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Student Polling in WebCampus

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Student Polling in WebCampus

**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 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.

*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.

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

**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/

**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.*

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*In the Iliad, which god/goddess makes the biggest impact?*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athena</th>
<th>Zeus</th>
<th>Ares</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"You said Athena! Your classroom said!"

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**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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