

## Classroom Management

### Using Mobile Devices in Classrooms

Narrator: Many students are using mobile devices in classrooms, in this program we will explore both perspectives on allowing and banning mobile devices and laptops in classrooms, here are some insights from Ryerson's teaching chairs

Elaine Frankel, Teaching Chair, FCS

Studies about integrating laptops into the classroom curriculum revealed a number of significant benefits including note taking, in-class academic activities, and collaboration with peers. Students reported that the use of laptops helped them to focus better, follow in-class presentations, and research academic resources on the web. To maximize the benefits of laptops in higher education, it may be necessary to develop meaningful laptop-based activities and move away from the passive dissemination of information.

For example, in my class when new terminology is introduced I frequently ask students to Google the term on their laptops or mobile devices. Students eagerly respond and race to find an appropriate definition which we then discuss together. This practice allows for greater student engagement and participation in a very large lecture class.

Tetyana Antimirova, Teaching Chair, FEAS, Science

Some of the students may not have a laptop or a mobile device. So, make sure you group the students so they could share the devices together. You want to include all the students in the activity without leaving anyone out. You could also, ask them to work in pairs, or if the activity is extended to beyond the classroom direct them to the library.

Frankie Stewart, Teaching Chair, FEAS, Engineering

Some social media tools could be useful as an in-class discussion tools like [Twitter](#), a short-message microblogging service which is very easy to use on mobile devices. Another tool is [Poll Everywhere](#), which turns mobile devices into personal response systems, these enable instructors to quiz students, assess their understanding before, during, and after a lesson, and could be used to reveal patterns of thinking in the classroom. Any mobile device will work for these purposes; all is required is the ability to send text messages.

Don Kinder, Teaching Chair, Library

If a faculty member is not planning on using laptops in an integrated way, they should consider ways to limit or control their use. Keep in mind that this will penalize students who use computers to take notes, search class-related materials, or take online quizzes.

Ken Grant, Teaching Chair, TRSM

Incorporating a meaningful use of the the laptops in classroom activities will improve the students' engagement by engaging them in the content and reducing the amount of time they spend on non productive activities. Faculty could actually build the use of a computer into their presentations which is a structured approach that will increase students' participation and retention.

Robert Teigrob, Teaching Chair, Arts

Faculty could increase student engagement by using wireless devices in the classroom.

“Faculty could use creative options for making wireless devices part of instruction; for example, students could use their cell phones as clickers and they could use the laptops for on-the-fly web research.

Marsha Barber, Teaching Chair, FCAD

As a faculty member you may choose to allow your students to use mobile devices and laptops .. those kind of things inside the classroom, but it important to set boundaries. When you contract with your students it implies that you trust them and that is always a good thing. And also, I think we all need to keep in mind that our students are adults as students in post secondary education, so contracting with them is a great thing in terms of individualized self-directed learning.