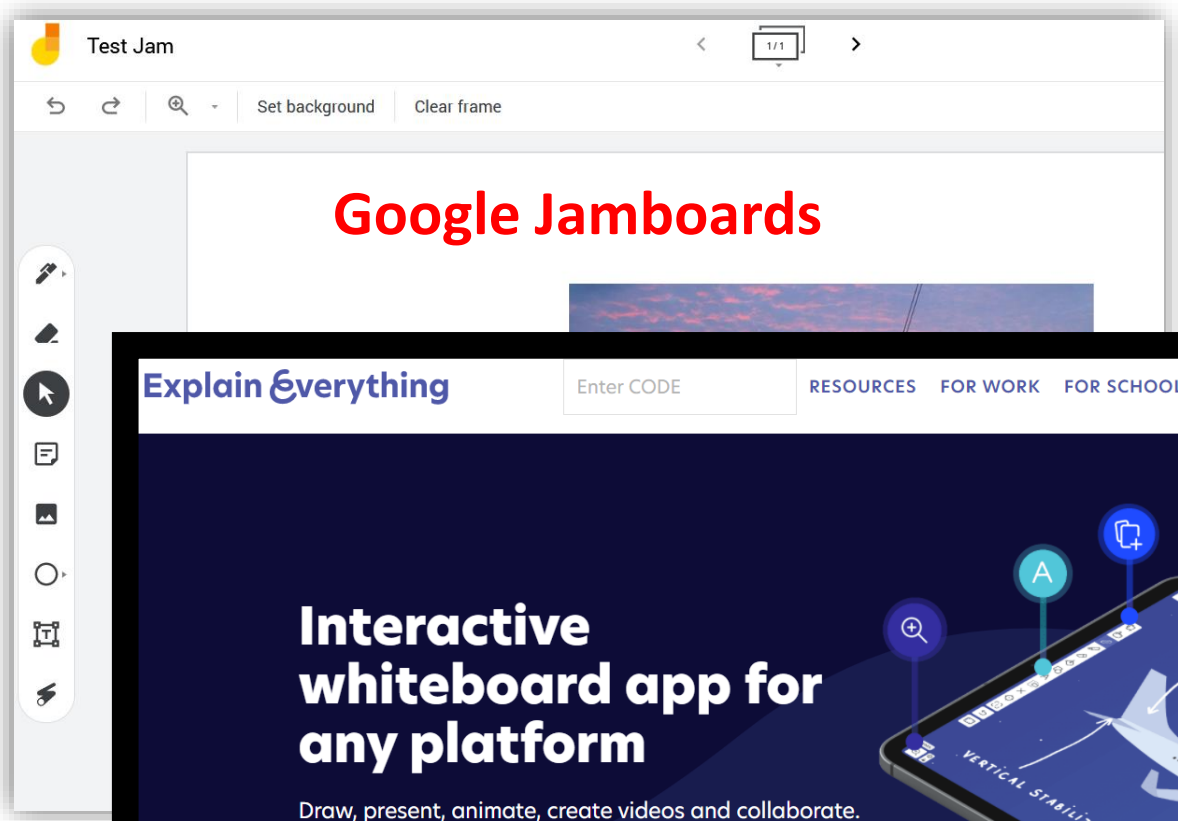
# Whiteboard-like collaboration



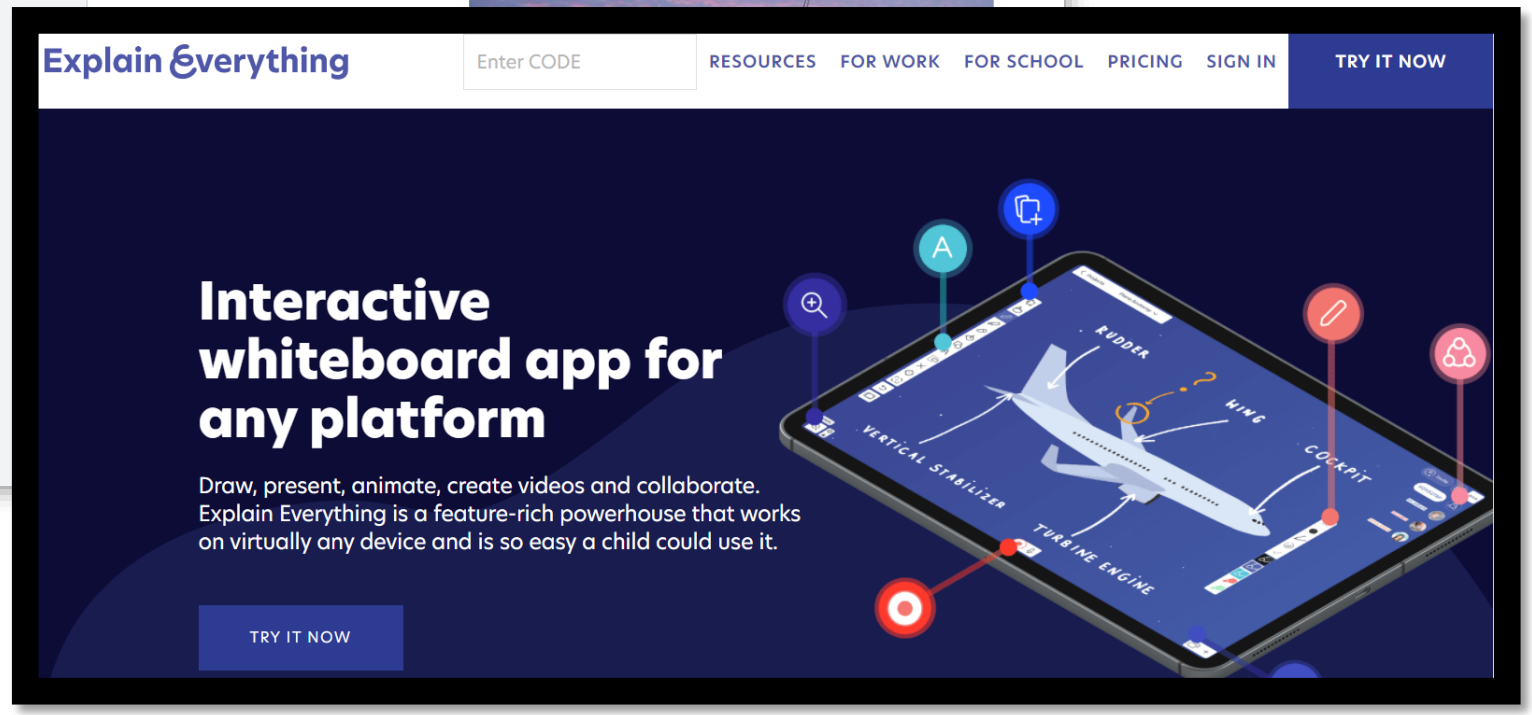
# Collaboration with multi-user external tools

- Everyone reduces Zoom screen
- Everyone logs into document and can edit
- Zoom used for discussion

