conversational classroom

slido

intro

How to use
live polls to give
lectures your
students will love

If you're holding this book in your hands, you're probably a teacher, professor or a trainer who realizes that the glory of traditional, one-way-stream lectures is long gone.

In today's digitally-enabled era, we have to think smarter. Our students have smartphones with all the knowledge in the world at their fingertips. For them, listening passively to a tedious recitation just doesn't work anymore. They want to participate. They want to have a voice.

In this little book, you will learn how to use and facilitate live polls to transform your lectures into two-way conversations and actively engage your students during your talk.

So sit down, make yourself comfortable and find inspiration for delivering a lecture that your students will remember and enjoy.

contents

chapter 1

The rise of Conversational Classrooms

Presentations are far from being dead.
An estimated 30 million PowerPoint presentations are delivered every single day.

Yet, many of these presentations are broken. They're built as one-way information broadcasts, and that type of format just doesn't work in 2020.

Digitization radically changed the way we receive information. Our students have become accustomed to interacting with people and brands on a daily basis, commenting and expressing their opinions. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of online courses available online.

If we're going to run every lecture live, we have to bring extra value.

According to Prezi's 'State of Presentations Survey Report 2018', 64% of people believe that presentations that incorporate two-way interaction are more engaging and memorable than linear, one-way presentations.

That's where conversational presenting comes into play.

Conversational presenting is about creating a two-way dialogue and allowing space for conversations in the classroom, where students can share and discuss their ideas, and ultimately get more out of your class.

One of the mechanisms that can help you to do just that in your class is live polling. Let's look at how to leverage and facilitate live polls in your presentation.

chapter 2

Getting started with Conversational Presenting

If you've decided to set out on a mission to become a conversational lecturer, you've made a first step towards the future of presentations.

Now, all the work begins. You're probably thinking: Do I need to discard everything and start from scratch in order to start with conversational presenting?

Absolutely not.

You have surely put a lot of effort into creating content for your lectures. The key is to take that content and turn parts of it into live polls in order to create interaction in your class.

Here's your step-by-step guide on how to do it.

Step one: Choose the right poll type

There are various types of live polls you can use to achieve different kinds of interaction with your students.

- Multiple choice
- Open text
- Rating
- Word cloud
- Quiz
- Survey

Multiple choice poll
In this type of poll, you ask your students a question and give them multiple options to choose from. The options can either contain one correct answer which your students will be asked to guess (like a quiz) or you can use this type of poll to find out about your students' preferences or opinions.
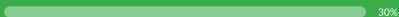
Active poll

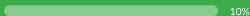**Which of these technology trends are you most excited about?** `0` `3` `3`

Self-driving cars

50%

Mobile payments

30%

Machine learning

10%

Smart homes

10%

Open text poll

These polls give your students the freedom to formulate their own answers and ideas. You can use this type of poll as an effective in-class exercise, giving your students a topic or problem to think through before submitting their answers. Make sure to allow your students enough time as they need to type their answers into their devices.

Active poll

Name as many basic human rights as you can

0 0 3

W William   9 👍

The right to education, Freedom of expression, Freedom of movement, Freedom of assembly

E Emma   6 👍

The right to life and liberty, Freedom from slavery and torture, The right to a fair trial, Freedom of religion

T Tabitha   0 👍

Freedom of opinion and expression, The right to work, The right to education, The right to gender equality

In one word, what was the biggest achievement
of the Industrial Revolution?

telegraph **dynamite**

locomotive

typewriter steam engines

radio

Word cloud poll
Word clouds are a great alternative to
an open text poll and look cool when
displayed on a big screen. They work
best for questions that your students
can answer with one or two words.
The principle is easy: the more times
a word is submitted, the larger it
appears on the screen. To optimize
their use, start your question with
"In one word,…?"

Rating poll

With rating polls, you can let your students rate their knowledge level or gain instant feedback. Using a classic star scale, your students will be quickly able to express their preferences or tendencies towards things. This type of polls works perfectly in order to take a quick pulse check of your classroom, or get a general opinion.

☆ Active poll

On a scale of 1-5, how would you rate your HTML skills?

