Clickers in the Classroom: A Comparison of Interactive Student-Response Keypad Systems

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Disclaimer: the author is not affiliated with and has no financial interest in any SRS manufacturer or distributor.

SRS Uses

- **Record attendance**
- **Assess student preparation & comprehension**
  - During lecture/discussions
    - Prepared questions
    - Spontaneous questions
  - Quizzes or exams
    - Administer
    - Grade
    - Post
- **Collect data on students or others**

SRS Components

- **Student input devices**
  - Wireless IR or RF keypads and receiver(s)
  - Web-based devices: PDA, smart calculators, text-messaging cell-phones, PC
- **SRS Software**
- **Classroom projection system** (optional)

Table 1: SRS Comparison

- **Input devices**
- **Operating-system**
- **Technical support**
- **Textbook partnership**

SRS Benefits to Students

- **Improved student learning**
  - Attendance
  - Preparation
  - Comprehension and retention
  - Participation
  - Collaborative learning
  - Satisfaction
- **Increased enrollment retention**

SRS Benefits to Faculty

- **Comprehensive feedback on lecture/discussion**
  - Pace
  - Content
  - Interest
  - Comprehension
- **Useful data on student characteristics**
  - Demographics
  - Attitudes
  - Behaviors
- **Better assessment of student needs**

Additional SRS Benefits

- **Reduced paperwork and faculty labor**
  - Attendance
  - Quiz/test administration
  - Grading
- **Portable vote-tally system for research & service**
  - On campus
  - In the community

Factors to Consider in SRS Adoption

- **Cost & performance of student input devices**
  - IR keypad
  - RF keypad
  - Web-based devices
- **SRS software learning curve & flexibility**
  - Import/export data to grade-book or statistical packages
  - Integrate with MS-Office
- **Textbook bundling**
- **Department-wide or campus-wide standardization**