

What are Clickers?

Clickers are wireless response pads used by students to provide teachers with immediate feedback from informal quizzes and polls. The students reply anonymously and the distribution of answers to each question is shown and recorded in the interface.

Educational Value

Clickers enable faculty to	Clickers enable students to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create a comfortable environment in which all students can participate—even shy students • increase student interaction, especially in large lecture halls • determine if students are understanding the material • accurately track student attendance and participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feel comfortable about answering questions in large classes because their responses are anonymous • collaborate to form a response • compare their level of understanding with that of their peers • explore concepts in a fun and interactive way

Examples of Classroom Application

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Getting Started

1. Email dlsupport@vcc.ca to get help determining if Clickers are right for your class. If needed, CID will provide you a basic training session and lesson planning support.
2. **Once you have received Clicker training from CID, book the Library's Clicker Set online** at http://library.vcc.ca/services/services_bookings_ims.cfm. The Clicker Set includes 32 clickers, a receiver, and software on CDROM. (If you need a laptop, you must book it through IT.)
3. **Pick up the Clicker Set at least one day in advance** of your class or presentation.

*For tips and technical assistance, see **More Information** on the reverse.*

Current version of this document:

http://cid.vcc.ca/development-guides/What_are_Clickers_Dev_Guide.pdf

Educational:

- *7 things you should know about Clickers:* <http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7002.pdf>
- **Best Practices**
 - **Create challenging questions.** It is better to have a few (10 to 12) challenging questions per lesson than to have many easy questions that may not engage students or may not encourage them to think critically.
 - **Encourage students to collaborate.** To maximize opportunities for student collaboration, you should encourage students to exchange ideas and opinions about the question before they respond using the clicker. Alternatively, you may have a number of students share a clicker. In this way, they will have to collaborate with their partner(s) in order to form a response.
 - **Discuss the results of the responses.** After you collect the results of students' responses and give them the correct answer to the question, take the time not only to explain the correct answer, but also to explain why the other options were incorrect. This helps students fully understand any gaps in their knowledge or thinking.
 - **Stimulate discussion-using polls.** You can create questions for which there may be no 'right' answer. In such cases, you can use the clickers to poll students' responses in order to stimulate discussion and raises awareness of a particular issue.
 - **Use clickers for informal review only.** A student pilot group indicated that they prefer to use clickers for reviews or informal assessments. *Using clickers for formal assessment (tests or exams) is not recommended.*

Technical:

Two different makes of clicker are available at VCC: **TurningPoint** or **CPS**.

TurningPoint

- Overview of Turning Technologies Response Solutions:
<http://cid.vcc.ca/p1-dl/instructions/clickers/Turning/turningpoint.html>

CPS

- CPS Clicker Software Installation Guide:
<http://cid.vcc.ca/p1-dl/instructions/clickers/CPS/Installing-Clickers.html>
- Guide to Using CPS Clickers with Your Existing PowerPoint Presentation:
<http://cid.vcc.ca/p1-dl/instructions/clickers/CPS/guide-to-using-clickers-with-ppt.pdf>
- Guide to Engaging a Lesson with CPS Clickers:
<http://cid.vcc.ca/p1-dl/instructions/clickers/CPS/guide-to-engaging-a-lesson.pdf>
- See <http://www.elinstruction.com> for more information about CPS Clickers.

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