Key Zoom Features for Harkness Classes

Wireless Screen Share With share.zoom.us

This feature allows you (or your students) to share iPhone or iPad screens with other participants. This is particularly useful if you would like to share Equity Maps results with your students or have students write and discuss solutions to problems in math or other problem-based courses.

How Do I Change the Video Layout?

In Harkness classrooms, it's important that all members can both see and hear each other - Harkness tables are oval for a reason, after all. Thus, you'll need to consider and decide whether you will require your students to turn their cameras on. Also, you'll need to choose a video layout (and recommend one for your students). You may want to consider the Gallery View (think Brady Bunch), as it might help you capture some of the visual aspect of Harkness.

Mute All and Unmute All

Often in Zoom meetings - particularly large ones - participants are muted by default and need to get permission to speak by using the hand-raising feature, typing in the text chat, etc. But it's worth thinking about what effect this may have on your discussion dynamics, as Harkness usually involves less rigid turn taking.

Managing Video Breakout Rooms

Some Harkness activities work well in pair or small-group configurations, and this can be implemented easily with Zoom's Breakout Rooms. This feature allows teachers to create groups manually or randomly and check in on select groups throughout an activity. For more guidance, check out this tutorial from the Learning Platforms Team.

Using Annotation Tools on a Shared Screen or Whiteboard

Zoom's whiteboard is useful for Harkness activities which require some sort of shared writing space. For example, this would work well in math classes where discussion revolves around students' solutions to problem sets or for discussion-starting activities which require students to contribute questions, illustrative quotes, points of confusion, etc.