

Classroom Clickers

Lee Powell:

Those days of putting pen to paper in the classroom, crowding around the chalkboard...they are just about gone. Writing is being replaced. By clicking?

Valeria Ramirez:

You don't have to write on paper. The questions will pop up and, um, you'll just have to pick A, B, C, or D.

Lee Powell:

Interactive learning. From this class of sixth graders in Arizona to physics at the University of Colorado, these clicker devices are about the size of a TV remote and work like a garage door opener.

Michael Dubson:

The goal is to make sure the students are engaged.

Lee Powell:

Clickers have gone from having almost no presence in the classroom to being on just about every campus in the country.

Michael Dubson:

Time's up! Three, two, one!

Lee Powell:

CU-Boulder has more clickers than any other place in the country: twenty thousand. Their lesson plan: keep it simple. Only a handful of buttons: tracking attendance, seeing if students in massive lecture halls are paying attention. Teachers throwing out multiple-choice questions, students clicking in.

Molly MacInnes:

If you have a good clicker score, then it can replace 2 percent of your final grade.

Lee Powell:

At this middle school in Tempe, Arizona, devices have more buttons, looking almost like a cell phone.

Daron Gonzalez:

We can use multiple choice, we can do math problems with them. And-and with that, we can get assessment data on what they're learning and how long it takes for them to-to answer.

Lee Powell:

Technology trying to engage students, letting teachers know if anyone is really learning anything.

Lee Powell:

Lee Powell, The Associated Press.

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