# External whiteboards




Explaineverything.com



# Wiki activities

# Google Docs – collaborative writing

One-to One Laptop/iPad Programs

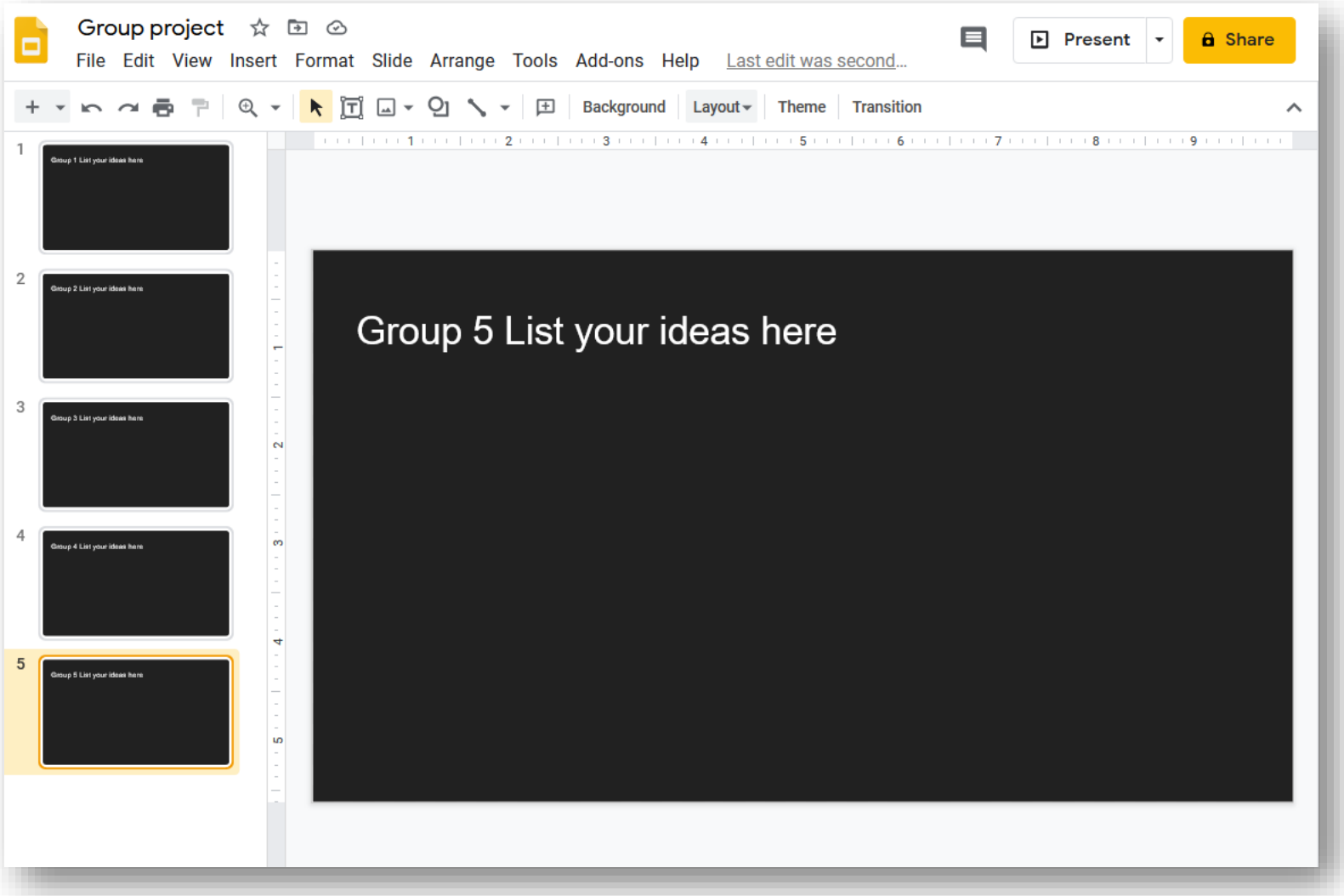
File Edit View Insert Format Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was made yesterday at 10:45 PM by anonymous

