



Bridgewater State University

Virtual Commons - Bridgewater State University

EdTech Day

EdTech Day 2011

Aug 18th, 10:30 AM - 11:10 AM

Increase Student Participation with Poll Everywhere

Susan Eliason

Bridgewater State University, susan.eliason@bridgew.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://vc.bridgew.edu/edtech>



Part of the [Instructional Media Design Commons](#)

Susan Eliason (August 18, 2011). Increase Student Participation with Poll Everywhere. In *EdTech Day Conference*. Presentation 4.

Available at: <https://vc.bridgew.edu/edtech/2011/sessions/4>

This item is available as part of Virtual Commons, the open-access institutional repository of Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

Increase Student Participation with Poll Everywhere

Susan Eliason, Ed. D.
Bridgewater State University
Assistant Professor, Elementary and Early Childhood Education
susan.eliason@bridgew.edu

August 18, 2011
Ed Tech Day Presentation

1

Room Hart 115 August 18, 2011

10:30–10:35 – Introductions

10:35–10:45: Why

10:45–11:00: How

11:00–11:05: Results

11:05–11:10: Questions

Why?



2

Do students text message in your class? How do you feel about this? What are some things that you do?

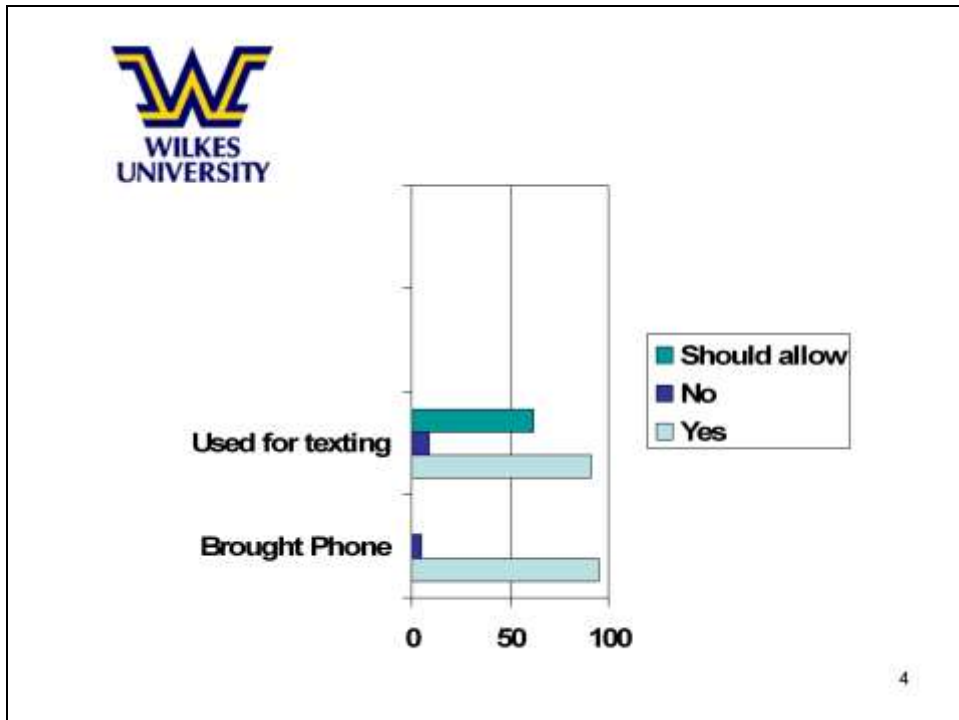
I found that student cell phone use distracted me and which was irritating. As a new BSU faculty member, I didn't know what to do or how to handle the situation.



Cell Phones as Teaching Tools.

3

I was pleased to find in article in Educational Leadership to address my concerns. The article *Cell Phones as Teaching Tools* inspired me to use students' desire to text or use their phones in class as a teaching tool to increase in-class participation. In the article Ferriter (2010) acknowledges that when students are sending and receiving text messages during class it disrupts their learning. To learn students need to be aware and pay attention.



