

Thinking of Bringing Clickers into your classroom?

We welcome your interest in integrating clickers into your teaching. If you don't already know, a Student Response System (SRS) or a clicker system is a wireless response system that allows instructors to request information using an interactive PowerPoint slide and for students to respond by using a "clicker" or hand-held response pad to send his or her information to a receiver that is plugged into the computer. Then, the instructor can share the information gathered with the students in real-time to facilitate learning. After reviewing several systems, we have chosen to use the Turning Point response system.

There are a few things that need to be done to assist you in the transition. First, please send us at LTC@uwm.edu your course name, course ID, capacity of course, and classroom assigned. We need this information in order to make sure your students' clicker registration is obtained accurately, verify your bookstore order, and confirm your classroom is outfitted with the needed technology.

In addition, you will need to contact the Bookstore to order your clickers. Next, you will need to contact Classroom Support to make sure your classroom is outfitted with the appropriate hardware and software. Then, you will want to attend an SRS Workshop with us at the LTC.

Here are some details!

STEP 1: Ordering Clickers for Your Students

Instructors must order Turning Technologies keypads (clickers) through the UWM bookstore at books@aux.uwm.edu. There is limited availability.

Students can purchase clickers for \$48 through the bookstore and can sell back to the bookstore at the end of the semester. They will retrieve a coupon that is one the shelf next to your books in place of the clickers in order to prevent thefts of the units. Students will take the coupon to the register with them when they check-out and receive a clicker. Also, the coupon will direct students to log in and register their clickers at: <http://myclicker.uwm.edu>.

Clickers are under warranty and can be exchanged at the Help Desk in BOL225.

STEP 2: Equipping Your Classroom

Instructors need to contact I&MT Classroom Support at classroomhotline@uwm.edu (or x2382) to arrange for installation of TurningPoint hardware and software in your classroom. If using a laptop to deliver TurningPoint presentations, please download TP2006 software from turningtechnologies.com and retrieve RF receiver from the LTC in order to gather students' responses.

STEP 3: Getting Training for Turning Point 2006

Instructors will need to attend a SRS Workshop. Please view our schedule at: <http://LTC.uwm.edu/workshops.html> and register for an upcoming workshop. If you have already participated in a workshop, we offer one-on-one assistance to help with pedagogical and design issues and are happy to share different ways to integrate SRS into your course(s).

Once you are ready to begin creating Turning Point 2006 interactive presentations, go to <http://www.turningtechnologies.com> to download the TurningPoint 2006 software. Contact us if you have a problem with software download or installation.

Note: TurningPoint interactive slides can be created in either a Windows or Macintosh environment. Student polling using clickers is currently supported in Windows only. Virtual PC is required for Macintosh use and can be obtained from:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/virtualpc/default.mspx>

STEP 4: Getting Ready for Class

Please notify your student via e-mail (using PAWS or D2L) that they will need to purchase a clicker at the bookstore. Please direct them to register their clicker ID at <http://myclicker.uwm.edu>.

Once students register their clickers, you will be able to download student rosters (participant lists or tpp files) that includes their student ID, username, last name, first name, and device ID (clicker ID). Instructors need to import this roster (tpp file) into Turning Point 2006 in order to match students' responses from their device with their name. Instructors must have a participant list loaded in order to gather you students' responses and accurately identify which clicker belongs to which student.

STEP 5: Podium Training

Please schedule a one-on-one session to learn how to manage TurningPoint at the podium of the classroom where you will be teaching by e-mail LTC@uwm.edu. This session isn't lengthy, but it gives you some extremely useful tips on file management and trouble-shooting during your classes.

General pedagogical and practical information

Our web site at <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/LTC/srs.html> offers a list of possible uses of SRS, sample syllabi framing clicker use to help you in creating your own, step-by-step guides to creating Turning Point interactive slides, importing rosters to create participants lists, and many other features, and much more. Also, our grant project site is available at <http://clickers.uwm.edu> that provides information on managing students use of clickers and best practices.

Contact information

Please contact us with questions at 229-4319 or LTC@uwm.edu.