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?*

Respond at [PollEv.com/facultytraining](http://PollEv.com/facultytraining)

Text **FACULTYTRAINING** to 37607 once to join, then A, B, or C
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

Cengage Learning's "Instructor Engagement Insights Survey 2014"
Cengage Learning's "Student Engagement Insights Survey 2014"
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)

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**.

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**.

https://www.remind.com/
Blackboard Mobile & Grader App

- Download and Install Blackboard Mobile app
  - Available on the App Store
  - Android app on Google Play

- 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

- **Socrative**
  Create quizzes and polls with multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions.

- **Dragon Dictation**
  [http://www.nuance.com](http://www.nuance.com)
  Use Dragon Dictation for struggling writers

- **TED-Ed Talks**
  Augment lessons with excellent videos from Ted.com

- **Balefire Labs**
  Find apps that help kids learn

- **Padlet**
  [https://padlet.com/](https://padlet.com/)
  Online "virtual wall" where students can post text, images, links, and videos.
Questions?

Veena Radhakrishnan
vradhakrishnan@bowiestate.edu
301-860-3981
https://www.linkedin.com/in/veenaradhakrishnan