I was curious about the prevalence of cell phone use. Statistics were available in the article *College Students Admit To 'Shocking' Text Messaging Habits in Class* by Watters published in December, 2010. The New York Times article reported on data from a Wilkes University study where two psychology professors Deborah Tindell and Robert Bohlander designed a 32-question survey to assess the text messaging habits of college students in the classroom. In total, 269 college students, representing 21 majors, and all class levels, responded anonymously to their survey.

95% of respondents said they bring their phones to class every day, and almost all of them - 99% - believed they should be allowed to do so.

According to the study, 91% admitted they have used their phones to text during class. Almost half said it's easy to get away with doing so without their instructor noticing. And 62% said that they feel they should be allowed to text in class as long they don't disturb others.

So what can a teacher do?

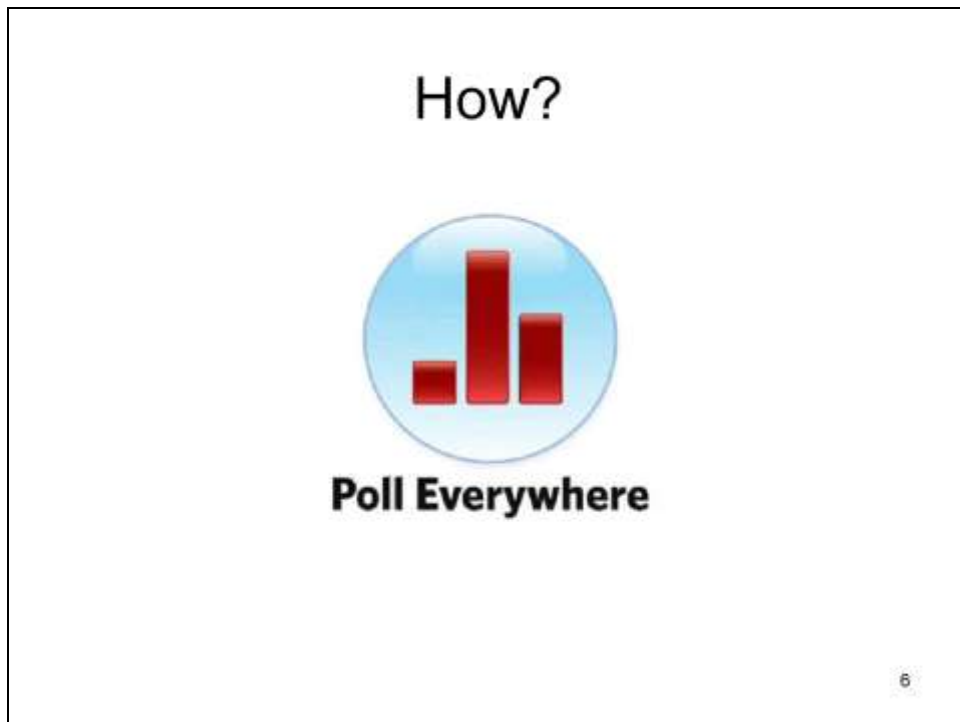


Suggestions for using cell phones in class vary. For example, Tindell and Bohlander (2010) have 3 ideas:

- First, develop a clear, written policy about cell phone use and enforce it consistently. Penalties can be applied to attendance or participation credit. This assumes that if a student is texting in class, they are not “present.”
- Second, arrange the classroom furniture to limit cell phone use. Which of the designs limits cell phone use?
- Third, move around the classroom and spend some time in the back of the room

Ferriter in the Education Leadership article has different ideas:

- Make cell phones visible..
- Demonstrate to colleagues and administrators that one convincing classroom application can improve learning or make our work easier.
- Use cell phones to replace needed supplies such as calculators, lap tops, and clickers.



Show video on website (1:30 minutes)

Login (Susan.Eliason@bridgew.edu and kanawha)

By creating an account (free for groups of 30 or less) on Poll Everywhere's website (www.polleverywhere.com), you set your class up as a polling group. You'll instantly have the capacity to create brief multiple-choice or open-answer surveys that you can show in class using a data projector. Students can then text their responses—either as short answers or predetermined codes automatically assigned to each indicator of a multiple-choice question—back to Poll Everywhere. Results are displayed instantly for the entire class to see, are updated in real time, and can be downloaded for future reference. (I've found that my class members are happy to share their phones with those few students who aren't carrying a cell phone or don't have a texting plan.) Poll Everywhere turns cell phones into student responders—something most schools can't afford—that teachers can use to gather information about content mastery in their class. For instance, science teachers curious about whether their students can accurately convert metric measurements into standard measurements can create quick multiple-choice surveys with Poll Everywhere and instantly see how well their students grasp the content and conversion procedures presented in class. Considering how important efficiently collecting data has become in today's classroom—and that 75 percent of all students with cell phones have unlimited texting plans—services like Poll Everywhere should be an instant hit in most schools.

