IGNITE SESSION: Poll Everywhere

AALL 2013
Teaching FCIL Research Group
Introduction

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• 2010 --
Teaching Responsibilities

• LARW: about 4-6 classes/semester
• IFLR: 8 classes of 1.5 hours in spring
• LARWINT
Legal Research Instruction: Challenges
Solutions?

In class exercises
• Improve engagement
• Practice skills and tools
• Not much opportunity for feedback from students

Socratic-ish method
• Crickets
  – Bored? Lack of knowledge? Lack of investment? Fear?
Enter: Poll Everywhere
Basic Account

• Unlimited polls
• Up to 40 votes per poll
• Live PPT polls, web voting, downloadable results
• NO SPAM

There are other features, but these are the ones I’ve used.
Equipment Required

Instructor
• Register for account
• Download PPT slides from web & upload into your slides

Audience
• Laptop or mobile device (no smartphone required)
Training?

Built in time at beginning of class for students to ask questions and troubleshoot

• 5-10+ minutes
• User friendly
• Students help each other
• Simple instructions included in slide

*Normal text message charges will apply for students who elect to use their phone (o charge for voting via laptop).*
Poll Options

• Multiple choices
  – Used to ensure specific points are established before moving on
  – Used for “choose your own adventure” approach to assignments

• Open ended
  – Used successfully for “any questions?”
Students Love

• Answers displayed in real-time
• Appreciate efforts to solicit their input
• More dynamic classroom experience
• Anonymous participation
• Humor
Instructors Love

• Student engagement
• Lively classroom experience
• Confidence students have learned a particular concept
• Students more forgiving (e.g., often assume they all need/want the same thing)
• Creates PPT slides ready to embed/go live
Research Guide Questions: Open Ended!

Start this poll to accept responses

"Is there a grading rubric? How is it scored?"
5 months ago

"How many sources should we have in the research guide?"
5 months ago

"what is the best way to incorporate several different research guide topics into a single presentation"
5 months ago
Open ended example II

Research Guide Questions: Open Ended!

Start this poll to accept responses

"birds carry diseases"
5 months ago

"Shout out to Sarah and Chad for providing a veritable feast"
5 months ago

"Are there any specific things you are looking for in our presentations?"
5 months ago

"Cats kill up to 6.5 billion birds annually, including songbirds."
“Choose your own adventure”

Would you like a short presentation to be factored into your grade for this class?

• Only if it means less work (45%)
• I would rather gouge my eye out (23%)
• Not really, but I could probably use the practice (18%)
• I was hoping you would ask! (14%)
Also used to check in with students...

On a scale of 1 to 5, how are you doing?

- 5: BEST DAY EVER!!! 11%
- 4: Pretty great, but it would have been better if you brought cheetos. 11%
- 3: I'm here, aren't I? 21%
- 2: Don't ask. 26%
- 1: Misery loves company. 32%

Total Results: 19
Unanticipated challenges

• Students voting more than once

• Off-topic responses to open-ended questions
Solutions to challenges

• Cap number of votes to number of students in class

• Only one vote per device

• Establishing “appropriate” use
Unanticipated benefits

• Students requested more polls (i.e., they were excited about participating)
• Two other legal research instructors incorporated them successfully in classroom
• Governing faculty member heard about it from students and asked about using it in her classroom
• Fun
• Better than polls used outside of classroom
Questions?