

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light-colored sweater, is sitting at a desk and smiling at a computer monitor. The monitor displays a video conference with several participants. The background shows a brick wall and a window. The text "Online Platforms" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font across the middle of the image.

Online Platforms

SELECTING A PLATFORM

First and foremost, choose a video-conferencing platform that works best for you and that you are most comfortable with. The following three are generically the most used amongst groups.

- Zoom
- Google Meet
- Skype
- Your Preference!

Pros and Cons of each on next page.

PROS AND CONS OF EACH VIDEO-CONFERENCING PLATFORM

ZOOM

Features

- 300 max participants
- Screen sharing
- Recording capability
- Wait room and password security
- Chat in meeting

Pros

- Mobile and desktop capabilities
- Works with all OS
- Gallery view feature allows you to see all members

Cons

- Free version only allows for 40 minutes
- Can subscribe for as low as \$14.99/month.
- Need to download plugin prior to use
- **Conclusion:** Best option for larger groups

SKYPE

Features

- 20 max participants
- Screen sharing
- Recording capability
- Chat in meeting
- Background blur

Pros

- Mobile and desktop capabilities
- Works with all OS
- No sign-up
- No downloads
- Join via shared link

Cons

- Small participant max

Conclusion: Easiest setup options for groups with various OS

GOOGLE MEET

Features

- 100 max participants
- Autofocus
- Screen sharing
- Intelligent muting
- Share options
- Chat capability

Pros

- Integrated with Google
- Mobile and desktop capabilities
- Works on most OS

Cons

- Need a Google account
- Best on Chrome web browser
- No recording capability
- One-hour limit

Conclusion: Best option for those familiar with Google, probably the least desirable for groups

