Faculty have been using eInstruction (the “clickers”) at UNH since 2002. Here is some good advice from faculty with experience using the tool in the classroom. For help with eInstruction, contact Marquis Walsh in the Instructional Development Center (IDC) at marquis.walsh@unh.edu (2-2431).

Implement the technology modestly during your first semester:
- Develop more ambitious applications as you become comfortable with the uses and limitations of the tool.

Seek advice from experienced users:
- Explore how fellow faculty members are using e-Instruction in their teaching.
- Attend IDC focus groups and events to learn the latest features and uses of the tool.

Allow – and plan for - extra time in your class to use the technology:
- There may be occasional technical problems, and it takes extra set up time before each class.

Get hands-on help for your first class, and as often after that as you need it:
- Arrange for IDC staff to come to your classes when you need them by calling 2-2431.
- If unexpected problems arise, call IDC for emergency hands-on assistance.

Set clear expectations in your course syllabus:
- Tell your students if purchasing a clicker is optional or required.
- Tell your students if the clickers will be used for grading, attendance, extra credit.
- Clearly state policies about and consequences of cheating.

Give clear instructions to your students:
- Distribute student instructions for purchasing and registering clickers and add them to your Blackboard course.
- Provide instructions about how students can get help if they have problems with their clickers.

Before using the clickers, discuss with your students why you are using them:
- Talk about the value to them of increased interaction, collaboration, and feedback.
- Ask for their thoughts on how clickers may help them learn.

Do not assign points until a week or two after the first clicker class:
- Wait until both you and your students are comfortable with the clickers before using them for any type of credit.

Consider giving credit for participation, not just for giving ‘correct’ answers:
- This emphasizes to students that the exercise is about learning and not assessment.
Only use the clickers for low-stakes assessments:
- Remember that the technology will sometimes malfunction.
- Using the clickers for high-stakes assessments like final exams tempts the technology gods

Use the clickers regularly in your classroom:
- A recent study showed that students approve of clicker use if the clickers are used more than once a week (Cue, 1998).
- On the other hand, be careful not to overuse the clickers or they lose their potential to engage students.

Check to see if your book publisher supports eInstruction:
- Many publishers provide lesson plans and questions that work in eInstruction. This can save a lot of time.

Use the clickers to increase student–to–student interaction:
- Design activities that improve faculty–student and student–to–student interactions.
- Follow up on questions and responses with peer-to-peer discussions about the results.
- Use the clickers to support small-group activities

Design questions that tell you if your students are grasping your core concepts:
- Use the clickers to get immediate feedback on student comprehension of core concepts.
- Add a “do not know” answer to limit guessing and discover what your students learned.

Repeat concept questions for better comprehension:
- Establish a complete feedback loop by asking the question, viewing and discussing student responses, then asking the question again.

Limit the number of possible answers to 4:
- It’s hard to read and comprehend more than 4 different answers at one time.

Don’t use the clickers solely for attendance:
- Research shows that students view clickers as costly and inconvenient when used only as a tool for taking attendance.

Don’t use the clickers solely as quizzing tool:
- Students appreciate the interaction the clickers introduce into the classroom, but don’t want faculty to use them as a policing device.

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eInstruction is available through the Instructional Development Center of CIS Academic Technology. For more information on eInstruction, or to become an eInstruction user, contact Laurie Trufant at L.Trufant@unh.edu (2-4394)