

Poll Everywhere (Interactive Feedback/Texting in Class)

Use the Poll Everywhere App, or send texts to **37607** or **(747) 444-3548**

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Introduction

- *Poll Everywhere* is kind of like Clickers, except that you text answers from your cellphone *or* enter responses via an app or a website from your smartphone, laptop, or tablet connected to Wi-Fi or 3G/4G!
- The [FAQ](#) tab at www.PollEverywhere.com has answers to most of your questions.
- Poll Everywhere is more flexible than Clickers because you can send text, numerical answers, etc., not just multiple choice. Your instructor sees your responses, and can download Excel files with all student responses.
- First thing to do – set up a Poll Everywhere account, if you don't already have one, and then register for our course at Poll Everywhere. I have set up a “group” for our class. See registration instructions below.

Registration

- Create a Poll Everywhere account at www.PollEverywhere.com using your e-mail and some password as usual.
- Go to www.polleverywhere.com/register?p=2divh-1vgc&pg=bBoAPBm and register your name, cellphone number, etc. on the form. This puts you in a group that is tied specifically to our class.
- On the second page of the form, where it asks “How should John Cimbala identify you?” enter your PSU User ID, e.g., **abc123** *without the @psu.edu* - This is critical because this is the user ID used to link your responses into Angel for grading purposes. Make sure you enter it as abc123 instead of abc123@psu.edu, or it will not mesh properly with Angel.
- If you plan to text from your phone, you will also need to enter your cellphone number so that when you text in class, the software will know who you are. Poll Everywhere will ask you to verify your cellphone number (for privacy purposes). Once this is done, your phone will be “certified” and ready to go.
- *Note:* Poll Everywhere shows instructors only the last four digits of your cellphone number, so you need not be concerned about privacy issues. Your number will not be given or sold to any kind of mass marketing company.
- If you have any problems with registration, check out the FAQ at www.PollEverywhere.com.

Interactive Responses via Texting on your Cellphone

- After you have successfully registered: **At the beginning of each class, text “cimbala” (without the quotes) to 37607.** This will add you to the session for that day.
- You should receive a reply text from Poll Everywhere indicating that you are ready to answer questions.
- Once you have entered the session, i.e., once you have texted “cimbala”, you can then answer the Poll Everywhere questions during class. **There is no need to text “cimbala” again until the next class.**
- During class, questions (“polls”) will be asked, and you answer via text message to **37607**. Each poll will be active as long as the instructor has the poll “pushed”. Answers will be either multiple choice (e.g., A, B, C,...), a number (e.g., 48.21), or words (e.g., Smith, John). For each question, enter the answer only – you do not need to enter “cimbala” as part of your answer, provided that you already entered “cimbala” at the beginning of class.
- At the end of class, you may text “leave” to unlink from the day’s session. If you do not text “leave”, you will be disconnected automatically after 48 hours.

Interactive Responses via Tablet, Laptop, or Smartphone

- Some students may have poor cellphone reception in the classroom or some other issue with their phones. Fortunately, there are alternatives to texting from your cellphone, as discussed below.
- If you have a smartphone, laptop, or tablet connected to the Internet, go to www.PollEverywhere.com and log in – once you are logged in, you do not need to text “cimbala” to join the session – you will be automatically joined. After that, you can use the website www.PollEv.com/cimbala to enter all your responses.
- There is also a **Poll Everywhere App** for iPhone and Android phones/tablets. [Search for Poll Everywhere on your device to get the app.] See www.polleverywhere.com/mobile. This is a great alternative to texting since most classrooms have great Wi-Fi, but some have poor cell reception. If you use the app, just log in, type cimbala as the keyword before class, and you will be in our class session. Polls will show up automatically.
- If you have a Google Talk (also called Google Hangouts or Google Voice) phone number, and want to text from that, note that Google does not allow texting to 5-digit phone numbers. However, Poll Everywhere has an alternative *real* phone number **(747) 444-3548** that functions the same as the 5-digit number **37607**. If you use Google instead of your cellphone, make sure you edit your user profile on www.PollEverywhere.com to specify the Google phone number; otherwise your instructor will not know who you are when you answer questions in class, and your participation will not get recorded.