Using i-Clicker Polling System in Large Classes for Engagement

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Teaching Modality
Face-to-Face

Active Learning Technique Description

Using i-Clicker polling system in large classes (100+ students) to engage students in answering questions presented throughout my lecture. The question is presented on the overhead, students are given a time limit to discuss with classmates based on the difficulty of the problem, and all students individually submit a response using their i-Clicker remote.

This encourages all students to participate, leads to group problem-solving and peer teaching, and gives me real-time data on how the students are understanding the material.

Benefit to Student

1. This encourages all students to participate, even those unwilling to participate in "discussions".

2. This is an alternate version of the Think-Pair-Share, as students typically discuss problems with their nearby classmates.

3. Many of the questions lead to group problem-solving and peer teaching (there is usually one "smarter" student that helps the others).

4. The polling system gives me real-time data on how the students are understanding the material and may indicate a concept that needs to be readdressed.

Active Learning Steps/Components

1. The i-Clicker remote needs to be a required material.

2. Need to set up an i-Clicker course through the website and have the students register.

3. Come up with several "practice" problems to ask throughout the lecture (I use PowerPoint presentations).

4. Need to determine if the questions are going to be multiple choice or free-response, as i-Clicker can allow for both.

5. Announce to the class how the i-Clicker questions/responses are going to work (I offer partial credit for incorrect responses).

6. During the lecture, show the question to the students; read it out loud, along with the responses; and give the students a certain amount of time to submit their responses.

7. Give the students plenty of warning before you end the question's submission time.

8. After the answers have all been submitted, and the submission time ended, you can go through the problem in detail, explaining the correct answers, and why the incorrect responses were wrong. I normally work everything out on the board.

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Learning Tool Integration

Question Diversity

Question Explanation