



# Using Smartphones in the Classroom

**THE POWERFUL COMPUTER IN YOUR POCKET**

Veena Radhakrishnan  
Instructional Technologist  
Academic Computing, Bowie State University

# Let's hear your voice!

*Do your students bring smartphones  
into the classroom?*



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# Smartphones in the Classroom



**Learning Tool  
or  
Distraction?**



## Students on Smartphones in the Classroom

77% Bring their smartphone to class

23% Find smartphones distract from learning

56% Would enjoy using their smartphone as a learning tool in class



## Instructors on Smartphones in the Classroom

92% Say students bring smartphones to class

46% Find students' smartphones distract from teaching

42% Have tried using smartphones as a learning tool in class



# Uses For Smartphones in the Classroom

- ▶ **Pose a question, and ask students to search for the answers.** As they respond, prompt them to think critically about the information that they've found.
- ▶ **Use an app like PollEverywhere to encourage participation and engagement** around the ideas and issues you're presenting in class.
- ▶ **Create a "scavenger hunt":** Design an activity that focuses on a real-world challenge related to your course topic. Have students report on what they've found, either in the next class, or in an online forum such as a blog or your LMS discussion board.
- ▶ **Not every student has a smartphone** (or brings it to class). If that's the case in your classroom, you can group students into pairs or teams.

# Classroom Response System Without Clickers

- **Check for understanding after a difficult lesson**
- **Do now! Activity when students enter class** (ex: what did you do this weekend? How do you feel about the upcoming test?)
- **Make classroom decisions** (ex: what should we name our class pet? How much more time do you need on the paper?)
- **Assign as a homework assignment** (ex: answer the poll by midnight)
- **Keep track of student progress** (ex: text “done” to the poll when they are finished)



**Poll Everywhere**

<http://www.polleverywhere.com/>

# Awesome Ways to Use Google Forms in the Classroom

- Create forms, surveys, quizzes, and such.
- Share the forms with others
- Allow others to complete the forms online
- Collect all the responses in a spreadsheet
- Provide you with helpful summaries of the collected data with charts and graphs



<https://www.google.com/forms/>

# Create a Backchannel in Your Classroom

- **Use Todaysmeet as a parking lot for questions** that come up during the lesson.
- **Compliment a lecture** - have students write questions and comments.
- **Have a silent discussion** after reading a specific text.
- After students finish an activity, **have them record their responses to the activity.**
- Watch a video, and instead of stopping at various intervals to discuss students' reactions and questions, **use the backchannel to allow students to record their reactions to what they see.**
- Using TodaysMeet to **collect anonymously questions and comments.**

**TodaysMeet**

<https://todaysmeet.com/>



# Use Remind in the Classroom to Text Students and Parents

- **Schedule and send reminders** about meeting times and locations for classes, club meetings, sports practices, and more.
- Use **Attach to send permission slips, classroom documents, and more** straight to students' and parents' phones.
- Schedule ahead **assignment deadline reminders**
- Send students **trivia and warm-up questions before class.**
- Send students **links to outside resources like articles, videos, and more.**
- Send parents **topics of what students are learning** in class.
- Send **daily homework assignments.**

# Blackboard Mobile & Grader App

- ▶ Download and Install Blackboard Mobile app



- ▶ Download Blackboard Grader app for your iPad2+ and iPad mini running on iOS 7 or above.



# Other Ways to Use Smartphones in the Classroom

- ▶ **Images:** as you well know, a picture is worth a thousand words. For this reason, in many cases, students find it easier to understand material when there is an image related to an explanation. **Mind Maps** are a good example of a tool that helps in this regard.
- ▶ **Stopwatch/timer:** classes, exercises and presentations often come with time limits. Practice your time management by using your mobile phone's stopwatch.
- ▶ **Read eBooks:** when learning, applying for a job position or going to University, reading PDFs and manuals can be mandatory. For this reason, applications like Kindle allow us to read books and manuals from anywhere.
- ▶ **Voice Recorder:** mobile phone provide students with the ability to **record explanations**. These recordings can be referred to later on and can save a great deal of time instead of writing.

# Other Ways to Use Smartphones in the Classroom

- ▶ **Discover related subject material:** among many other functions, the ExamTime App lets you search through more than **one million study resources** created by other ExamTime users.
- ▶ **Translator:** This can help with meaning and explanation of a foreign word just like the dictionary application.
- ▶ **Calculator:** there are numerous applications that enable you to perform **all the operations of a scientific calculator**. This helps reduce the amount of items students must carry in their bags.
- ▶ **Make videos:** similar to the last point. For example, videos can be used to **record experiments** and later include them in projects.

# Other Ways to Use Smartphones in the Classroom

- ▶ **iBooks**  
Download and read books  
<https://www.apple.com/ibooks/>
- ▶ **Socrative**  
<http://www.socrative.com/>  
Create quizzes and polls with multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions.
- ▶ **Dragon Dictation**  
<http://www.nuance.com>  
Use Dragon Dictation for struggling writers
- ▶ **TED-Ed Talks**  
<http://ed.ted.com/>  
Augment lessons with excellent videos from Ted.com
- ▶ **Balefire Labs**  
<http://www.balefirelabs.com/>  
Find apps that help kids learn
- ▶ **Padlet**  
<https://padlet.com/>  
Online "virtual wall" where students can post text, images, links, and videos.





# Questions?

Veena Radhakrishnan

[vradhakrishnan@bowiestate.edu](mailto:vradhakrishnan@bowiestate.edu)

301-860-3981

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/veenaradhakrishnan>