A case study in collaborative mind-mapping with LucidChart

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Classroom context

- **Course**: 3rd Year Environmental Change
- **Lesson**: Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change
- **21 bright and engaged students with own wireless devices**

Learning Objectives

- Differentiate between mitigation and adaptation
- Identify & explain 2 examples of mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Explain 2 personal choices that could be considered mitigation strategies.

Problems with lecture-based lesson:

- Instructor-centred explanation is boring.
- Learners are capable of choosing which topics are discussion-worthy mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Students can access the most updated information on the constantly changing topics

Solution:

- Collaborative mind-mapping activity to be completed in 2 hour class using LucidChart

Using LucidChart

- Sign up for an educational LucidChart account
- Create a mind map skeleton & linked pages
- Create usernames and passwords for students
- Give students 5 minute introduction to LucidChart

LucidChart Evaluated

Benefits of LucidChart mind-mapping

- Web-based
- Intuitive program allows students to focus on lesson-material and brainstorming rather than on learning new program
- Multiple users edit and add to mind-map simultaneously

Benefits of collaborative mindmapping

- Students worked independently and focus on own interests
- Students see work of their classmates in real time
- The mind-map is a group effort, dependent on the input of each participants.
- Output is organic and easily manipulated. Students can adjust the position or branch off of their class-mates work.

Drawbacks of LucidChart

- Website fritzing with many users at once
- Takes time to add users to educational account

- Student says: "I... liked the ease of which you could insert images and videos the mind-map."

- Student says: "It was cool being able to add on to other people's ideas from where we were sitting and all interactively participate."

- Student says: "...the time it takes to learn... is much better spent just learning and interacting by talking aloud to each other and writing things down with ... a huge piece of paper and lots of markers."

Summary

- The students generally seemed to enjoy using LucidChart and did a remarkable job brainstorming and connecting ideas
- The tool is likely most powerful as a tool used remotely, e.g. with online learning, as there were technical difficulties associated with 21 people mind-mapping simultaneously.
- Similar group activities could be effectively used as assessments in online courses.