**ATECR / ELT Czechlist conference 2016**

Tilly Harrison

tilly.harrison@warwick.ac.uk

University of Warwick

9th September 2016

**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**

Bonwell C.C. and Eison, J. A. (1991) Active Learning: Creating Excitement in the Classroom. *ERIC Digest.* http://www.ericdigests.org/1992-4/active.htm

Bruff, D. (2009) *Teaching with Classroom Response Systems: Creating Active Learning Environments* Published by Jossey-Bass, A Wiley Imprint. Fourth Edition. Copyright 2009 Vanderbilt University.

Crouch, C.H., Watkins, J., Fagen, A.P. and Mazur, E. (2007) Peer Instruction: Engaging Students One-on-One, All at once http://mazur.harvard.edu/publications.php?function=display&rowid=537

Dörnyei, Z.& Ushioda, E. (2011). *Teaching and Researching Motivation* UK: Pearson Education Limited

Keefe, J. (1987). *Learning style*. Reston, Va.: National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Keefe, J.W. and Ferrell, B. G. (1990) Developing a Defensible Learning Style Paradigm Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Developmen*t http://www.ascd.org/ASCD/pdf/journals/ed\_lead/el\_199010\_keefe.pdf

Smith, K. (1997) “Learning Styles: A Force in Effective Teaching,” in Mioduski, Sylvia and Gwyn Enright (editors), PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th and 18th ANNUAL INSTITUTES FOR LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROFESSIONALS: 1996 AND 1997. Tucson, AZ: University Learning Center, University of Arizona, 1997. Pp. 59-62 http://www.lsche.net/?page\_id=361

Stiggins, Rick https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDVHuHyCGmg – explaining why assessment FOR learning is different ‘Different purposes – accountability to external bodies for certain standards compared to allowing students to self assess’

Whitton, N. (2014). *Digital games and learning*.  Abingdon: Routledge

Williams, Dylan lecture on assessment for learning https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZtOkKqldCY

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.