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<p style="text-align:center">SA4 Project Proposal: Zoom for Online Learning</p>

Technology has revolutionized the way students learn by making learning accessible to most through Learning Management Systems (LMS) like Canvas, Slack, G-Suites and much more. Online learning platforms have become ever so prominent in the present learning environment due to the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). More than ever video conferencing platforms like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Google Meets, WebEx Teams, and GoToMeetings, especially Zoom, have been integrated into the online learning essentials toolkit for K-12 and college students (Singh *et al* 1). With a lot of our focus on this class being on data privacy awareness, and how we use multimodal strategies to present our ideas, I want to write a research type paper on how due to Zoom's persistent security issues, and controversial control over academic freedom, institutions like the University of Washington and other even schools should shift towards using Google Meets, or Microsoft Teams. Zoom, a widely used video conferencing application, has more than 200 million users on a daily basis due to its easy to use features such as "…screen sharing, screen recording, team chats, and searchable history" (Singh *et al* 1). The application has the capacity to hold approximately 500 participants at a time and can allow 49 on screen videos (Singh *et al* 1, 7). Alongside the popularity Zoom has gained for its ability to provide a way to connect with others while staying socially distanced, and has provided a platform to remotely learn, the application has faced major security and censorship issues. In regard to the

security issues, Zoom has been accused of using clients' personal data in suspicious ways and for not having proper security measures (Wagenseil 2). As for information security, allegedly, the usernames and passwords have been retrieved from the Zoom database and sold on dark web (Wagenseil 2). In addition to the security issues, as recent as October 23rd, 2020, a webinar on academic censorship organized by New York University (NYU) was shut down because according to Zoom, it violated multiple Terms of Service, Acceptable Use Policy, and community standards (Lytvynenko). The webinar was held in response to the cancellation of an earlier event organized by San Francisco State University (SFSU) on September 23rd, 2020, where Leila Khaled, a member of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) was supposed to speak (Lytvynenko). The American Association of University Professors of New York University (NYU-AAUP) executive committee stated that the censorship and event cancellation is a violation to the mandatory event academic freedom ("Statement from the NYU-AAUP Executive Committee (10/23/2020)"). They also pointed out concerns with the involvement of third-party vendors on deciding what is academically acceptable in online learning platforms like Zoom ("Statement from the NYU-AAUP Executive Committee (10/23/2020)"). With this in mind, I have used Zoom for personal and academic reasons, so I interested in embarking of this topic of Zoom security and whether it will be more secure and beneficial to transfer to other video conferencing application(s). This topic not only is in my interest, but it can be thought provoking to a wider audience such as K-12 institutes, universities/colleges, teachers, students, and parents because we should all be concerned with data privacy. I found that using google scholars to find relevant articles is useful and I intent to use most of the articles I have parenthetically cited in this proposal. I have not written a primary research paper, but have collaboratively written two scientific review paper, so I want to utilize

the strategies I learned this summer to write this piece. I am most concerned about calling it a research paper because I will be using different articles to construct my project, so I envision the outline to be similar to a research paper instead of being a research paper. With most scientific pieces, there is a PowerPoint presentation that is a condensed version of the paper, so I intend to make a PowerPoint as well. If I have more time, I am most interested on making an app using code.org to make the information more "accessible" to audiences. A lengthy research article can be less compelling to read, so an app or PowerPoint presentation to go with it will be more effective. My initial vision for this project is for it to be a hypothetical situation where I write a research paper that can persuade users to limit their Zoom usage and shift towards safer applications like Google Meets or Microsoft Teams.

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