100% Heading 1 Arial 20

## One-to One Laptop/Tablet/BYOD Programs
## Annotated Bibliography

**Question**: What can school boards expect when they initiate one-to-one laptop/Tablet/BYOD programs? Research an aspect of one of these types of programs such as learning outcomes, teacher preparation, cost, equity, and logistics (eg home use, classroom charging, storage). Post two research citations (reports or articles) that discuss an aspect of this type of program. For each entry, write a sentence or two that summarizes a key point(s) of the research item. Also, please enter your name after the summary in parentheses so I know who wrote the entry.

# Google Slides – each group adds slide to instructor-prepared deck



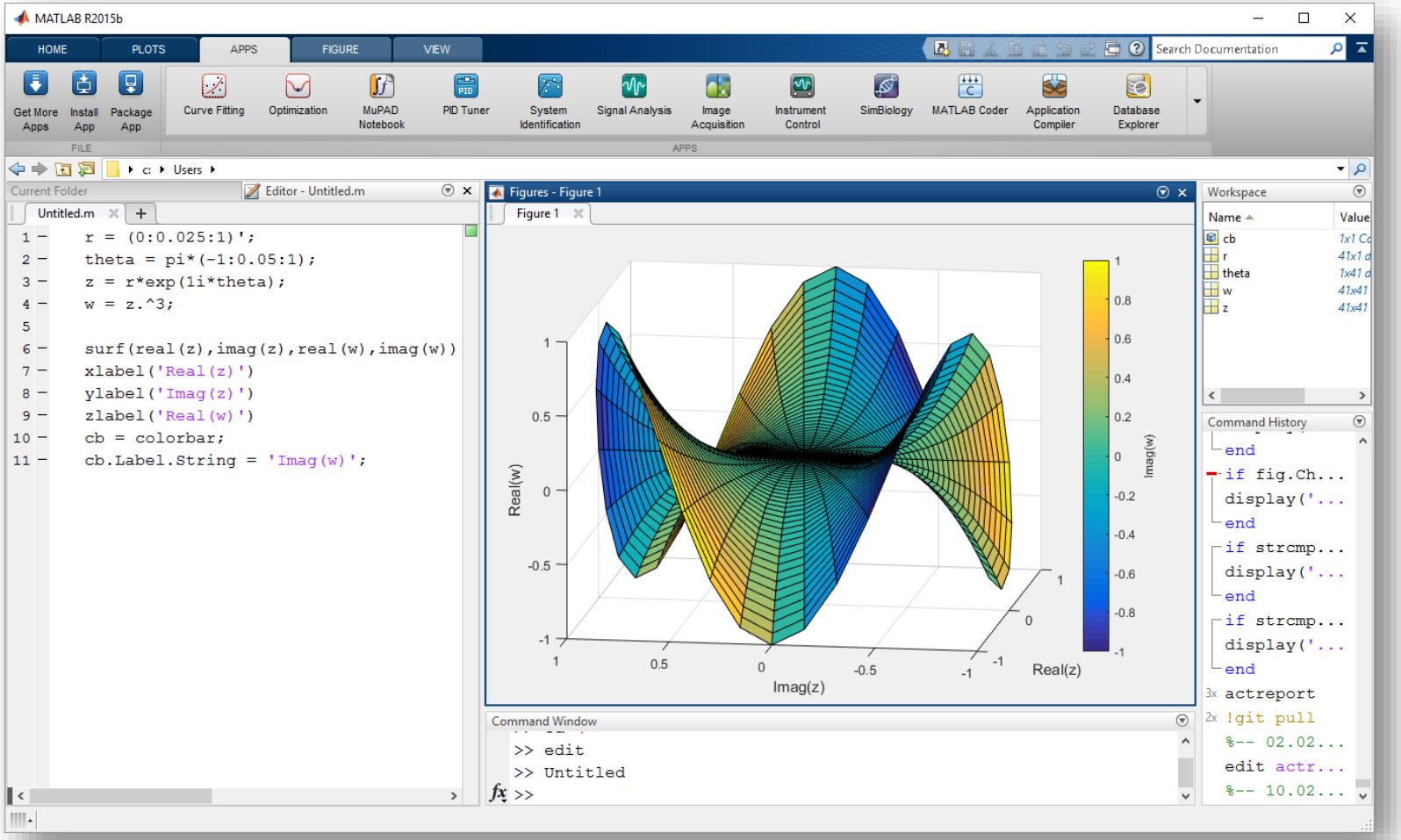
# Collaboration with single-user external tools/documents

