In a general education science class we used personal response devices that allow students to answer multiple-choice questions privately to learn about students, conduct opinion polls, enhance class discussions, review quiz questions and assess comprehension of material. Students reported that the devices increase enjoyment, learning and participation, but generally did not support their use to monitor attendance or assign credit for correct responses. Over a semester, instructors learned to use the system more effectively.

I-Clickers were distributed to students on the first day of class. They were used for several purposes throughout the semester:
- to gather information about the students’ backgrounds and level of knowledge
- to share students’ knowledge
- to poll students’ opinions
- to test comprehension of course material
- to review on-line quizzes

I-Clicker questions with two to five answers were posed at various times during the 80 minute class periods.

Student surveys were conducted twice each semester: early (the second or third week of class) and late (the last week of class). Each survey consisted of five short-answer questions, followed by a space for additional comments.

Results of the early survey (Table 1) indicated that >90% of the students enjoyed IClickers and >85% believed the devices enhanced their learning. While most students reported that the IClickers were being used at a good frequency during class, about 1/5 thought they could be used more. More students opposed the use of IClickers to either monitor attendance or to assign credit than favored either of these uses.

Results of the late survey (Table 2) were similar to those of the early survey for enjoyment and interest. The frequency of use of the IClickers improved over the course of the semester, with >90% responding “just right”. About 3/4 of the students reported that they used their IClickers “often”, but regardless of whether or not they used their own device, 95% reported that use of a student response system increased their participation in the class.