Let's Practice

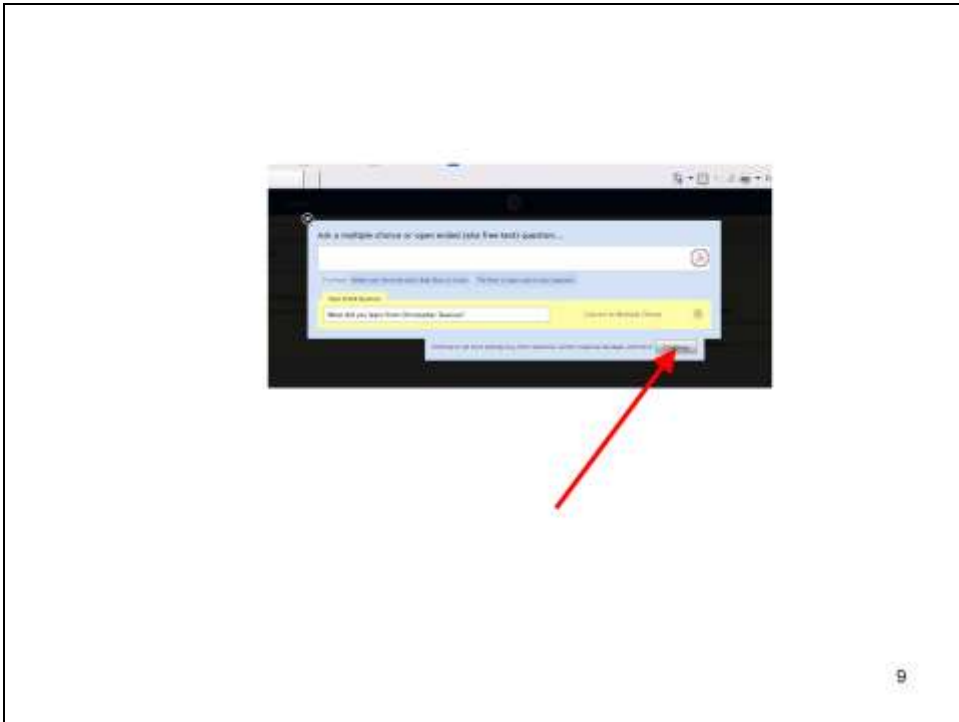


7

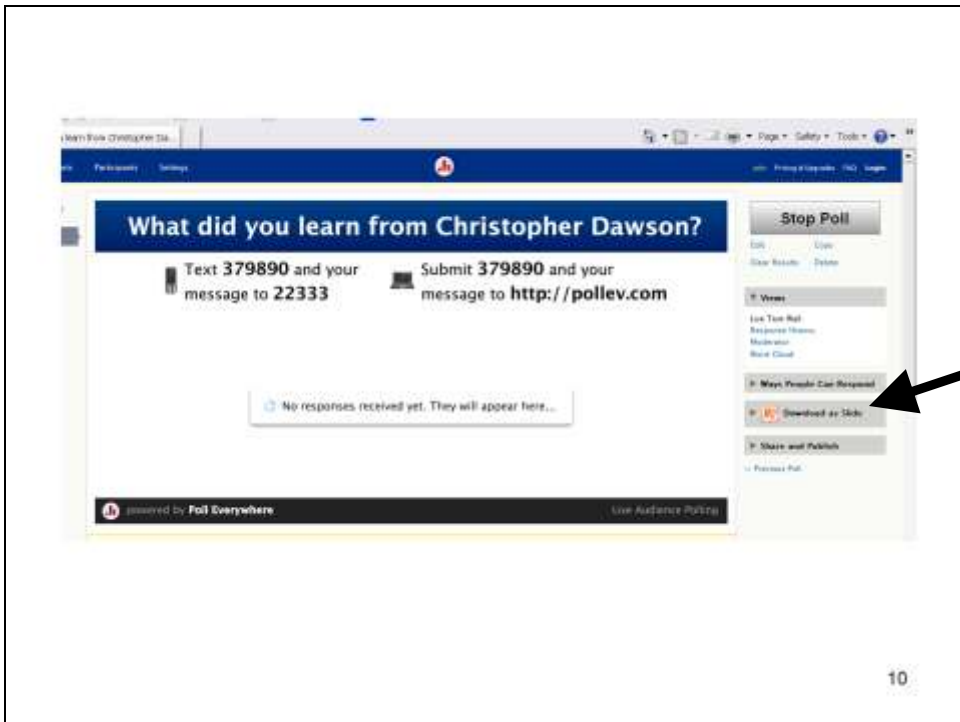
Select **Create Your First Poll** from Poll Everywhere's home page.



