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Student Polling in WebCampus

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Student Polling in WebCampus

UNLV Best Teaching Practices Expo 2019

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The practice and the need it addresses

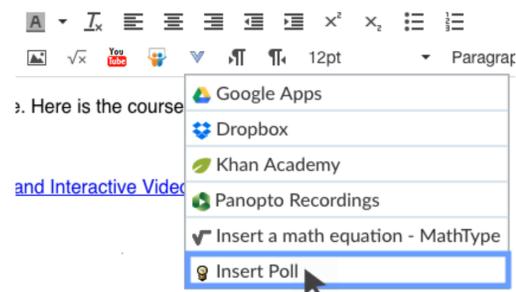
Project Goal

Our goal was to increase student engagement with online courses by building a student polling system that works inside of WebCampus.

Using the Tool

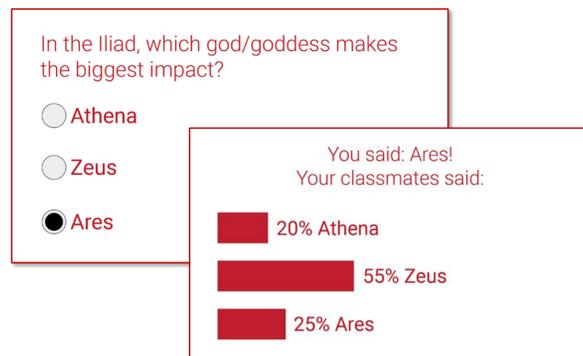
Insert Poll

Use the "Insert Poll" button to embed a poll into content pages in WebCampus.



Students Submit Responses Then View Classmate Responses

Students can respond to the poll and see the results from the class after they respond.



Evidence this practice benefits UNLV Students

Evidence for Polling

Faculty Interviews

We interviewed five UNLV faculty members to determine how polling has improved their courses. The main points were that polling:

- Diversifies formative assessments.
- Provides data about student knowledge.
- Improves student engagement with course material.
- Increases student-to-student interaction when used in discussions.



INSTRUCTOR

"I want to see who is engaging with the material in my online course."
"I want students to receive immediate feedback."
"Give me as much data as possible."

Student Interviews

We interviewed four UNLV students. The biggest barrier to use of a polling system is buying a clicker. This tool is free for faculty and students.



STUDENT

"Don't make me buy a clicker for just one class!"

Resources and where to find them

Tips for Online Polls

Polls and personal response systems (PRS) are often used face-to-face. Here are tips for using polls in online and hybrid courses:

- Utilize polls in announcements to vary the texture of the course.
- Make polls low-stakes like informal questions posed to a face-to-face class.
- Bring up the results of previous polls to students later on to show changes in attitudes or perspective.
- Reduce emphasis on time-limits since some students access materials at different times.

Resources

These resources will help you get ideas and inspiration for polling in your courses.



Classroom Response Systems ("Clickers"). Vanderbilt University.

<https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/clickers/>



Real Teaching Examples. Boston College

<https://cteresources.bc.edu/documentation/personal-response-systems/>

How other UNLV teachers might adopt this practice

Use Polls in Your Course

Ice Breakers: Use a poll in the discussion prompt of the *Introductions* thread in your online course. This can make it easier for students to relate to each other and open up.

Checks for Understanding: Ask a mid-module comprehension question to take the pulse of student understanding.

Assess Prior Knowledge: Place a poll at the beginning of a new module to assess current state of knowledge in low-stakes manner.

Generate Discussion: Start a discussion with a poll (or with the results of a previous poll).

Student Choice: Polls can facilitate votes for which class activities or special topics will be undertaken.

Pilot Testers Wanted!



A pilot version of the tool can be enabled for your WebCampus course now. Your feedback can help improve the tool.

Email benjamin.root@unlv.edu for more information.

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