Encouraging Engagement

in Online Instruction

**Niche Academy**

**November 2, 2022**

Laura Saunders

Simmons University

laura.saunders@simmons.edu

@bibliolaura

Melissa Wong

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

mawong@illinois.edu

@LISafterClass

## Polling and Response Tools

[AnswerGarden](https://answergarden.ch/)

Creates a word cloud from participant responses.

[Google Tools](https://www.google.com/)

Docs – Word processing app; can be used to collect questions or as a space for group work.

Forms – Survey tool that can also be used for in-class polling.

Jamboard – Whiteboard tool for reflection, brainstorming, etc. (limit of 50 participants).

[Kahoot](https://kahoot.it/)

Gamifies quizzing by adding music (which you can turn off) and scores for correct/speedy answers; aimed at the K12 market, but some college students enjoy.

[Mentimeter](https://www.mentimeter.com/)

Offers many question types, including open-ended.

[Miro](https://miro.com/)

Whiteboard-style app; can be used for reflection, brainstorming, etc.

[Padlet](https://padlet.com/)

Interactve “mood boards”; can be used for reflection, brainstorming, etc.

[Poll Everywhere](https://www.polleverywhere.com/)

Offers many question types, including open-ended.

[Socrative](https://www.socrative.com/)

Offers many question types, including open-ended.

## Active Learning / Interaction Ideas

Both of these sites offer numerous ideas for integrating interaction into synchronous online instruction.

Louisiana State University. [Teaching Tools: Active Learning While Physically Distancing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15ZtTu2pmQRU_eC3gMccVhVwDR57PDs4uxlMB7Bs1os8/edit).

NYU Steinhardt. [Zoom Active Learning Activities](https://sites.google.com/nyu.edu/nyu-steinhardt-toolkit/instructional-activities/zoom-activities?authuser=0).

And here’s a quick explanation of the “waterfall” technique.

The Curious Educator. [Waterfall a Quick Strategy to Use in Virtual Instruction](https://www.curiouseducator.com/blog/waterfall-a-quick-strategy-to-use-in-virtual-instruction)

## Resources

Saunders, Laura, and Melissa A. Wong. 2020. *Instruction in Libraries and Information Centers: An Introduction*. Champaign, IL: Illinois Open Publishing Network. <https://iopn.library.illinois.edu/books/windsor-downs/catalog/book/12>

Open access textbook on instructional strategies for librarians and information professionals.

Wong, Melissa A. *Instructional Design for LIS Professionals: A Guide for Teaching Librarians and Information Science Professionals*. Libraries Unlimited, 2019. <https://www.abc-clio.com/products/A5902P/>

Concise guide to instructional design for LIS professionals. Libraries Unlimited offers a 20% discount to Niche Academy webinar attendees (code: NICHE).

LIS Pedagogy Chat. <https://www.lispedagogychat.org/>

Online community of practice for LIS educators and practioners.