

Digital Whiteboards: Amplifying Student Voice in the Multimodal Classroom

Conceptual Introduction – Site & Tool

In many contemporary classrooms, the digital whiteboard has become a dynamic hub of learning...This inclusive design aligns with our course's emphasis on honoring different semiotic modes and represents a shift toward learner-centered, participatory classrooms.

Concrete Classroom Example

Imagine a middle school literature class discussing a novel...By the end, the class has essentially co-authored a rich, multimodal interpretation of the novel, one that they could never have produced through lecture or individual worksheets.

Sensory Engagement & Meaning-Making

Digital whiteboards deeply engage students' senses and foster active meaning-making...In summary, the multimodal affordances of the digital whiteboard turn learning into a richly perceptual activity, embodying the concept that understanding can be built by synaesthetically connecting modes.

Bridging Informal and Formal Learning

Another powerful dimension of digital whiteboards is how they bridge students' informal learning experiences with formal classroom learning...In short, this multimodal site blurs the line between how students learn naturally and how they are asked to learn in school, creating a continuum rather than a chasm.

Interactive & Social Learning

Digital whiteboards also excel at promoting interactive and social dimensions of learning...By making the learning visible and communal, they align with the pedagogy of interactive learning – one where talk, text, and graphics intermingle and every student has a stake in the collective product.

Preparation for Real-World Communication

A central aim of education is to prepare students to communicate effectively beyond the classroom...In sum, the digital whiteboard not only enriches classroom learning in the moment, but also equips students with the literacies – technical, multimodal, collaborative, and creative – that they will need to navigate and shape the communicative demands of college, careers, and society.