

# ONLINE POLLING TOOLS

- BEST PRACTICE TIPS



## WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Studies have shown that when used appropriately polling tools can improve student interaction, participation, and attention (*Hinde & Hunt, 2006; Bergtrom, 2006*), encourage active learning and class discussion (*Pelton & Pelton, 2006*), boost learning outcomes (*Kaleta & Joosten, 2007*), as well as help tutors collect feedback, identify misconceptions, and adjust lessons in real time (*Caldwell, 2007; Cline, 2006; Hinde & Hunt, 2006*). These results, however, depend on how you craft your questions and incorporate them into your lesson.

Below are some simple but effective tips to help you get started

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1. Use polling tools sparingly.
  2. Keep questions and surveys short and simple.
  3. Start simple with an ice-breaker activity.
  4. Use a variety of polling activities and pedagogical approaches.
  5. Run your polling question then organize students into small discussion groups before running it again to discuss why some answers may have changed.
  6. Give students time to think when answering questions.
  7. Align polling questions with learning objectives.
  8. Keep polls anonymous for genuine responses.
  9. Hide the results until everyone has participated for greater effect.
  10. Consider how the data you capture could feed into new activities or discussions
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