

A Free-Text Audience Response System A Web-based, Open Access ARS to Facilitate Team Learning by Bob Badgett, MD and Glen Medellin, MD

Sample Questions and Activities

The First Question

Usually, the first question creates familiarity with the system.

Create team names (encourage creativity)

Identify team members' first names

The Next Step

1. Instruct the students to work with their neighbors.
2. Log into <http://utxr.org>.
3. Create a team name.
4. Find the Session name provided by the instructor.
5. Question number is 1
6. For your response, enter your first names.

Higher Level Thinking

What does Wikipedia say about bad posture as a cause of Tension headache?

What study does Wikipedia cite?

Sample Team Activities

1. Write a prescription
2. Patient cases
3. Differential diagnoses
4. Evidence-based medicine

Note: Spontaneous questions are easy to administer.

Teaching Opportunities

1. Encourage a team with the correct response to explain their response to a team that is struggling.
2. Elicit and discuss diverse points of view when there is no correct answer (e.g. ethics)
3. Conduct a formal Delphi.
4. Provide immediate, anonymous feedback on the value of the learning session.

Group Decisions

1. Online Delphi system

The Delphi method can improve group decision making (5,6,7,8,9). The Free-Text can facilitate mini-Delphi even if users are geographically scattered on a conference call. Each participant can display the group's responses on their own Internet browser after the facilitator notes that all responses have been received.

2. Online Nominal Group Technique

This featured has not been completed.

3. Nominal Group Technique (Jones) is another method of group decision making. As compared to the Delphi in which items are scored by members, in NGT items are ranked by members.

Audience and Instructor Access

1. Audience/participants can access Free-Text in two formats: desktop computer and handheld device.
2. Instructor/facilitators access on an interface that allows the instructor to check whether all groups have submitted a response and allows the instructor to reveal all responses to the classroom at once. Instructor can access from a desktop computer.

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<http://utxr.org>

Details at

<http://medinformatics.uthscsa.edu/ars-public/>

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Disclosure: UTHSCSA is applying for a patent for planned enhancements to the UT Responder