

Polleverywhere.com

This website provides a form of « backchanneling, » a buzzword for a way for students to give instantaneous feedback. The idea is that instead of buying an additional device like an “iclicker,” you can achieve the same results by having students use text messaging on their cell phones to respond instantaneously to a question you pose.

1. Sign up for a free account at polleverywhere.com
2. Click on “Create new poll” and choose the format of poll you’d like to use (multiple choice, free text, goal, dial testing, or team scoring).

Create New Poll

[Multiple choice poll](#)

"Choose your favorite color"



What is it?

With multiple choice polls, you define a list of possible answers. Graphs will display the results in real-time.

[Free text poll](#)

"What is your name?"



What is it?

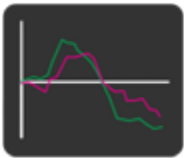
Your audience can text in anything. Gather feedback or identifying information, like names or ID numbers.

Goal poll



People submit numbers and a thermometer climbs towards a goal. Use this to track pledges, donations, or sales goals.

Dial testing



Track attitudes moment-by-moment during debates, video clips, or presentations.

Team scoring



Assign your audience to teams and tally their participation or number of correct answers.

3. For example, I chose “free text” and asked an open-ended question about a movie we were watching. I asked students to give their reactions to the movie and to text at least one new vocabulary word.
4. The question you ask will appear on the website, which can project for the class to see, as well as directions for students to send their responses. They will have a 5 number code to enter and a 5 digit phone number to which to send their text. As the students text their answers, they appear in real time on the screen.

5. The free version lets you have 30 responses per poll. If you want more responses, simply create a new poll with the same question.
6. Responses are anonymous on the free version, so you will need to ask students to type their names if you want to know who writes what.
7. Responses can also be sent from a computer. Under Ways People Can Respond, choose web voting.

Text Messaging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Web Voting (Vote now)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Twitter (Learn more)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smartphone (Learn more)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Touch-tone dialing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email to poll4.com	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Application: I often show students video clips and ask them to pick out vocabulary words. I find that I stop the video ask them what a given word means, which interrupts the flow of their listening comprehension, or I ask them to write the words down and we go over them afterwards, by which time they have forgotten the context. I used poll everywhere while we watched part of movie, and students texted words they didn't understand, or questions about what was happening in the movie. I responded to their questions directly using the web voting. I didn't have to interrupt the clip or try and remember all their questions at the end. I found this service quick and easy to set up, and I liked the immediate, yet nonintrusive, way of giving and getting feedback. Like all great free websites, my only concern is that this may not always be free, but for the moment, I enjoyed it and would recommend it.
8. Other advice: Under "edit" on the right hand side, make sure it is set to "as much as they like" if you want students to be able to respond more than once to the same poll.