One student opens app and shares screen

Student edits doc while another leads discussion

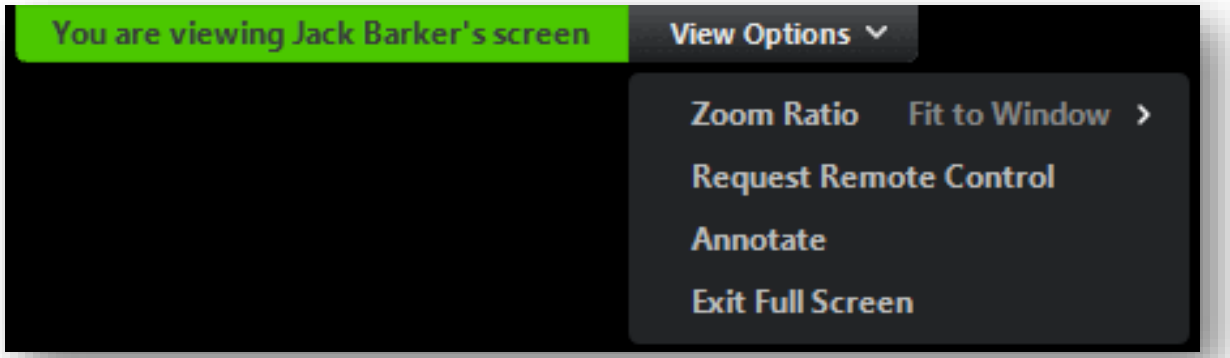
When another student wants to edit, control is requested