0 1 2

Score: 4.1

			42%	33%
		17%		
	8%			
0%				
1	2	3	4	5
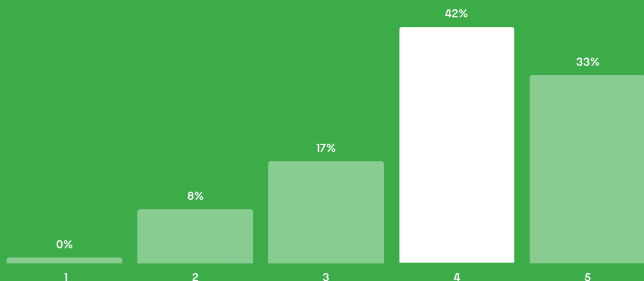
What chemical element is diamond made of?

0 3 2

Hydrogen

19%

Carbon ✓

44%

Lead

37%

Quizzes

Get your students into a bit of a competitive mood with quizzes. They're so much fun and allow you to effectively test your students' knowledge. You can run a quiz either as a standalone activity at the beginning or the end of the class or you can split it into separate quiz questions and fuse them into your lecture one by one.

Q&A

Not a poll per se, but a Q&A is one of the most powerful interactive moments in your lecture. Leverage technology and give your students the opportunity to ask you additional questions through their phones via a Q&A tool. It's a great way to close the gap between the content of your presentation, and things that your students want to learn more about.

💬 Top questions (10)

Ⓕ Filip	9 👍
What is currently the most endangered animal in the world?	

Ⓡ Rachel	7 👍
Is there anything governments can do to protect endangered animal species?	

Ⓗ Hannah	3 👍
Do zoos help to conserve endangered animals?	

Latest question

Ⓛ Lucy	1 👍
What are the most common causes of animal extinction?	

Step two: Prepare interaction points

Now that you understand how live polls work, it's time to weave interaction into the content of your presentation. Start by mapping out interaction points.

Interaction points are planned spots in your presentation where you purposefully insert interactive activities for your students to participate in.

You can employ either tech-based activities such as facilitated live polls, quizzes or Q&A, or basic non-tech games such as show of hands. As for the density, we advise to follow an average human attention span and space out the activities approximately every 7-10 minutes.

To prepare your interaction, take a look at the content of your presentation and think about which part of it could be turned into an interactive activity.

To help you out with that, here are 11 ideas.

Make numbers fun

If your lecture includes numbers - for instance, stats, research results, or years - you can effectively turn these into multiple choice polls or a quiz, and let your students guess the correct answer.

Tell a case study differently

When presenting a case study, involve your students in the story. Before any breaking point or plot twist, pose them a simple 'What would you do?' type of poll; give them multiple options to choose from and ask them what they would do in a given situation.

Collect contrasting opinions

If you're drawing a contrast during your lecture - for example, you're describing two different approaches - you may turn it into an exercise. Run a simple 'Where do you stand?' type of multiple choice poll and ask your students which one of the two options resonates with them the most.

plan

engage
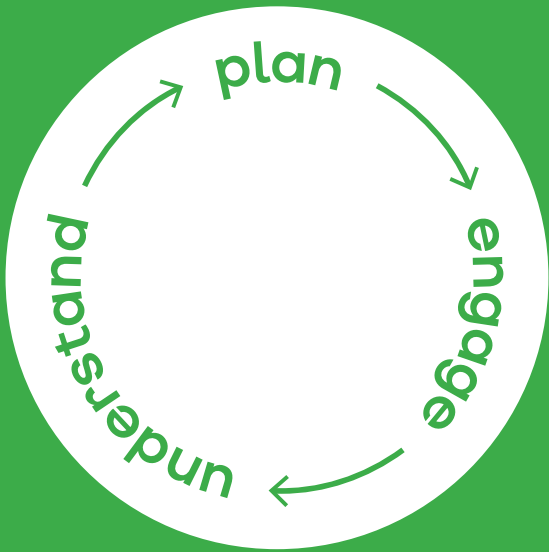
understand

Check for your students' understanding

Find out how well your students understood the topic you were presenting. After every block of information, run a quick rating poll, such as: "How well did you understand Smith's 'Invisible Hand' theory?" This is invaluable knowledge for you to make sure that your students really take in the presented material and learn from it.

Break the ice at the start

Insert some fun into your class. For example, you can run a word cloud at the beginning of your lecture to get your students in the right mood. You could ask something topic-related such as: "Which character from American literature would you be?" Or, simply break the ice with something like: "What one word best describes your feelings today?"

Find out about your students' expectations

Collect your students' expectations right at the beginning of a class or a semester. Run an open text poll such as: "What do you hope to get out of this class/lecture?" You will find out what your students expect to learn, which will help you adjust the content to your students' needs.