Type in a question



After typing the question and hitting enter, the screen will look like this. Select continue. You can also convert to multiple choice, if desired.



Now you can respond. I added the poll to this PowerPoint presentation by selecting the **Download To Slide** option. I opened and copied and pasted the presentation. Slides 11-16 are the slides I copied and pasted.



Poll Everywhere

This presentation contains the poll(s) you downloaded

Slide	Contents
2	Suggested verbal notes for presenters
3	Instructions slide to educate audiences on responding via text messages .
4	Instructions slide to educate audiences on responding via web or mobile web . This must be enabled on your poll in PollEverywhere.com.
5	Instructions slide to educate audiences on responding via Twitter . This must be enabled on your poll in PollEverywhere.com.
6+	The actual poll(s) you downloaded are embedded on these slides.

What's next? Jump to slide 6 and enter Slide Show mode to see your poll in action. Copy & paste slide 6 and beyond into your own presentation, or just use this presentation.



NOTES:

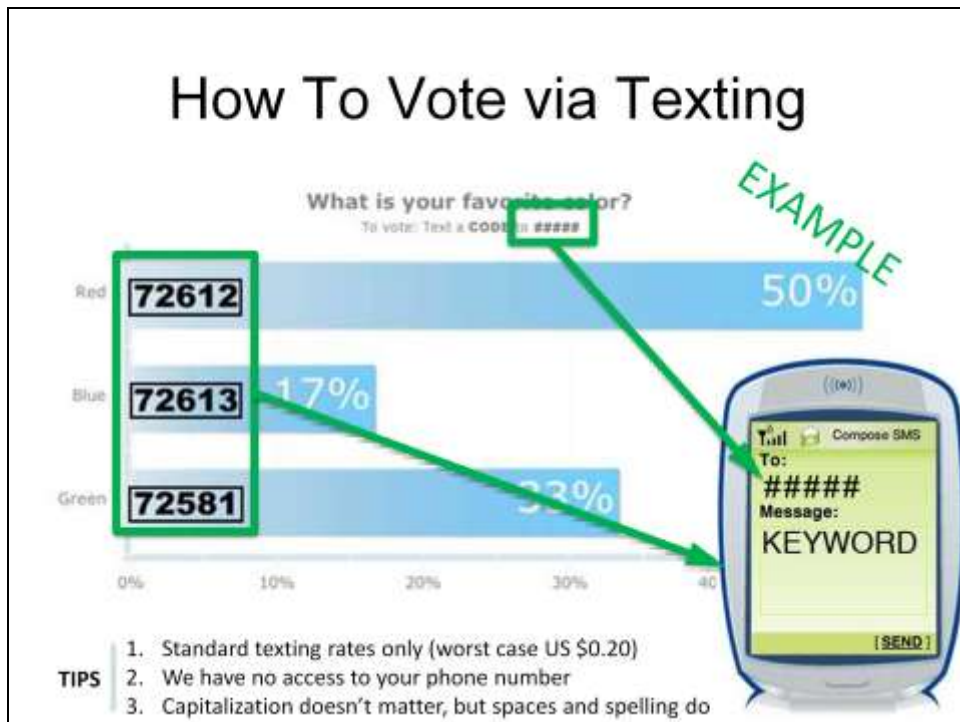
* You must be using PowerPoint on Windows to show polls embedded in PowerPoint. Please use the Mac Deskbar or display your polls from PollEverywhere.com if you are on a Mac.

