The best classroom tools for gathering feedback

TodaysMeet, a long-time favorite tool of mine for backchanneling in the classroom, this summer introduced two long-requested features. First, you can now create an account on TodaysMeet. By creating an account you can keep track of all of your chatrooms in one place, restrict access to your rooms, and close rooms early if the conversation gets too far off track. The second feature added to TodaysMeet is the ability to moderate comments in a chatroom. Click here for more information about these updates.

Padlet (formerly known as WallWisher) is a tool that has been used by teachers in a variety of ways for years now. I've often used as a collaborative know-want-learn chart and as an exit ticket tool. Padlet works on interactive whiteboards, on iPads and Android tablets, and in the web browser on your laptop.

Explain Everything, Students are creating rich artifacts of understanding with Explain Everything. Screencasts and other content created with Explain Everything become multimedia representations that can capture both the process and product of a learning experience. Students are creating tutorials, animations, and presentations — sharing ideas and becoming "teachers" themselves. They are working with project activities, collaborating in real-time, and sharing and publishing their work.

Twitter

Sometimes, a particular tool ends up being awesome for a slightly different purpose than it was originally designed for. Twitter definitely falls into this category for classroom polling. You can create a unique hashtag for students to use in their tweets on specific topics you're covering in class, and students can snapshot the feed for that hashtag to see all of the responses together.

Socrative

Socrative is one of the most well known (and widely used) student response systems, and for good reason. It is a really robust tool, and free to boot. Users can create questions in various formats (like a quiz, a simple quick question, a space race game, or an exit ticket). You'll get answers in real time, and the interface is easy to use for both teachers and students.

Verso

Verso is an app designed for flipped classrooms that allows teachers to distribute flipped classroom lessons and then gather feedback on those lessons from the students. Verso is free, and integrates easily with Google Drive for easy information uploads/downloads. Teachers can add prompts for each question, require multiple answers, etc, making it a fairly robust system, especially given the price – $0!

Plickers

Plickers is a great option if you don't have a classroom full of devices. Nik Chatzopoulos gives a great description of how Plickers can work in a one iPad classroom in one of his previous posts along with a video tutorial here. Plickers uses cards with QR codes (which can be used for multiple classes, as long as they're not happening at the same time) instead of individual devices.

Doodle

Doodle is a simple online system that is designed to make finding a mutually convenient meeting time simpler, but it can also be put to use in classrooms. You could actually use it to schedule something – a field trip, for example – or you can use it as a polling tool by entering free text in the question boxes. Doodle is free to use, but to gain access to some of the premium features (ex: premium offers tracking of whose responses are missing, which could be useful for classrooms), you'll dish out $39/year. They do advertise 50% off for "education pricing", if you contact the company directly. One of the advantages to using Doodle is that you don't have to sign up for an account to use it, nor do your poll-ees. It does require an email address (as an identifier), but your students won't be signing up for any additional accounts if you choose to use this tool.

Polldaddy

Polldaddy is a pretty robust web-based polling tool that gives you a lot of options for customization. The free option does limit how many folks you can send the polls to via email per month (1,000), includes polldaddy branding, and doesn't offer you the custom URL for your polls that the paid options do (from $200/year). Of note, that email limit is just that – for email. If you give your students a direct link to the poll, you can poll as many times and as many students as you like. Given that, the free option should work just fine for most teachers and classrooms.

Poll Everywhere

Poll Everywhere is an SMS/Text based polling service, which will work particularly well for you if you have a 1:1 classroom or just a classroom full of kids with phones. (Obvious disclaimer: please be sure texting is ok with parents, etc etc etc.) The service offers a K-12 version with highly discounted pricing and the integration of classroom utilities like attendance and advanced reporting as well as a higher education plan geared towards larger classes.

Google Forms

Well, it wouldn't be a 2014 discussion of edtech if we didn't discuss a Google tool in this list, right? Especially for those who already use other Google tools in their classrooms, Google Forms (as a part of Drive) allows users to create polls (including many different types of questions), integrate pretty pre-formatted themes, and distribute the form via email or URL. As with the rest of Google tools, it is free and easy to use.

Infuse Learning

Infuse Learning is a free student response system that works with any device. It allows teachers to create quizzes, questions, prompts, and more, and push them out to students in the classroom. The questions can be asked verbally in the classroom, or sent via the platform. Students can respond in a large number of formats such as short answer, fill in the blank, multiple choice, true/false, or even draw an answer.

Kahoot

Kahoot is a web tool that delivers online quizzes and surveys to your students. Teachers can use a simple drag and drop method to create quizzes/polls/surveys, and push them out to student devices (alternatively, the teacher can ask the questions verbally or show them on the board and students can still respond using the platform). In this platform, teachers can encourage students to ask their own questions and have other students answer as well, making it one of the more interactive options listed here (many are just teacher-student). Kahoot is free, and works on any connected device.

AnswerGarden is a neat service that allows you to embed a open-ended feedback tool into your classroom blog or website. With an AnswerGarden embedded into your blog your students can simply type responses to your question and see their responses appear in a word cloud. Creating an

AnswerGarden is a simple process that does not require you to create an account. To get started go to the AnswerGarden homepage and click "create AnswerGarden." On the next screen you will enter a question or statement for your students to respond to. To share your AnswerGarden with students you can give them the link or embed the AnswerGarden into your blog as I have done below. Optionally, before sharing your AnswerGarden you can turn on moderation of responses and set an admin password.

Adobe Spark- Have students record their understanding
https://spark.adobe.com/

Lets Recap
http://letsrecap.com/