Recap the lecture with a quiz

Students just love to play. Recap your class with a friendly competitive quiz and find out how much your students have learned. You can run a quiz at the end of each lecture, or semester, for a full summary. Don't forget to get some little treats ready for the winner.

Run a problem-solving exercise

Use an open text poll for a quick troubleshooting exercise. Propose a problem or describe a situation, then ask your students to brainstorm how they would solve it. They can submit their answers into an open text poll and then review them with the rest of the class.

Check for a baseline

If you're starting on a new class or a topic, it's good practice to check students' prior knowledge by using a rating poll such as: "How comfortable are you with using Photoshop?" Knowing how much your students already know will help you tailor the content to their level of proficiency.

Crowdsource students' additional questions

Let your students post their questions into Slido instead of raising their hands. Address students' questions as they come in or take a deeper dive into them by running a Q&A session at the end of your lecture. This way, you will address any unclear areas.

Gather feedback after every class

Your students' feedback is your most important asset. Thanks to live polls, you will be able to uncover what works with your students and what doesn't, so you can keep on improving your lectures. Use rating polls for a quick assessment and open text polls for more elaborate comments.

Your feedback survey could look like this:

My meeting

Q&A | Polls

Live poll 23

feedback survey

Overall, how would you rate this lecture?

Give your rating:

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

What's the one thing you liked?

Type your answer …

What's the one thing you'd like me to improve?

Type your answer …

Step three: Facilitate the use of polls

You've successfully managed to create an interactive environment in your class.
Now it's time to stand up in front of your class and perform the magic.

Using live polls and the interactive activities only makes sense, though, if their use is well-facilitated. Conversational presenting is not merely about throwing interactive activities into the class.

It's about being able to effectively work with your students' insights and create a two-way conversation throughout the duration of your lecture.

Let us give you a quick Live Polls Facilitation 101 course.

1. Introduce the live polling tool

The recipe for successful use of live polling is first to familiarize your students with it. Introduce the polling platform properly before you start presenting, and instruct your students on how to open the app.

2. Make it fun to join

A great practice is to run a warm-up poll to get your students to try out the app and get used to it. You can start with a fun poll such as: "If you had to eat one meal everyday for the rest of your life, what would it be?" To increase participation, follow the vote count to see how many people have already sent in their votes and encourage more people to participate by saying something like: "We're on 45, let's try to hit at least 70."

3. Follow up on the results

This point is really important. The poll results themselves have no meaning unless you follow them up and set them in the context of your lecture. Once your students have sent in their votes, review the results and make verbal comments on them. Share how the opinions of the class are in line with or, on the contrary, in contrast to the lecture's topic.

4. Ask volunteers to share how they voted

You can also take it a step further and ask your students what they think about the results. Walk among the class and encourage the volunteers to share their comments and insights.

5. Get your students to discuss with one another

Another way to use the poll results is to trigger a conversation in between your students. Ask them to turn to their neighbor and discuss in pairs how they voted and why they voted the way they did. Such discussions drive quality peer-to-peer learning.

6. Reverse: Create conversations before running polls

You can also reverse the technique described above and get people to talk before they vote. This works best with open text polls or during brainstorming sessions, where you ask students to think up ideas and formulate longer answers. Prompt your students to form small groups and discuss their ideas, before submitting the result of their talk into Slido.

7. Facilitate crowdsourcing of questions

Similarly to the point above, you can ask your students to discuss the topic of the lecture and come up with a question for the Q&A. At the end of your talk, ask your students to turn to their neighbor, think up a question together and then submit it into Slido. Not only will you get more quality, thought-through questions for your Q&A, but you will also drive meaningful conversations between your students and enhance their learning.

8. Run feedback while people are still in the room

For feedback to really hit the mark, you should collect as much of it as possible. To boost your response rate, make the feedback a part of a lecture. Dedicate the last two minutes of the presentation time to feedback and ensure your students fill it out before they leave the room. Once they leave, they might forget about it.

"Slido is awesome!
My students could
not wait to use it
to analyze speech
examples prior to
delivering their own!

I am loving this
tool and the
level of student
engagement!"

Jennifer Hottinger

# Integrating live polls to your presentation

Now you've got the understanding of live polling and a couple of facilitation tips up your sleeve. It's time to get technical. We can almost hear you saying, "How am I supposed to integrate all the live polls into my presentation?" Don't worry, you can keep your slide deck just the way it is.

Depending on the presentation platform you use, you can either directly integrate your Slido live polls with your slide deck or seamlessly switch between your slides and your Slido polls.

In this section, we're going to briefly run you through the tech setup.