Presenter Text Polling Notes

- Explain what's going on
 - "Now I'm going to ask for your opinion. You'll use your phones to respond just like on American Idol. So please take out your cell phones, but remember to leave them on silent."
 - "You'll participate by sending a text message. If you don't know how to do that, just ask your kids! Or have your neighbor help you figure it out."
- Address their concerns
 - "This is a just standard rate text message, so it may be free for you, or up to twenty cents on some carriers if you do not have a text messaging plan."
 - "The service we are using is serious about privacy. We cannot see your phone numbers, and you'll never receive follow-up text messages outside this presentation. There's only one thing worse than email spam – and that's text message spam because you have to pay to receive it!"
- Use a demo or practice poll
 - For example, a Free Text Poll like "Let's Practice: Text in your first name!"
- **Always test** your polls in your presentation before your event using the computer that will be projecting your presentation, especially if that computer is not the one you're currently using.

12

This slide is just for your own notes, as a presenter or instructor. You may print these, memorize them, or actually put them into the Notes portion of a slide in your own presentation.



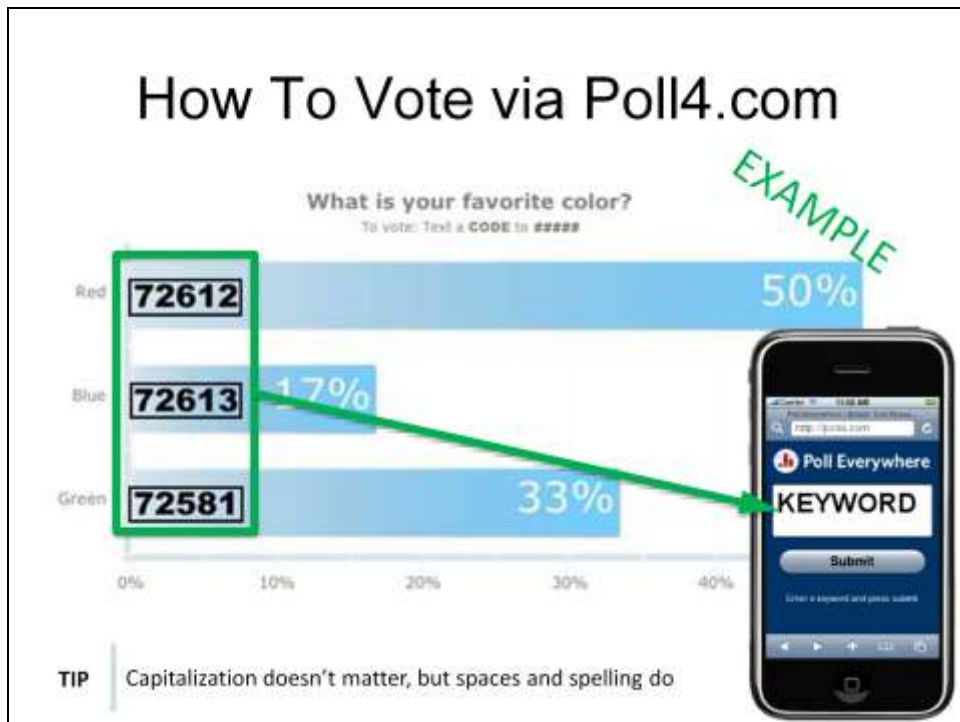
This slide is for display to the audience to show them how they will vote on your polls in your presentation. You can remove this slide if you like or if the audience is already comfortable with texting and/or voting with Poll Everywhere.

Sample Oral Instructions:

Ladies and gentlemen, throughout today's meeting we're going to engage in some audience polling to find out what you're thinking, what you're up to and what you know. Now I'm going to ask for your opinion. We're going to use your phones to do some audience voting just like on American Idol.

So please take out your cell phones, but remember to leave them on silent. You can participate by sending a text message.

