Using the Polling Feature in Zoom

Jennifer Di Noia

Department of Sociology

Rationale

- In online classes, we can't tell if students are at their computers (when cameras are off) and "tuned in"
  - This is a challenge for educators
- Polls enable you to keep students engaged with a topic because they require ongoing student input

Rationale (cont'd)

- Ideally suited for:
  - Knowledge checks (test for understanding of concepts)
  - Student feedback
    - Reactions to lectures, readings, quizzes, etc.
- Useful to set aside a portion of class time for students to complete a set of polls on a topic (up to 10)

Benefits

- Can set up before class
- If there is a recurring question that you want to ask, for example, "How comfortable are you with the material discussed today?" you only need to set up once
- Can share polling results with class
  - Students see that no individual answers are shared
  - Keeps focus on group/how students are doing collectively

Expectation Setting

- Before using polls, tell students how they work
  - In a few minutes, I will be opening some polls
  - On your screen you will see a box with a question in it and answer choices (single choice [pick ONE of the answers] or multiple choice [check ALL that apply])
- Emphasize the importance of participation
  - I value your feedback and want to hear from everyone

Expectation Setting (cont'd)

- Anonymity
  - Make polls anonymous
  - Let students know that you cannot tell who gave a particular answer (so they don't feel nervous about giving a wrong answer)
- Don't know/not sure
  - Include a don't know/not sure option
  - Tell students about it
    - Use this option if you are not sure of the answer
    - It's okay if you're not sure – you're learning about [topic]
    - I am more interested in whether you are taking part in the poll with your classmates than whether you answered the poll correctly or not

Expectation Setting (cont'd)

- Share poll results with students
  - When most answered incorrectly or "don't know/not sure," this is a great opportunity to dig into the topic further
    - Switch to white board
    - Ask what they know about the topic/put this on the board
    - Fill in the gaps with additional notes
  - When most answered correctly, give positive feedback
    - Great job on that one!
    - Put up "clapping hands" icon (under "reactions" tab)

Tips

- Create a <u>set of polls</u> on a topic (up to 10 maximum)
- Put "Check one" or "Check all that apply" after each question
- Set aside sufficient time for polls
  - Decide how much time to allow students to complete each poll
    - At least 1 minute is sufficient
    - Use the timer to keep track of the time (shown when you open each poll)
  - Build in time to share results (.5 minute per poll)
  - Build in time to "dig in" to the topic further, if needed
    - 10 polls (minimum time = 15 minutes; maximum time = 30 minutes)
      - 1 minute for students to answer each poll (10 minutes)
      - 5 minutes to share the results of each poll with the class
      - 15 minutes to revisit material, if needed

Open-ended Feedback

- Zoom has an end of meeting feedback option
  - Students can give a "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" rating of their overall experience with the session
  - Those giving a "thumbs down" can check off boxes (with predefined answers) to indicate what went wrong
- No polling feature with an open-ended feedback option
- Can use the chat box to solicit this type of feedback

