



FREE DOWNLOAD

Interactive Presentation Tool Picker

Four questions that narrow a dozen tools to 1 or 2, the free-plan limit that decides whether you pay, and the 10-minute test to run with 3 colleagues before any live event.

1	The four questions	decide in 5 minutes
2	Shortlist by situation	with free-plan limits
3	The pre-event test	10 minutes, 3 colleagues

Four questions, then the shortlist

Answer the questions in order. Each one removes a family of tools, and by the fourth you are choosing between 2.

1 Where does the audience sit?

In a room or a call with you: you need a **response layer** (polls, Q&A, quizzes). In a classroom with a roster: a **lesson tool**. Reading on their own, later: **interactive content** or a **web-published deck**.

2 Do you keep the deck you already have?

Yes: pick something that plugs into PowerPoint or Google Slides: **Slido**, **Mentimeter**, **AhaSlides**, **Wooclap**, **Poll Everywhere**, **Pear Deck**. No: a builder is open to you: **Genially**, **Prezi**, **Canva**, **Gamma**, **Pitch**, **Nearpod**.

3 How many people, how often?

Write your usual audience size here and compare it with the limit column below. That number decides whether the free plan is a trial or a home.

4 What happens to the deck afterwards?

Sent around and you want to know who read it: **Gamma** or **Pitch**. Played again without you: **Genially**. Finished when the meeting ends: any response tool.

SHORTLIST BY SITUATION

SITUATION	FIRST PICK	ALSO CONSIDER	FREE-PLAN LIMIT THAT BITES
Meetings and lectures, live polls	Mentimeter	AhaSlides	50 participants a month (Mentimeter); 50 per session (AhaSlides)
Q&A and polls inside your own deck	Slido	Poll Everywhere	100 participants, 3 polls per event; 25 responses per poll
Game-style quizzes	Kahoot!	AhaSlides	10 players per game on a personal account
University and corporate training	Wooclap	Mentimeter	5 questions a month
School classrooms	Nearpod	Pear Deck	40 students per session
Clickable, self-paced content	Genially	Canva	Watermark, public publishing only
Non-linear storytelling	Prezi	Genially	Public presentations with branding
AI-built deck on the web	Gamma	Pitch	400 one-time credits, Gamma badge
Team presenting the same decks often	Pitch	Canva	5 members, 1 analytics link

Before you pay. Google Slides has a built-in Q&A mode, PowerPoint takes Microsoft Forms polls as slides, and Zoom, Teams and Webex all have native polling. A dedicated tool earns its plan for word clouds, scored quizzes, per-participant reports and self-paced content.

BEFORE THE EVENT

The 10-minute test

Run this once with 2 or 3 colleagues on their own phones, on the same network the audience will use. The join step is where live sessions fail, and no feature saves you from it.

Join and connect

3 minutes

- ☐ Every tester joins with the code or QR from a phone on the venue network, not the presenter's hotspot.
- ☐ One tester joins from a laptop browser as well; some rooms have no phone signal.
- ☐ The participant count on screen matches the number of people who joined.
- ☐ Your usual audience size is below the plan limit written on page 2, with room to spare.

Run every interaction once

5 minutes

- ☐ Each poll, quiz or Q&A slide opens, accepts answers and shows results on the big screen.
- ☐ Results are readable from the back of the room, or in the video call at the smallest window size.
- ☐ Q&A moderation is on for anything larger than a team meeting, and you know where the approve button is.
- ☐ The presenter view and the audience view are on different screens, and the audience never sees your notes.
- ☐ If the deck lives in PowerPoint or Google Slides, the add-in is signed in on the presenting machine, not only on yours.

Decide the plan

2 minutes

- ☐ 2 or 3 interactions are placed where the room will have a question anyway, and none in the first 2 minutes.
- ☐ You know what you will say about each result, because a word cloud shown for 4 seconds teaches people their answers do not matter.
- ☐ A fallback is ready: a show of hands or a native Zoom or Teams poll if the tool fails to load.
- ☐ The results export is switched on if anyone will want them after the session.

One rule. The tool follows the audience. Where they sit and what they already have open decides the pick; the feature list decides very little.