

# THE ECTL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER  
2022

*Faculty Development > Teaching Excellence > Student and Faculty Success*

[www.uwyo.edu/ctl](http://www.uwyo.edu/ctl) | [ellbogenctl@uwyo.edu](mailto:ellbogenctl@uwyo.edu) | (307) 766-4847

[Coe Library Rooms 510 and 511](#)

[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

THE ELLBOGEN CENTER FOR TEACHING & LEARNING

## October Teaching & Learning Academy

Our second Teaching & Learning Academy was a great success! On October 21st, we welcomed our second group of innovative and passionate UW Educators into the spotlight. They definitely shined!

We are excited about this new format and, while we are still making tweaks, they have been a success. These sessions were interesting and informative as we learned about how to integrate art into our classrooms, explored the dynamics of collective intelligence and learned a lot about the interesting ways to approach programmatic assessment & curriculum mapping. Cindy Jones inspired us to turn our 20th Century Teaching into 21st Century Learning and we had some great conversations around teaching ethics. When you ask faculty to show us how they inspire student learning, the myriad approaches is wonderful!

If you missed this awesome opportunity to learn from your peers, you can find all the recordings from both the Fall 2022 Teaching & Learning Academies in our [VidGrid](#) Folder.

We have already scheduled some dates for Spring so be sure to watch for them and sign up. We'll see you there!



# Upcoming Programming:

**Consultations** are always available at the ECTL. Every Monday and Thursday from 2:00-4:00p, we offer **Faculty Learning Studio** hours on zoom. These drop-in support hours are available every week to consult about a wide range of curriculum and pedagogy questions, explore more advanced uses of WyoCourses, or get a refresher about the basic WyoCourses tools. For those who can't make these times, we also offer one-on-one consultations for whatever your pedagogy needs may be. Click [here](#) for more information.

We also have a subscription to **Magna's 20 Minute Monday Morning Mentor** weekly series. These video-based programs are designed to answer a specific question related to teaching and learning. They deliver actionable insights in highly focused 20-minute presentations designed to fit busy schedules. If you are on our email list or on the faculty listserv, you will see weekly announcements with information on how to access the materials. See the schedule for Fall 2022 [here](#).



Our **Rapid Course Design (WyoCourses) Workshops** are back! Each workshop focuses on the MOST ESSENTIAL tools to get your WyoCourses class websites up and running as quickly as possible. This session will give you hands-on assistance setting up the basic functionality for your course. It will be offered both in-person and online on the dates below. Unable to attend one of these sessions? You can register to receive a link to the recording! For more information or to register, go [here](#).

**Monday**  
**December 12**  
-----  
**9:30a – 11:30a**

**Thursday**  
**January 19**  
-----  
**10:00a – 12:00p**

**Tuesday**  
**January 31**  
-----  
**1:00p – 3:00p**

For more information about our upcoming programming, visit our [website](#).

# Teaching Tips: Using Clickers to Check Learning

Lindsay Schwarz, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
University of Houston

The best teaching tool I have used is audience response devices, otherwise known as "clickers," even though most don't use clicker anymore but some electronic device. I use these (about 2-5 questions TOTAL for a 50 minute class session) at the beginning, where I ask a question about the previous classes' material; I'll ask one in the middle of the class that is asking the students to apply content they've had within the previous 2-3 classes. Their responses to this application question are usually all over the place but now, we can discuss their choices. I find that hand-raising doesn't work as well. Once a student presses that choice button, they are invested and more likely to ask a follow-up question. And finally, about 7 min before the end of the session, 1-2 questions about content covered. Students really like these, as it gives them a chance to see how they are responding relative to the class.



## Active Learning Library

### Poll/Clicker Question

Get real-time feedback about how students are responding to the material and adapt instruction accordingly.

-  Use this activity to allow students to test ideas and construct knowledge for themselves
-  Usually 2 to 7 minutes
-  Use in-person or online

  
**ENGAGEMENT**  
Average

  
**FEEDBACK**  
High

  
**PREP TIME**  
Average

### Best Practices

- Use **well-written questions** to see how students are grasping important or difficult ideas.
- When results suggest confusion, ask students to confer with each other, then take the poll again.
- Vary the level of difficulty, including complex questions students can expect to find on an exam.
- Use polling technologies like **Slido**, **Poll Everywhere**, or **iClicker**.
- Get more information on **polling** from Washington University in St. Louis.