STEP-BY-STEP TECHNOLOGY GUIDE

AMERICA IN ONE ROOM: CLIMATE AND ENERGY | STANFORD ONLINE DELIBERATION PLATFORM

OVERVIEW OF THE STANFORD ONLINE DELIBERATION PLATFORM

For America in One Room: Climate and Energy (A1R), all participants will use an exciting and brand new platform called the Stanford Online Deliberation Platform that was developed by the Stanford Center for Democracy. This platform is a video discussion platform designed for small group discussions. The platform is designed to facilitate an organized and fair conversation with opportunities for participants to speak up.

This step-by-step technology guide will give you important information about the best devices and browsers to use during A1R and explain some pretty cool features of the platform that you will get to use during the event.

We also highly recommend that you watch a YouTube video that explains the many features of the platform.

You can watch that video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgXwam1KDZk

STEP 1
Get your Technology Skills Ready for A1R. Important tips for using the platform

STEP 2
Give it a try! Test the computer or smart phone you will use during A1R.

STEP 3
Learn about the platform. Familiarize yourself with the exciting features of the platform so you can easily contribute to your small group discussion.
GET YOUR TECHNOLOGY SKILLS READY FOR A1R

Device
We recommend that you use a laptop or desktop computer to participate in A1R. If you don’t have a laptop or desktop computer, you can use an Android smart phone (i.e., a smart phone that is made by Google or Samsung). Unfortunately, the platform does NOT work on iPhones or iPads, but does work on MacBooks and iMacs (Apple laptops and desktop computers).

Browser
We recommend that you use the latest version of Google Chrome to participate in A1R. You may also use Firefox. We do not recommend that you use Safari or Internet Explorer. A browser is the app (application) or window you open on your computer when you search the internet. Below are the icons of the browsers we recommend and do not recommend.

You can download Google Chrome by visiting the website below and following the instructions for your device. https://www.google.com/chrome/

Background
Unlike some other video conferencing platforms like Zoom, there are no virtual background screens available on this platform. If you choose to turn on your camera (which we highly recommend!), please make sure you are comfortable with what will be shown on the camera.

Headphones
We encourage everyone to use headphones during A1R so you can hear and speak clearly. However, headphones are not required. We do not recommend using Bluetooth or wireless headphones as these may lose their connection during the meeting.

Plug in!
Finally, our last recommendation is to plug in your laptop, desktop, or Android smart phone to an electrical outlet so you don’t lose power during A1R.

TRY OUT THE PLATFORM NOW
You are required to test the device (laptop, desktop computer, or android smart phone) that you will use during A1R to make sure your camera and audio connection work well. Please click on the link below to test the platform. Hint: Remember to use a Chrome browser!

CLICK TO TEST: https://stanforddeliberate.org/test
EXCITING FEATURES OF THE PLATFORM

45-Second Turns
This platform encourages fair participation by limiting each person's "turn" speaking to 45 seconds. If you have more to say, you can click "Request to Speak" and get in line to speak.

Interrupt
You can also try to very briefly interrupt the current speaker by clicking "interrupt". This will allow you to speak right away for 15 seconds if you have a question for the speaker or want them to clarify something they said.

Asking You to Talk
The platform might encourage you to talk if it notices you haven't talked in a while. However, you do not need to speak. This automatic encouragement is just a way to generate a more interesting and fair discussion.

Move On
A super cool feature of the platform is that any participant can click the "Move On" button if they wish to move onto the next topic. The platform will then automatically ask others if they also want to move on to the next topic. If the majority agree, the platform will move on to the next topic automatically.

Reporting a User
All delegates will have the right to report another delegate if they are using offensive language or have technology issues and may need support. The platform will ask other group members to agree that there is an issue and inform a human supervisor, if appropriate.

Agenda and Pro/Con List
There will be a pro/con list on the side of your screen. These "pros" and "cons" are unbiased and do not always represent the views of someone in your group, but can be used to start the discussion.

HELP BUTTON
If you are experiencing tech issues, fear not! There will be a "help" button at the top corner of your screen. This will connect you to someone who is very familiar with the platform. Try to explain your question or concern as best as you can so the team can work to fix it quickly.