Google Slides integration

If you use Google Slides for your presentations, you can install Slido for Google Slides add-on and create live polls, quizzes, and Q&A and run all the interaction without ever leaving your slides. You can then display the results to your class as part of your presentation with one click.
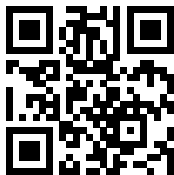
Switcher

Are you using Prezi, Keynote, and, for now, PowerPoint? With Slido's native app Switcher, you will be able to switch seamlessly between your slides and Slido polls using your smartphone as a remote control.

PowerPoint integration (early access)

Good news! At Slido, we're currently working on a PowerPoint integration which will allow you to run interactive live polls, quizzes and Q&A directly from your slideshow. Sign up for early access through the QR code below, and be among the first to try out the beta.
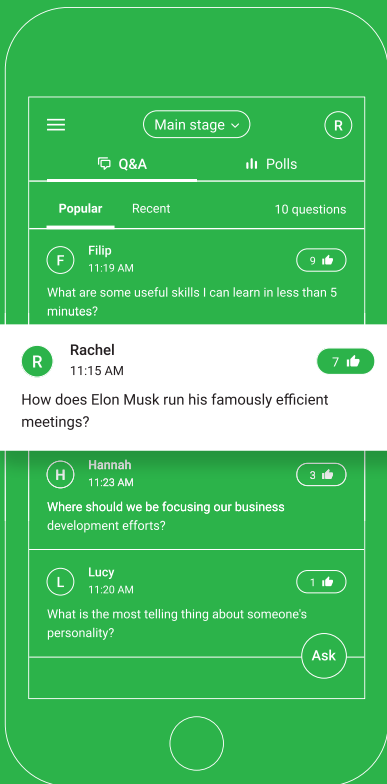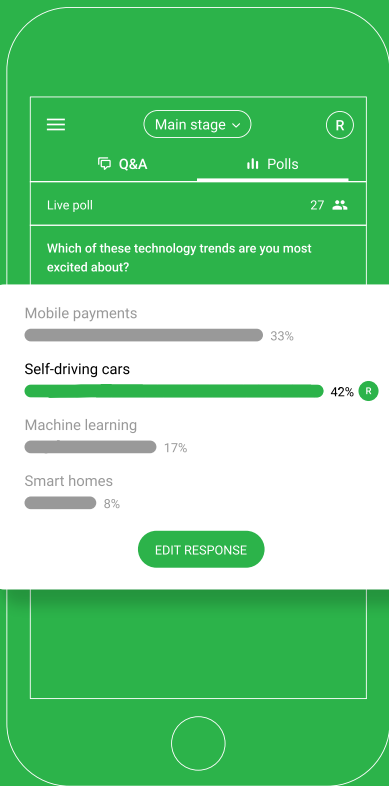
About Slido

Slido is a Q&A and live polling platform that helps solo presenters to engage better with their audience. Synonymous with conversational presenting, Slido helps to make lectures or training more interactive for participants by allowing them to join in the discussion through their mobile devices.

Since 2012, Slido has helped to transform over 450,000 events across more than 130 countries, engaging millions of active users. Slido has been trusted by some of the world's top conferences, including SXSW, Web Summit, IMEX or Money20/20 as well as a number of high-profile clients including Lufthansa, BBC, Oracle, and many others.
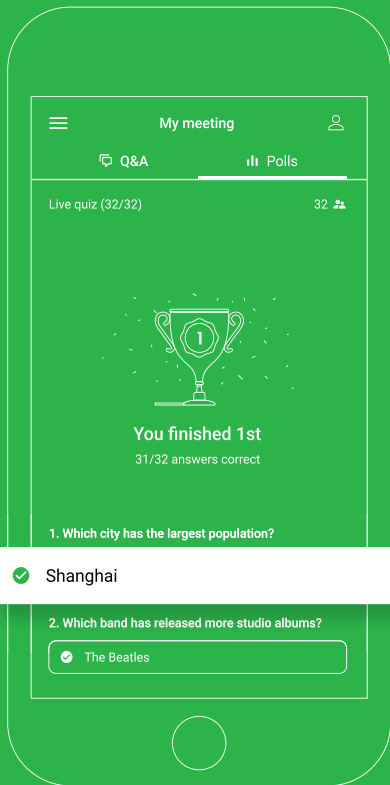
Slido has a team of more than 150 people, with offices in London, New York, San Francisco, Sydney, and Bratislava (HQ).

Questions

Live polls