Faculty Guide: Interactive Whiteboard Alternatives

This guide will walk you through how to emulate the features of an Interactive Whiteboard in a traditional classroom that does not have an Interactive Whiteboard. To learn more about using any of these alternatives, please contact eCampus at ecampus@sjsu.edu and 408.924.2337 to set up a consultation.

Interactive Whiteboards are a tool that allow for interaction with course content through a touchscreen interface. You can connect your computer and have your content become interactive through touchscreen and annotation capabilities. If your classroom does not have an Interactive Whiteboard, there are some alternatives that allow for similar interactivity.

1. Document Camera

A document camera allows for documents, objects, and other materials to connect with a classroom projector and display that information on the screen. You can then annotate on that item. You can also use a blank sheet of paper and draw images and diagrams that pertain to the topic you are presenting.
2. Tablet (iPad, Android, Wacom)

Tablets are basically small laptops, which also have the functions of a smartphone. The size of a tablet is smaller than a laptop and larger than a smartphone. It is a smart device which comes handy when you do not want to carry a big laptop. Also, it has a flat screen as a display which comes handy while doing presentations on the go. Tablets come equipped with technologies, such as sensors, camera, microphone, touchscreen display and on screen pop-up touch keyboard. The screen size of tablet can range from 7 inches to larger ones.

With its user friendly interface, high performance, internet connectivity, bluetooth functions, web browsing and compatibilities with various Operating systems has made Tablets popular.

**iPad** is a tablet which uses Apple’s mobile operating system (iOS) and has all the features of a tablet. You can say it has similar features as that of Macbook and also some features of iPhone. It has Appstore for installing applications and Safari for internet browsing.

![iPad](image)

**Android** Tablets are another type of tablets which runs on Android operating system (various versions of Android). Android OS was developed by Google. These tablets are produced by companies which use android platforms for development for example Samsung, LG etc.
Wacom tablets have various different models and are designed in a way that you can digitally doodle into your computer or Mac. Basically, a Wacom tablet is a technological mate for a computer which provides an additional feature of a cursor with a pencil and a monitor with a college-ruled notebook. It is compatible with both Windows and Mac.

Additional Items to Keep in Mind Regarding a Tablet

**Good stylus:** A stylus is a pressure sensitive device which allows you to draw like a pen on paper and the smart tablet on which it is drawn will convert the drawing into digital form on screen. Stylus is very handy and is only effective when used with touch screen or screen.
sensitive devices. Stylus looks like a pen and also works the same way, can be said as digital pen which gives ability to write on digital paper.

**Adapter:** An adapter is a device which helps in outputting the computer’s or tablet’s screen view to projector’s bigger screen display. Adapters act as a bridge interface between a computer and projector for large display, which are very useful while doing presentations or addressing large number of people.

3. **Apple TV**

The Apple TV allows you to mirror the teacher and student iPad or MacBooks to the projector. So whatever is on your iPad or MacBooks will come up on the projector screen. Instructors can present lessons, handwrite notes, search the web, and draw and complete graphic organizers. Your students can also connect with Apple TV easily to share projects and other work on the screen.
4. Screen-sharing Applications

There are additional applications that can allow for you to annotate information on your device that can then display on the classroom screen. Various applications used are WebEx, Doceri, Reflector, etc.

Examples

WebEx Screen view while sharing a whiteboard

Doceri

Interactive Whiteboard and screencast recorder

Reflector

Sharing Window Screen