Insights into the Online Learning Environment

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“Zoom Sucks”

Teachers have had serious problems being effective with zoom in the new online virtual environment. Zoom wasn’t made for teachers/education. It was meant for meetings. Teachers wish they had a way to keep students more accountable in zoom sessions and breakout rooms.

“Zoom purgatory” - Secure but lack of easy access.
Breakout room preferences.
Extendable gallery mode.
Productivity and Community

Asynchronous lectures are hard to keep up with. Solitary work is the easiest, most comfortable option. Unstructured work sessions with peers is common-place at MIT. Isolating a work space is ideal, however, unrealistic and inaccessible.
Students may only pick up 50% of what teachers are saying. “Lack of physical aids makes science way more difficult.”

Physical kits out of budget for underfunded public high schools. One teacher has to record labs, edit the videos, then upload for students to watch before class (takes forever). Challenge is in coming up with new ways of making online lessons interactive and intuitive in the absence of physical resources.
Lack of Engagement

Very easy to turn camera + mic off. Most students don’t want to make themselves “look bad.”

More friction for interaction than an in-person dynamic.

Education feels “robotic” and “transactional.”