# Collaboration on specialized tools



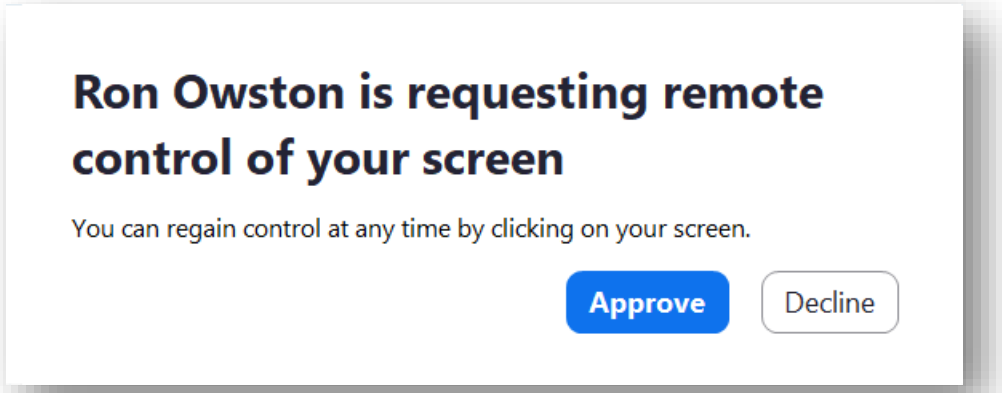

http://mathworks.com

# Request to control a shared screen

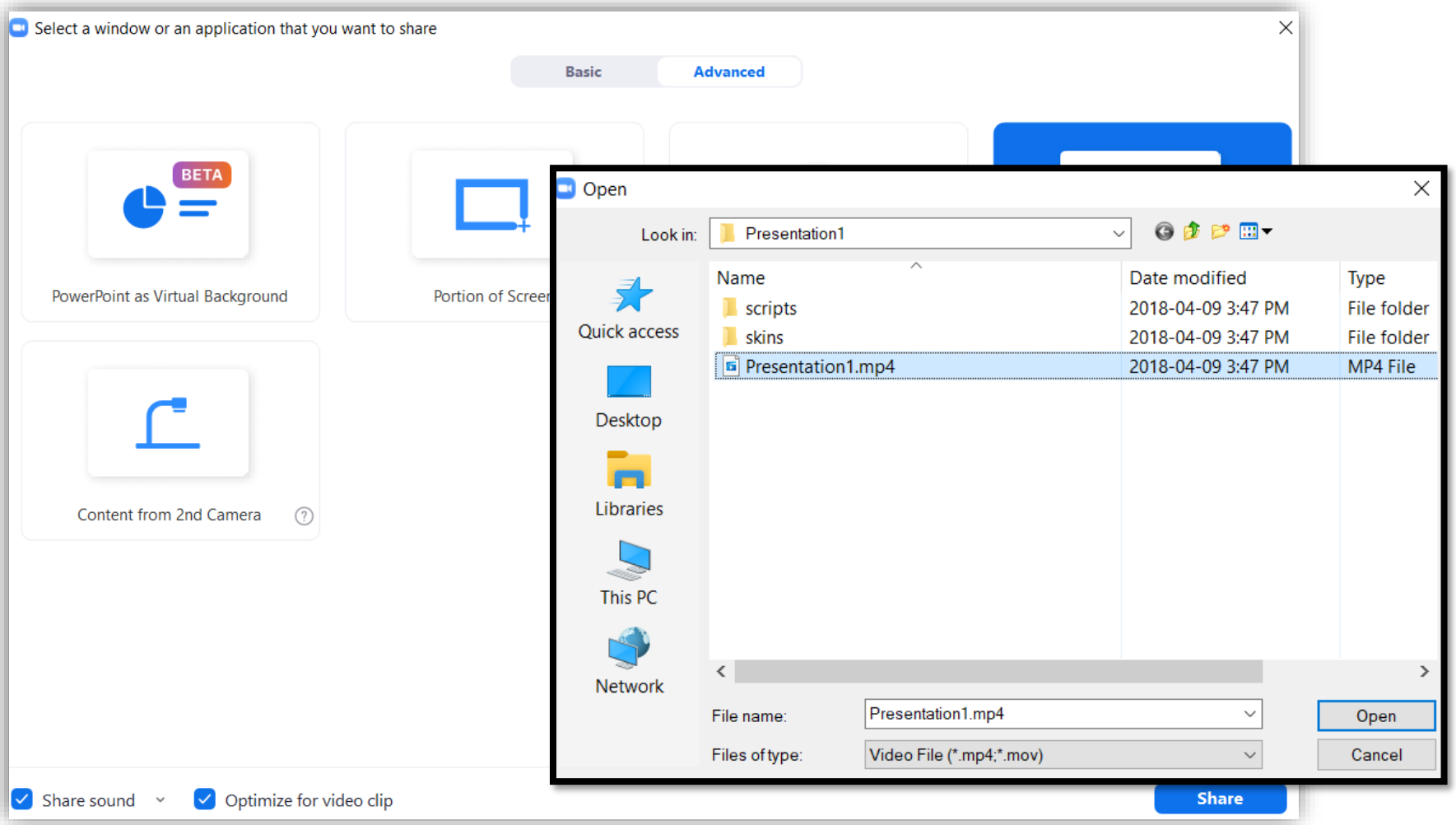



Ron sees this

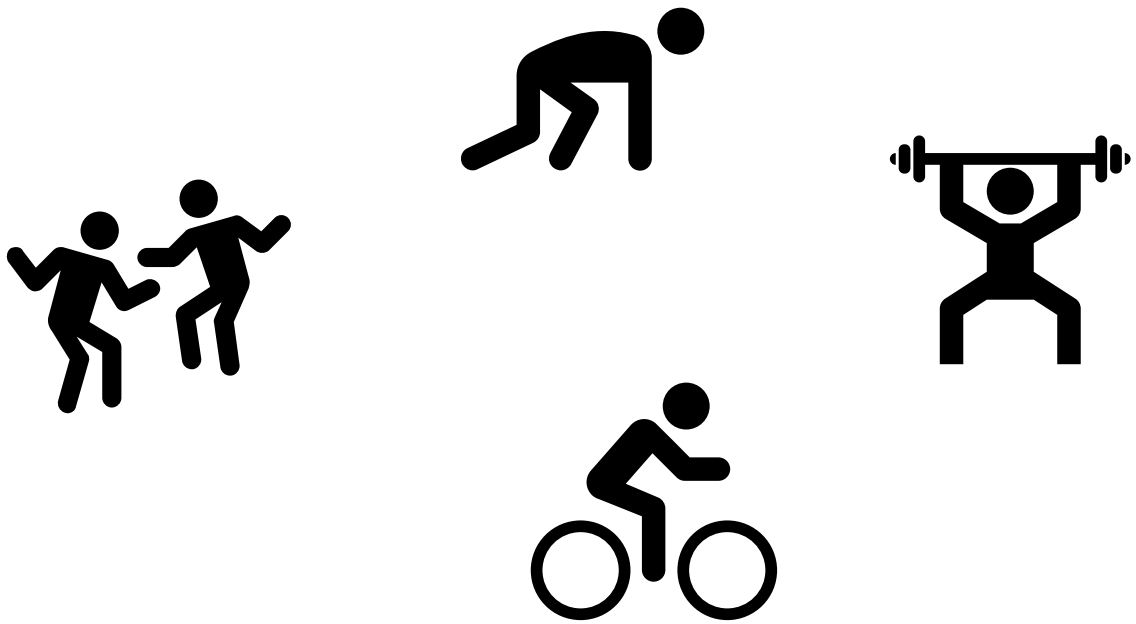
Jack sees this



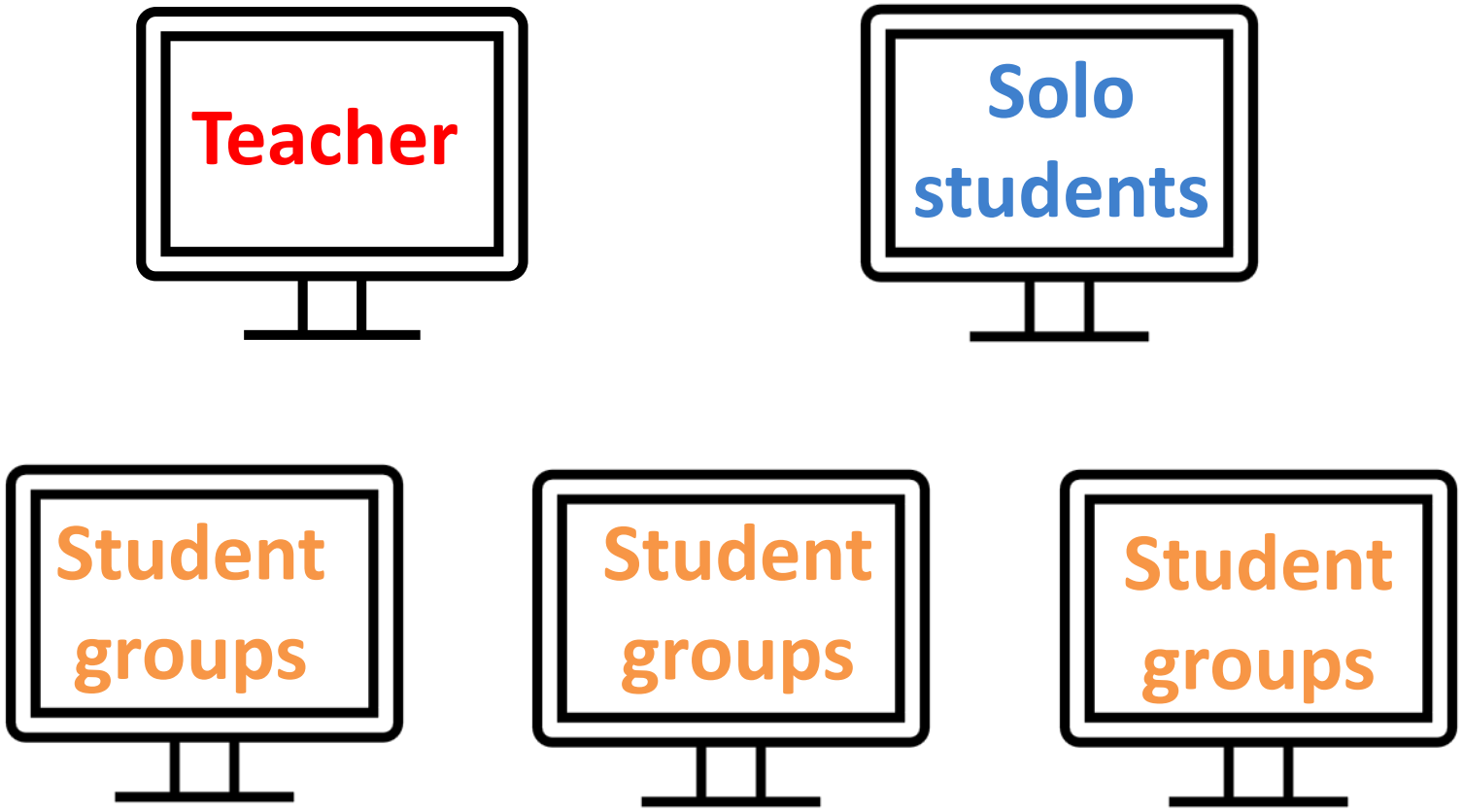
# Sharing videos video file



# Other breakout room