



Focus Group Protocols

STUDENT ASSENT

The following script will be read to the students before each focus group:

Hi everyone,

*Thanks for being here! We're doing a group chat—or **focus group**—to learn about how students use technology for learning.*

I am a researcher from [X University] to try to understand what's working well, and what could be better when it comes to using digital devices and screens for education. We're really interested in hearing your ideas and experiences.

There are no right or wrong answers. You don't have to say anything you're not comfortable with, and you can choose not to answer any question. If you change your mind at any point and don't want to take part anymore, that's completely okay—you can just let us know or quietly step out.

We won't use your name in anything we write or share, and your answers will stay private – unless you give us permission to share it.

As you can see, we have a video camera here. We will be making some videos to help everyone in NSW know how to use devices better for learning. If there's something you said in this focus group which we really like, we'll show you the bits we want to use and ask you and your parent if we can share it. We will only share it if you and your parent say yes.

Your parent or carer has given permission for you to take part, but it's still your choice.

Are you willing to take part? Does anyone have any questions before we begin?

STUDENT FOCUS GROUPS (Primary)

Let's talk about how you use iPads, computers or other devices to learn!

1. What are your three favourite apps or games that help you learn? *Why do you like them? What do they help you with?*
2. Are there any apps or games you don't think help you learn much? *Why don't you like them?*
3. Do you sometimes get distracted when using technology in class? *What makes it hard to concentrate? What helps you focus again?*
4. Do you get distracted when using technology at home? *What makes it tricky to learn at home? What helps you do your best?*
5. What could make learning with computers (laptops) or tablets (iPads) even better? *What would you like to change or add?*
6. What tips would you give your friends to help them use technology well for learning? *What works for you?*
7. What can your parents do to help you learn better with technology?
8. What can your teacher do to help you learn better with technology?
9. Is there anything else you want to say about using technology to learn?

STUDENT FOCUS GROUPS (Secondary)

Think about all the ways you have used digital devices for learning in the past 12 months...

1. What have been the three most useful software or apps or ways to use technology to help you learn? Can you tell us how have they been useful?
2. What would you say are the least effective apps or ways to use technology for learning? Why?
3. Do you sometimes get distracted when you use technology for learning in class? If yes, what are the main distractions and how do you try to avoid them?
4. Do you sometimes get distracted when you use technology for learning at home? If yes, what are the main distractions and how do you try to avoid them?
5. What could change to make you a better learner using technologies?
6. What advice do you have for your classmates about how to use technology well for learning?
7. What can your parents do to help you to be a better learner using technologies?
8. What can your teachers do to help you to be a better learner using technologies?
9. Any other comments?

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PARENT FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Why did you volunteer to come to this focus group? (Ice-breaker)
2. What are some of the positives that you see with your child's use of digital devices and screens?
3. What are your main concerns relating to your child's use of digital devices and screens?
4. What do you believe are the most effective ways for your child to use screens and digital devices for learning?
5. Do you discuss screen use with your child and if so what do you discuss?
6. What strategies do you have to help your child learn effectively using screens and digital devices? (e.g. house rules, internet filters, etc)
7. What advice (if any) have you received (e.g. from school or friends or online) to help promote effective and healthy use of screens by your child/ren at home? Is this advice appropriate and helpful?
8. What support would you like to help your child use technology and screens better for learning?
- 9.
10. Any other comments?

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TEACHER FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Why did you volunteer to come to this focus group? (Ice-breaker)
2. What do you believe are the most effective ways for your students to use screens and digital devices for learning?
3. What are your main concerns relating to your students' use of digital devices and screens for learning?
4. Do you discuss screen use with your students and if so what do you discuss?
5. What strategies do you have to help ensure sure your students use screens and digital devices effectively for learning? (e.g. classroom rules, teaching strategies, etc)
6. What strategies don't work when you are trying to use screens and digital devices in your classes?
7. What support would you like to help you better use technology and screens for learning in your classes?
8. Any other comments?

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PRE-SERVICE TEACHER FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. Why did you volunteer to come to this focus group? (Ice-breaker)

2. What do you believe are the most effective ways for your students to use screens and digital devices for learning (and why)?
3. What are your main concerns relating to students' use of digital devices and screens for learning?
4. What did you learn about teaching using technology from when you were a school student?
5. What have you learnt about teaching using technology as a pre-service teacher, and where did you learn this from?
6. What strategies do you have to help ensure sure your students use screens and digital devices effectively for learning? (e.g. classroom rules, teaching strategies, etc)
7. What support would you like to help you better use technology and screens for learning in your classes?
8. Any other comments?

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PRINCIPAL FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What are the key benefits of using digital technologies and screens in your school?
2. What do you believe are the best ways to use technologies and screens in your school?
3. What are the key challenges that you face relating to the use of digital technologies and screens in your school?
4. What strategies do you have to help promote effective and healthy use of screens in your school and by students at home?
5. How do you go about determining policies and positions for using technology in your school? (e.g. consultation, key referents)
6. What do you find most effective and important when setting policies and positions regarding technology use in your schools?
7. How would you characterise the culture in your school regarding use of screens and digital devices for learning? What were the main factors that influenced the formation of that culture?
8. What are the main supports and resources that you feel would best assist you to help have screens used effectively in your school.
9. Any other comments?