This is a just standard rate text message, so it may be free for you, or up to twenty cents on some carriers if you do not have a text messaging plan. The service we are using is serious about privacy. I cannot see your phone numbers, and you'll never receive follow-up text messages outside this presentation. There's only one thing worse than email spam – and that's text message spam because you have to pay to receive it!



This slide is for display to the audience to show them how they will vote on your polls in your presentation. You can remove this slide if you like or if the audience is already comfortable with texting and/or voting with Poll Everywhere.

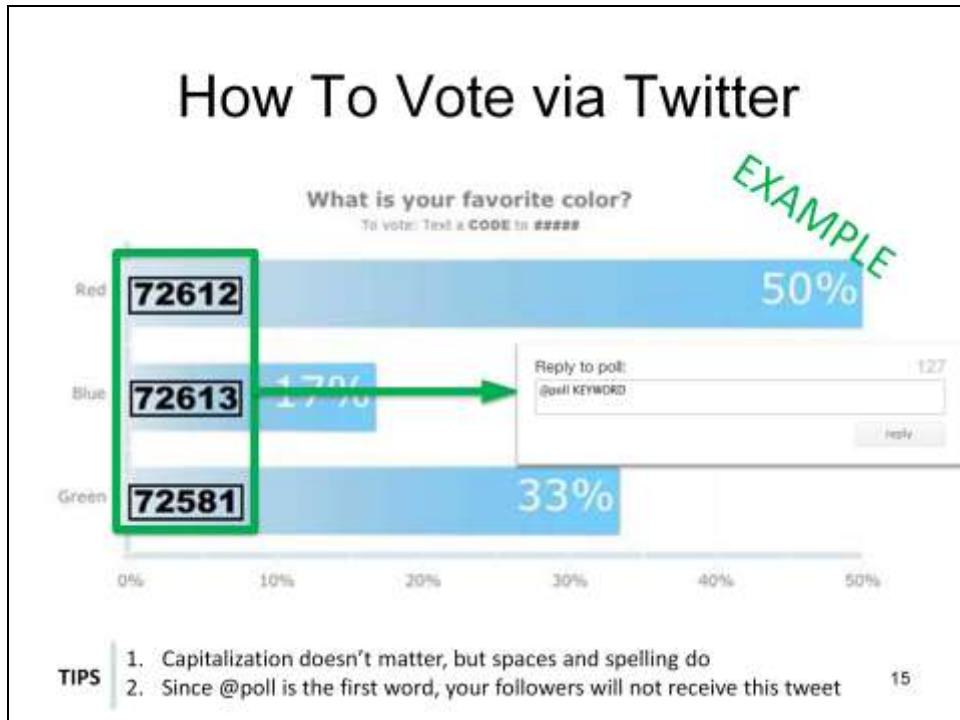
Sample Oral Instructions:

Ladies and gentlemen, throughout today's meeting we're going to engage in some audience polling to find out what you're thinking, what you're up to and what you know. Now I'm going to ask for your opinion. We're going to use your phones or laptops to do some audience voting just like on American Idol.

So please take out your mobilephones or laptops, but remember to leave them on silent. You can participate by submitting an answer at Poll4.com on your laptop or a mobile phone.

The service we are using is serious about privacy. I cannot see who you are or who voted.

How To Vote via Twitter



This slide is for display to the audience to show them how they will vote on your polls in your presentation. You can remove this slide if you like or if the audience is already comfortable with texting and/or voting with Poll Everywhere.

Sample Oral Instructions:

Ladies and gentlemen, throughout today's meeting we're going to engage in some audience polling to find out what you're thinking, what you're up to and what you know. Now I'm going to ask for your opinion. We're going to use Twitter to do some audience voting.

So please take out your cell phones or laptops, but remember to leave them on silent. The way you will be able to participate is by tweeting a response to @poll. Your followers won't be bothered by this message.

What did you learn from Christopher Dawson?

Text 379890 and your message to 22333

Submit 379890 and your message to <http://pollev.com>

No responses received yet. They will appear here...

powered by **Poll Everywhere** Live Audience Polling


16

Press F5 or use the tool bar to enter presentation mode in order to see the poll.

