

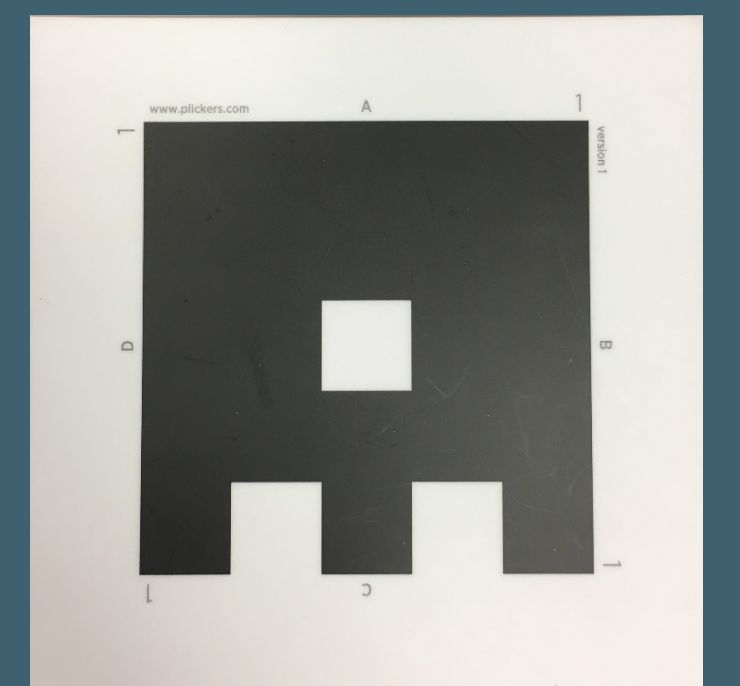
Scanning the Crowd:

Using Plickers to Conduct Formative Assessments of Student Learning

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Introduction & Need for Innovation

- Formative assessments are a useful method to gauge student learning, plan for future instruction, and receive feedback (Arends, 2015).
- The use of classroom response systems can assist in gathering instant feedback to a variety of questions (Deal, 2007).
- Plickers is one type of classroom response system.



(Left) The instructor scans students' Plickers cards to indicate their response to a question. (Right) Example of a Plickers card.

How it works

- 1 Instructors create a free account on Plickers.com and download free app onto smartphone or tablet.
- 2 On Plickers.com, add classes, student rosters, and create questions.
- 3 Add questions to the queue for each class.
- 4 During class, login to the instructor Plickers.com account and select *Live View*.
- 5 From the app, select a question to show students.
- 6 Students hold their card in the appropriate orientation to provide their response.
- 7 The instructor uses the app to scan the cards and collect students' responses.
- 8 Once all the cards have been scanned, the instructor closes the scan and the answers are recorded.
- 9 The instructor can then select *Graph* in the *Live View* on the Plickers.com website so students can see the compiled results with no names attached.
- 10 The instructor can reference the questions later via the website to see how specific students answered each question.

Results to Date

- Used in a Texas Tech course to gather feedback and stimulate discussion.
- Pre-service high school teachers were taught how to use Plickers and have used them in several situations where technology integration is difficult.

“Loved the Plickers! They were a fun thing to do throughout the class.”

“I loved them and I liked looking at the end of results when we were done throughout the class.”

“I really liked the Plickers! I think it was very useful to allow the students to feel like we can provide input without taking too much time for everyone.”

Future Plans & Advice to Others

- Plickers will continue to be used.
- This tool can be taught to pre-service teachers in 15 minutes.
- Response options are limited to no more than four pre-determined answers, which restricts the questions.
- Consider the time necessary to scan the cards.

Costs & Resources Needed

- No charge for the app or to create Plickers.com account.
- Multiple Plickers card sets can be downloaded for free from Plickers.com.
- Can purchase a more durable, laminated set from Amazon for \$20.
- Need smartphone or tablet with camera and Internet access and instructor computer with Internet access.

References

- Arends, R.I. (2015). *Learning to Teach* (10th Ed.) New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.
- Deal, A. (2007). A teaching with technology white paper: Classroom response systems. Retrieved from https://www.cmu.edu/teaching/technology/whitepapers/ClassroomResponse_Nov07.pdf
- Plickers.com. (2017). Retrieved from <https://plickers.com>