Closure Activities

- Tell me two things you learned, one thing you have a question about, and one thing you want me to know
- Prepare a "cheat sheet" on what was learned today that would be useful to have during a quiz
- Think of one thing you learned in class today that you can apply in another class or another part of your life. What is it, and how can you apply it?
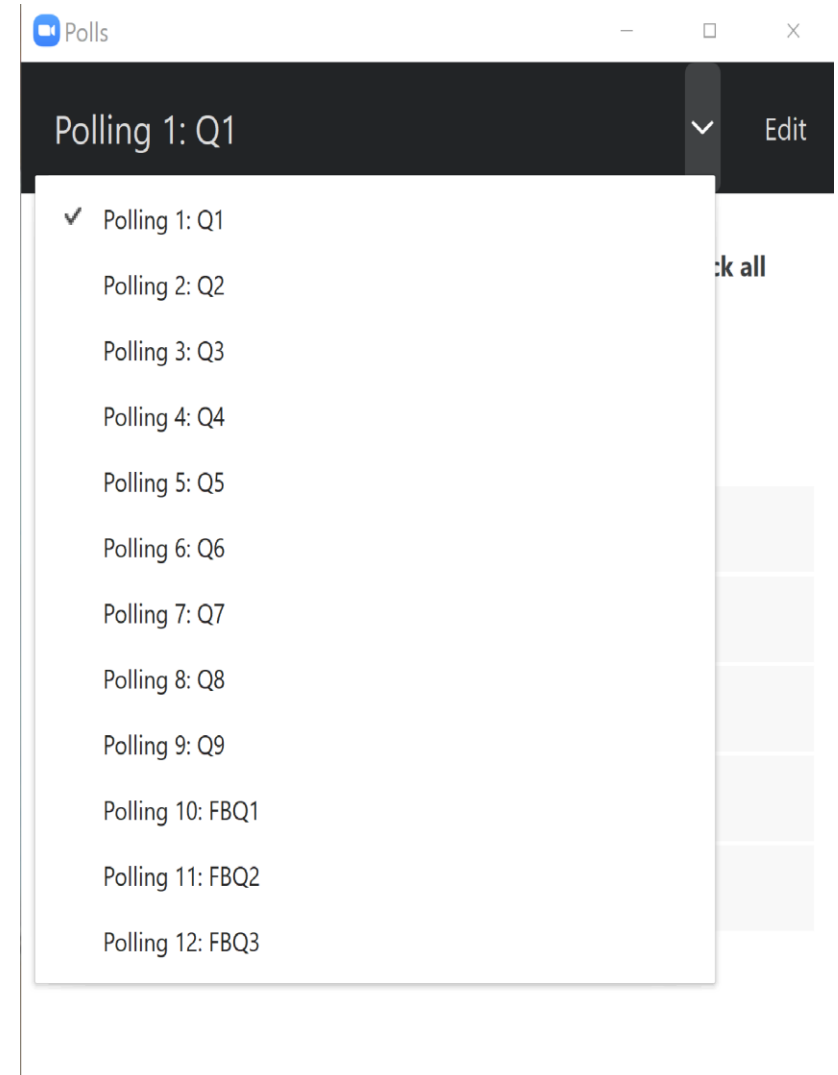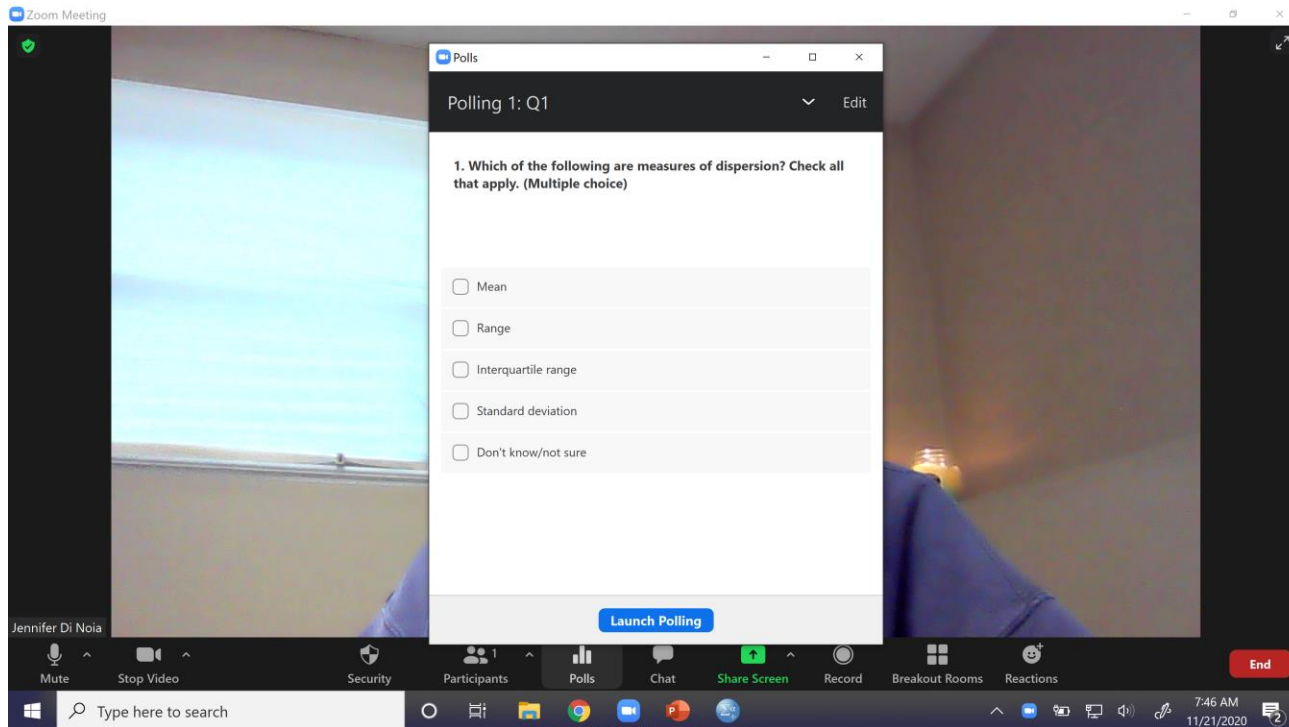
Tips

- State the questions(s) (on camera)
- Show the questions on a PowerPoint slide
- Copy-paste the questions into the chat box
- Let students know they can answer privately if they wish (by sending their answers just to you and not the group)
- Give feedback on answers
  - I like that. What else?
  - Good answer, Jill!

Setting Up Polls

- Step-by-step guide and video (from Zoom Help Center):

https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/213756303-Polling-for-meetings

Launching Polls

Polling 1: Polling Questions

Edit

Poll closed

1 voted

1.What is your favorite color?

Red		(0) 0%
Green		(0) 0%
Blue		(1) 100%

Share Results Re-Launch Polling 1

Sharing Poll Results

Attendees are now viewing poll results

1.What is your favorite color?

Red		(0) 0%
Green		(0) 0%
Blue		(1) 100%

Stop Sharing