
HAN SOLO AND KERMIT IN THE CLASSROOM

USING ALTER-EGOS AND INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR CLASS PARTICIPATION AND
FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT



Please help
yourself to a
“secret identity”
card!

Center for Teaching Excellence Conference
Lisa Hartman, Lewis J Ort Library, Frostburg State University
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TODAY

- The Challenges:
 - Reticent students,
 - Lack of class participation = lack of feedback for instructor
- Some Background info
- Demo Activity & Discussion
- Alternative tools/activities
- Q&A
- (Slides available through the web site address that is on your cards, and which we will be using today.)

CLASSROOM CHALLENGES

■ My Situation

- One-Shot Presentations
- Challenge of getting to know the students
- Few opportunities to assess the success of the class.

■ Additional General Situations

- Quiet students
- Fear of answering incorrectly
- Sensitive topics

CLICKERS & ANONYMITY

- Student Response Systems (Clickers) have been in use for many years now.
- Require equipment and software.
- Students respond to multiple choice (and similar) questions.
- Allow students to respond anonymously.



POLL EVERYWHERE

- Online Surveys, free accounts for educators.
- Students answer by sending text messages
- Responses can also be sent through a web page or twitter.

BENEFITS OF ANONYMITY

- “a means of **increasing student engagement** through providing a safe teaching environment that **reduces the impact of self-consciousness and fear of negative evaluation** on posting behaviour. However, before such a strategy is implemented procedures need to be put in place to ensure that allowing anonymous postings does not result in **increased negative behavior.**” (Roberts and Rajah-Kanagasabai, 2013).
- “The greatest advantage of the clickers is their anonymity which **encourages all students to attempt an answer** thus allowing lecturers to **receive honest, fast feedback** on the level of student understanding giving them the opportunity to **adjust content accordingly.**” (Burke-da Silva, Wood & Menz, 2007)

EXAMPLE OF LIBRARY ACTIVITY: EVALUATING THE QUALITY OF A WEB SITE

I don't know much about flavorwire. Gandalf, you might want to consider learning about this web site and whether you are confident that it is a reliable source of information.

Author	URL	Date	Confidence
Lisa's E	Har		s
Batma	flavorwire		good s
Bugs B	US National Library of Medicine		It lo s.
Darth Vader	web/videogames.html	Jun-14	Yes, yes, and yes.
Dexter	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20192553	Mar-10	Yes, yes, and yes
Ellen Ripley	http://www.health.harvard.edu/newsletter_article/violent-video-games-and-young-people	2010-2015	yes
Gandalf	http://flavorwire.com/482300/why-are-we-so-obsessed-with-tarantinos-violence-an-excerpt-from-pulp-fiction-the-complete-history-of-quentin-	13-Oct-14	yes
James Bond	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2704015/	June 30th 2009	Yes, yes, and yes.

	PURPOSE		
	Why was this web site published? To entertain you, to sell you something, to inform you?		
	yes		
	inform about media desensitization		
	informational		
	To inform	Come to the dark side	Luke I am your father
	to inform		
	Inform Me		
	inform	NONE SHALL PASS	
	To inform.		

WHY USE A SECRET IDENTITY?

- Anonymity
- Fun / Silly
- Easier to remember that you were Yoda than that you were #14.



The Dress-Up Place. "Kermit" (CC BY-SA 2.0)

DEMO ACTIVITY #1

Please go to the link found on the back of your alter-ego card.

<http://libguides.frostburg.edu/alter-ego>

Han Solo And Kermit The Frog In The Classroom:
Using Alter-Egos and Interactive Technology for Class
Participation and Formative Assessment

<http://libguides.frostburg.edu/alter-ego>

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Lisa Hartman
lahartman@frostburg.edu
301-687-4734



BENEFITS OF THE ACTIVITY

- Anonymity
 - No fear of being wrong or embarrassed
- Encourages active engagement
- Learn from peers by seeing their answers
- Kickstart conversations
 - Ice breaker
 - "Buffy the Vampire Slayer had an interesting response do this, does anybody else agree with her?..."
- Students can refer to it later on.

ASSESSMENT-RELATED BENEFITS

- Formative assessment
 - Respond to areas of uncertainty
 - Spend time in the areas where students need more help.
- Assessment at end of classes
 - By the end of class, were the answers correct/appropriate?

CHALLENGES

- Equipment
 - Need computers (or at least mobile devices)
- Students refusing to participate or who “misbehave”
- Technology is great (when it works).
 - Internet connections, web site problems, equipment problems are to be expected
 - Have a back-up plan
- Confusion
 - Keep it simple.
- Identity crisis
 - Remind students that the character is just their secret identity, no different than being assigned a number.

NEED TO IDENTIFY THE STUDENTS?

This might be necessary for class participation, or if students need encouragement to participate.

They can remain anonymous during class (and to each other), but have them write their name on the back of the card and return it for credit.

ALTERNATIVES

- No computer lab?
 - Consider mobile devices
 - Students' devices? (can't assume that they all have mobile devices, though)
 - Surveys - Online Spreadsheets require an App, might overcomplicate. Consider a survey option instead.
 - Homework assignments - share link and have students complete from home, computer lab.
- Online Tools, in addition to OneDrive
 - GoogleDrive (Google Docs, Sheets, Slides)
 - Padlet (online bulletin board)
 - SketchFiddle (online whiteboard)
 - Poll Everywhere

WORKS CITED

Burke da Silva, Karen, David Wood, and R. Ian Menz."Are the benefits of clickers due to the enforcement of good pedagogy?, in Enhancing Higher Education, Theory and Scholarship" *Proceedings of the 30th HERDSA Annual Conference, Adelaide, 8-11 July 2007 (2007): 77-91. OAlster.Web. 11 Jan 2016.*

Roberts, Lynne D., and Camilla J. Rajah-Kanagasabai. "I'd Be So Much More Comfortable Posting Anonymously": Identified Versus Anonymous Participation In Student Discussion Boards." *Australasian Journal Of Educational Technology 29.5 (2013): 612-625. Education Research Complete.Web. 11 Jan. 2016.*

TOOLS

- OneDrive - <https://onedrive.live.com>
- Google Drive - <https://www.google.com/drive/>
- Padlet - <https://padlet.com/>
- SketchFiddle - <http://www.sketchfiddle.com/>
- Poll Everywhere - <http://www.polleverywhere.com/>
- More: <https://www.nwea.org/blog/2015/growing-list-50-digital-education-tools-apps-formative-assessment-success/>

QUESTIONS?

Contact me:

lahartman@frostburg.edu

301-687-4734