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**Engaging students via their mobile phones:**

**easy ways to have a personal response system**

The days of students sitting passively and attentively while a teacher spouts knowledge are numbered.

Students want and expect a more engaging experience and if the class is not that interesting many are tempted to get out their smart phones and check their e-mails or look at Facebook. The solution is to harness the power of the smart phone as a means of engaging learners with your content.

**Tools Used**

* Poll Everywhere <https://www.polleverywhere.com/>
* Socrative <http://www.socrative.com/>
* Kahoot <https://getkahoot.com/>
* Rationale for classroom polling
	+ Interaction creates engagement
	+ Anonymous responses build class community
	+ Polling the class gives you valuable feedback that you may not get otherwise
	+ All can respond not just most confident
	+ It adds variety to your lecture / teaching technique
	+ It energises large classes
	+ Teachers can get responses even when new to the class / students
	+ Students get feedback as to how they are doing
* Feasibility of classroom polling
	+ Mobile technology ubiquitous
	+ Free apps available
	+ Classrooms internet / wifi connected
* Types of poll
	+ Yes/no True/False
	+ Multiple choice
	+ Short text (open) answers
	+ Demographic (who’s in the room?)
* Popular free options
	+ Socrative
	+ PollEverywhere
	+ Kahoot
	+ Quizziz
	+ Easypolls
* Commercial options
	+ Turning Technologies (works with PowerPoint)
	+ Quizdom (as above)
	+ Promethean (used with IWB)
* Option without smartphones (free)
	+ Plickers (see below)

The following pedagogical theories have been invoked to support classroom polling:

* Active learning
* Agile Teaching
* Assessment for Learning
* Engagement
* Game-based Learning
* Immediate Feedback
* Learning Styles
* Motivation
* Peer instruction
* Positive Reinforcement
* Socratic Questioning

This is also a useful bibliography:

http://serc.carleton.edu/econ/classresponse/bibliography.html

**References and Links**

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If you don’t think your students will all have smartphones (but you have one!) then another option is Plickers <https://plickers.com/> You print out answer cards for students and you take a photo as they hold them up which translates into poll results.