

1-19-2017

Instant Class Polling Using Mobile Devices: An Interactive and Effective Pedagogical Tool

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Recommended Citation

Johnson, Lori D. and Babler, Emma, "Instant Class Polling Using Mobile Devices: An Interactive and Effective Pedagogical Tool" (2017). *UNLV Best Teaching Practices Expo*. 36.

https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/btp_expo/36

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Instant Class Polling Using Mobile Devices: An Interactive and Effective Pedagogical Tool

The practice and the need it addresses

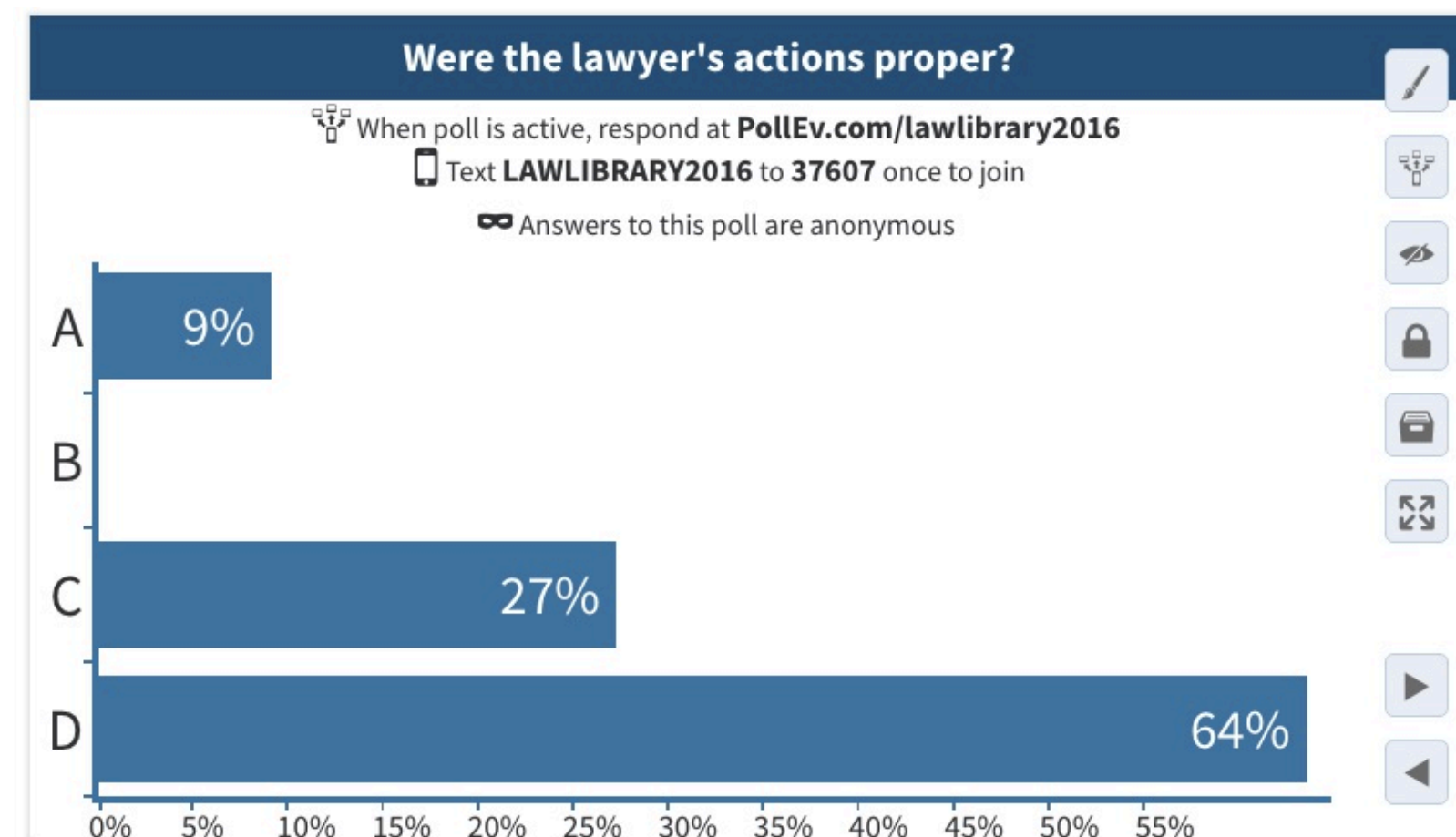
Background, Goal & Method

Background:

Available methods of instant class feedback had been limited to technology associated with clickers purchased by students, or tied to responses from laptops, which professors have begun banning from the classroom due to distraction. However, obtaining real-time feedback on students' comprehension of complex concepts remains a critical pedagogical goal, particularly in rule-based courses such as Professional Responsibility.

Goal:

To identify a convenient and accessible method of obtaining large class responses to questions in a rule-based legal course.



Method:

In my rule-based Professional Responsibility class of 52 students, I utilized PollEverywhere software (in connection with existing PowerPoints and materials) permitting students to respond to in-class questions in real time using text messages from mobile devices. I successfully used the software for both multiple choice and open-end questions (see examples).

Evidence this practice benefits UNLV Students

Results & Benefits

Results:

Selected student responses to the technology:

- ✓ "Very user-friendly and engaging."
- ✓ "I enjoyed the different ways the answers were presented, whether in bar graphs or word collages."
- ✓ "I really like that I don't have to create an account or download an app to participate."



Logistical Benefits:

- Decreased student costs
- Decreased instructor cost - software options have free academic subscriptions.
- Wide availability of mobile phones.
- Integration into existing materials.
- Ease of use of technology.
- Useful for both rule-based and discussion-oriented classes.

Pedagogical Benefits:

- ✓ Anonymous, real-time participation.
- ✓ Increased active learning, attention, response, and engagement with material.
- ✓ Ability to recognize class comprehension immediately and provide redirection.
- ✓ Software can collect and store response data.
- ✓ Students can discuss sensitive topics in an open and anonymous forum.

Resources and where to find them

Select Mobile-Polling Technology

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| PollEverywhere | Kahoot |
| Socrative | Mentimeter |
| SMSPoll | Wedgies |



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How other UNLV teachers might adopt this practice

Applicability & Potential Challenges

The use of in-class text message mobile polling in a rule-based course provided a convenient and well-received method for students to actively participate in learning, and an opportunity for the instructor to provide immediate, responsive feedback. Similar pedagogical benefits would arise at any grade level, and in many types of courses.

Potential Challenges:

- Certain software can be costly for larger classes.
- Requires skill in using classroom technology.
- Requires advance planning of in-class questions, which may restrict free-flowing dialogue.
- Potentially less useful in non-rule based courses, where multiple choice questions less prevalent.
- Standard text message data rates apply.