In an emergency during your presentation, if the poll isn't showing, navigate to this link in your web browser:

http://www.polleverywhere.com/free_text_polls/MTA3NDU4MjU0Mg

If you like, you can use this slide as a template for your own voting slides. You might use a slide like this if you feel your audience would benefit from the picture showing a text message on a phone.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with a registration modal open. The modal has two columns: 'Are you a new user?' and 'Already have an account?'. The 'Are you a new user?' section includes fields for 'Full name', 'Email', and 'Password', with a checkbox for 'I am an educator' and a dropdown for 'My audience will be viewing from' (set to 'United States'). The 'Already have an account?' section includes fields for 'Email' and 'Password', a checkbox for 'Remember me on this computer', and a 'Log in' button. A 'Create Account & Log In' button is at the bottom. An arrow points to the 'Set a password' button in the background.

First select **Set a password**, then the top window will open.

17

Show my account and some of the polls created.

The Classroom Critical Incident Questionnaire
 Results of October 26, 2010 class after introducing Poll Everywhere
 Sample = 11 students

Respond to the questions below about this week's class. Answer each question completely. What you write will help us make the class more responsive to your concerns.

Question	Your Response
At what moment in class did you feel most engaged with what was happening?	Discussions-3 <u>Cell phone poll-3/11 = 64%</u> Sharing assignments-1 lip reading-1
At what moment in class were you most disengaged from what was happening?	confused - 1 Entering discussion late - 1 <u>lip reading exercise - 5</u> applying learning to abstract now -1 testing 1 naming authors-1
What action that anyone (teacher or student) took did you find most affirming or helpful?	<u>Having different ideas - 5</u> I need to start reading more-1 Creating a Classroom library-4 Lip reading-1
What action that anyone took did you find most puzzling or confusing?	Unfamiliar with authors - 1 Off topic additions to discussion-1 <u>lip reading - 4</u>
What about the class surprised you the most? <small>(This could be about your own reactions to what went on, something that someone did, or anything else that occurs)</small>	<u>Cell phone poll was interesting - 7</u> Many students knew books discussed in class-1 Classroom library-1 Lip reading is hard-1

Since the cell phone poll appeared twice, I went through the responses to see if how many of the 11 students responded positively to cell phone polling in class. Of the 11, ten were positive or 91%.

Results

I use formative assessment to plan instruction. After introducing Poll Everywhere in ECPK 320 during the fall semester, I used the Critical Incident questionnaire to determine if cell phone polling was engaging and effective. Out of the 11 students that responded; 10 were positive or 91%. I also learned the lip reading activity needs to be revised since it confused many students. I continued the poll throughout the semester based on the results of the formative assessment. (See results)

Results



19

I wish I could say that Poll Everywhere was the most memorable part of my courses. I used it in 2 of my courses both had 18 students, one which met Tuesday and Thursday from 2-3:15 and in my Thursday night class from 6-8:40. I reviewed the final essays of the evening class where they reflect on essential course questions and then how the course did or did not meet their expectations; aspects of the course helped your learning and aspects that were not beneficial, and what they might remember from this course a few years down the road.

One student commented on how they like the polls and another found it not beneficial. Another technique I used in that course made a greater impression (Zen moments) with 13 students responding positively to the technique and no negative responses.

There seemed to be a more positive response to the polls in the afternoon class, but it was also the class that prompted me to use the technique. Students still text message in class but they also participate in the polls and it focuses the discussion, at least temporarily!

I plan to continue the use of poll everywhere in my courses this fall.

References

- Ferriter, W. M. (2010). Cell Phones as Teaching Tools. *Educational Leadership*, 68(2).85-86
- Mayk, V. (2010, November 29). Wilkes University Professors Examine Use of Text Messaging in the College Classroom. *Wilkes University News Archives*. Retrieved from <http://www.wilkes.edu/pages/194.asp?item=61477>
- Watters, A. (2010, December 3). College Students Admit To 'Shocking' Text Messaging Habits in Class. *New York Times*. Retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/external/readwriteweb/2010/12/02/02readwriteweb-college-students-admit-to-shocking-text-mes-73037.html?ref=technology>