activity ideas

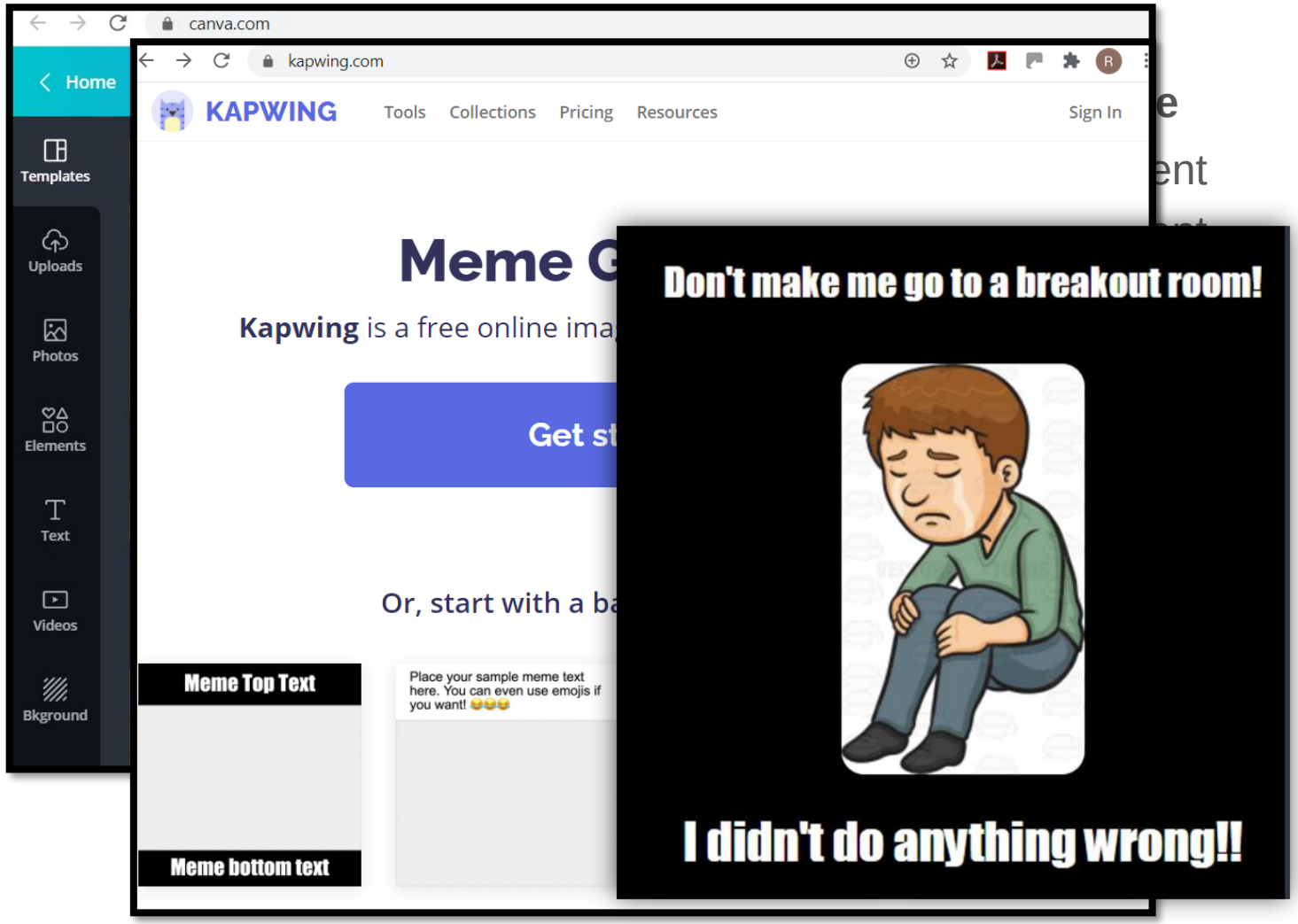


# Differentiated task rooms

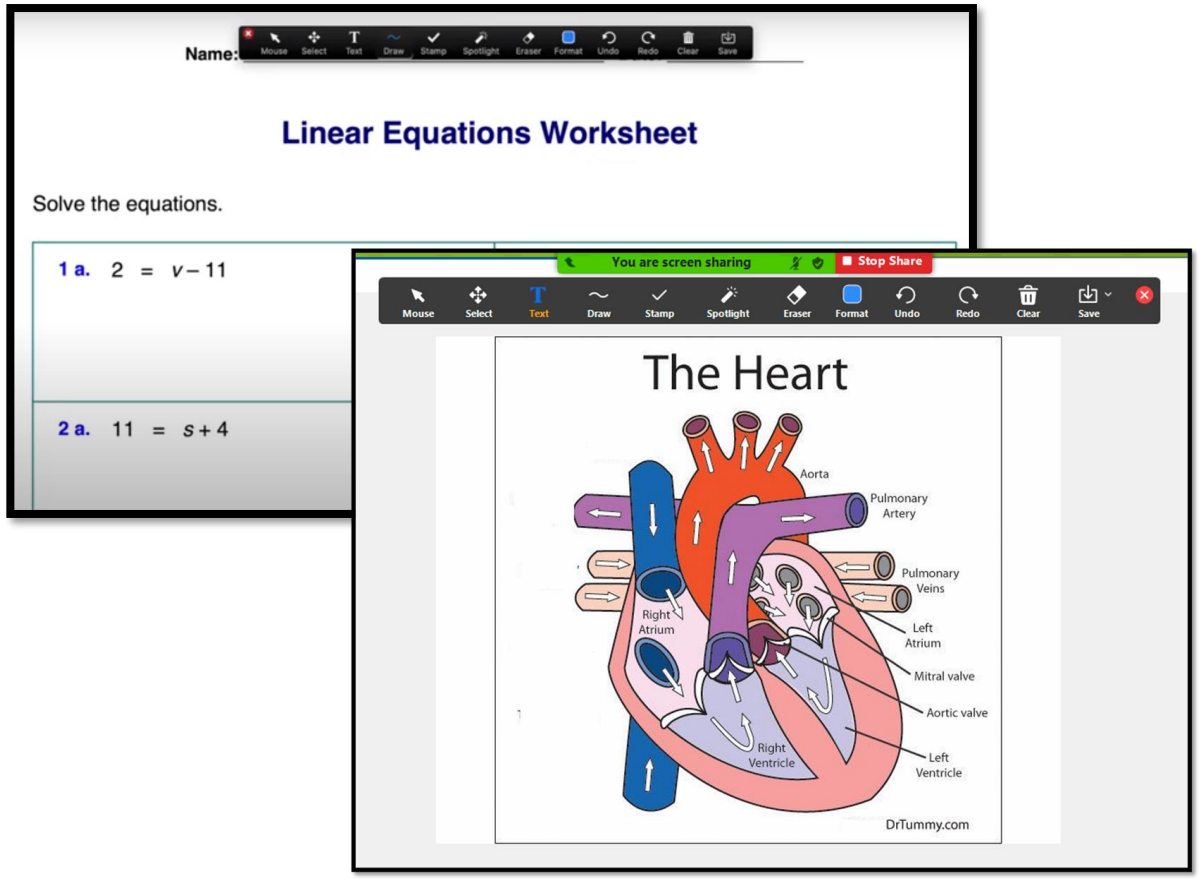


# Create memes

## Canva.com



# Escape rooms examples – first to solve and return to class and wins!

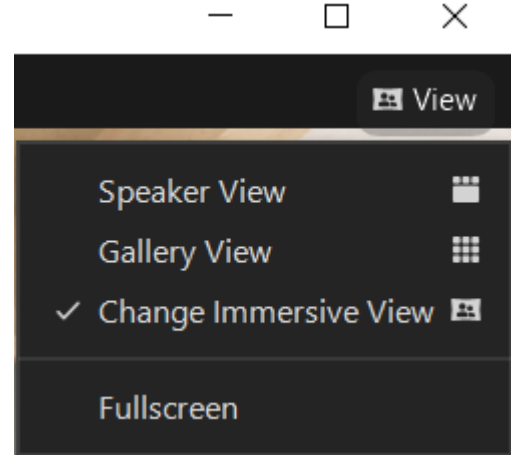


# 4. Reporting back to full class

- Oral presentations
