UNLV Best Teaching Practices Expo

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The teaching practice and the need it addresses:

Socrative is a free, customizable quiz app for use in class for assignments, activities, and assessments. The best part of Socrative is its accessibility: it's free, easy to use, and available on all computers, tablets, and mobile devices. For teachers, it's as easy as downloading the "Socrative Teacher" app, creating a classroom code, customizing a quiz, and launching it for students. For students, they need to download "Socrative Student," type in the classroom code, and answer the questions. There are many ways to use Socrative. Socrative quizzes can be pre-loaded with correct answers for student self-assessment. They can also be structured as open-ended discussion for an entry activity or exit ticket.

Evidence this practice benefits UNLV students:

I taught for four years at the University of Southern California and used Socrative for a variety of purposes in my classroom. At the end of each course, I asked students (in a Socrative quiz) if they enjoyed using Socrative. While a few students noted a preference for paper, the bulk of my 500+ students enjoyed using Socrative in the classroom. Frequent feedback at USC and in my first semester at UNLV was that the app is easy to use, allows for immediate feedback, and takes the pressure off of in-class participation, especially in large classroom formats. The app is also great for re-directing technology use for functional purposes, so students pay attention more than if their laptops were available for non-classroom uses.

Resources and where to find them:

There are many ways that the app can be used and adjusted to fit a classroom's needs. One of the best ways to become familiar with the app is the Socrative website: socrative.com that features a resources page with FAQs and a blog with fun and interesting ideas. When downloading the app, teachers can take a virtual tour of its functionalities.

How other UNLV teachers might adopt this practice

Because the content is produced by the professor, Socrative can be used by all disciplines. Unable to check-in individually with the 140 student enrolled in BIOL 100? Want to know if your students could use another example of the reading's psychological phenomenon? Need a dynamic way to open class to engage students in the Revolutions of 1848? Socrative can engage students in a myriad of topics for discussion activities, assessments, or grades.