- Random oral presentation by a several + written report for all
- Instructor prepared template
- Teach mini-lesson
- Video played and/or posted

# Reporting back with immersive view

New



# Summary of breakout room activities

DISCUSSIONS – STRUCTURES, THINK-PAIR-SHARE, 3-1-1

WHITEBOARD – ZOOM AND EXTERNAL CLOUD

SPECIALIZED TOOLS

WIKIS

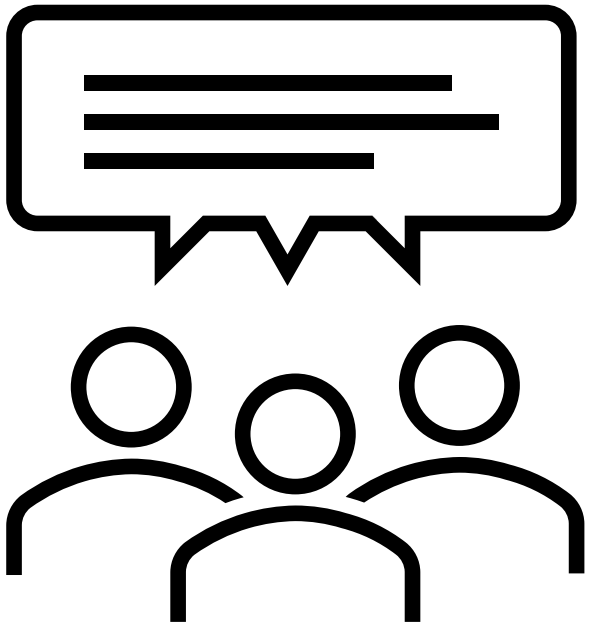
DIFFERENTIATED ROOMS

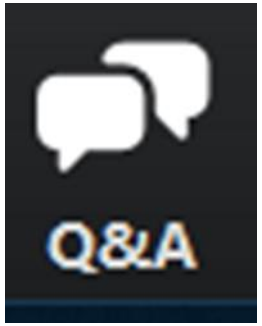
GOOGLE – DOCS, SLIDES, JAMBOARDS

MEMES

ESCAPE ROOMS

# What are your ideas?





# Challenge – in your next class try a new breakout room idea!

June 10th How to Use Zoom in the New (Blended) Normal: Models for Student Inclusion and Engagement

# Thank you!

http://ronowston.ca