

# IMPROVING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: DIGITAL POLLING IN HIGHER EDUCATION CLASSROOMS

Benjamin Gautsch - bgautsch@uwm.edu



Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning

1

For the 2023-24 Academic year, we funded 30 licenses for Mentimeter, an anonymous digital polling software to improve student engagement and learning (Mayhew et al., 2020). Instructors were meticulously chosen to represent a wide number of academic disciplines and courses across all modalities.

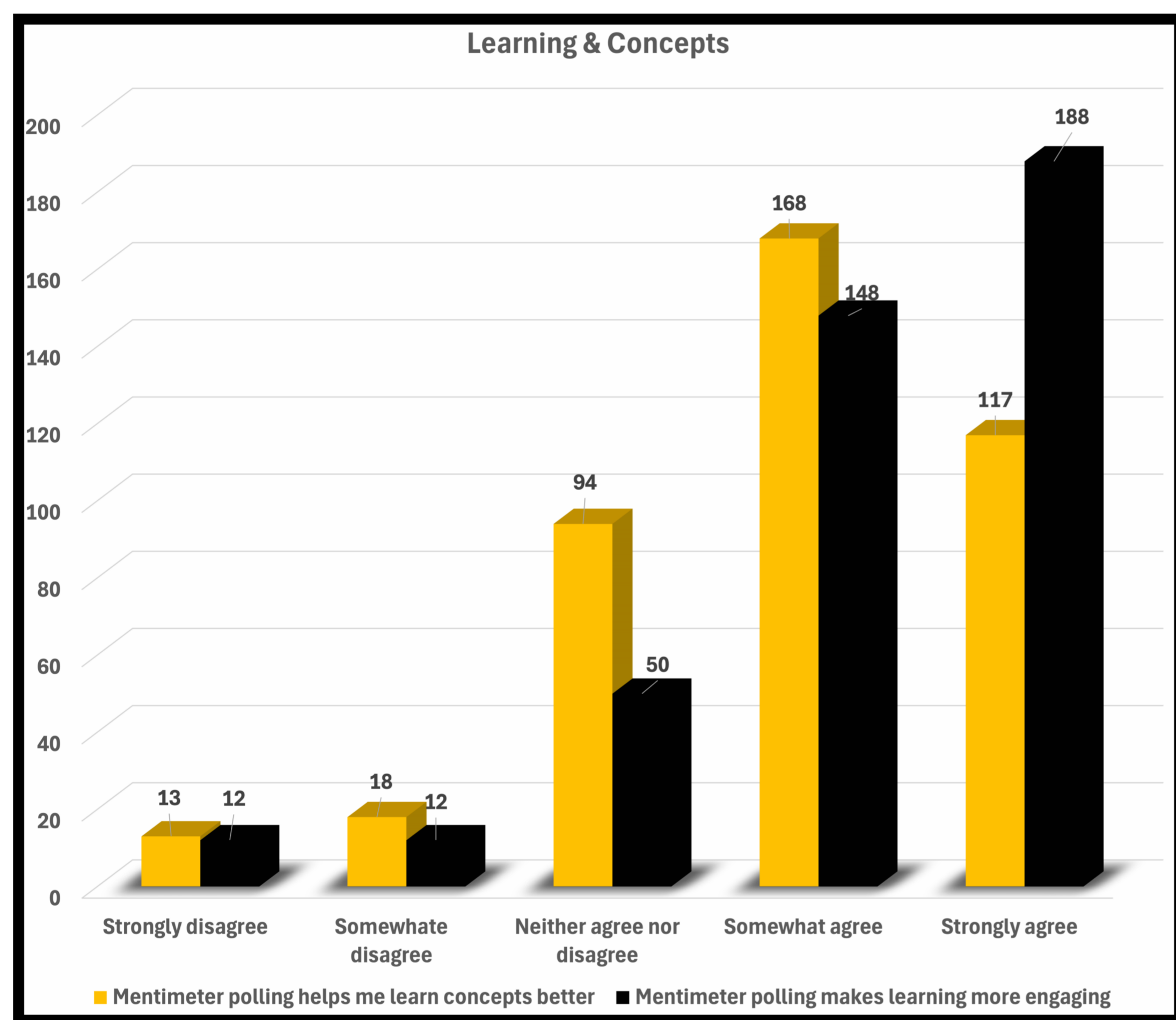
“ I like that it helps me to be more engaged in the class and encourages me to participate. ”

“ I liked that it was of no extra cost for students. I also liked that the results were shown live, it helped to speed up the process of everything. ”

3

The following data were compiled from the Fall and Spring semesters of the 2023-24 academic year at a large, public, urban, R1 university. The data are from post-surveys given to students who used Mentimeter.

Post-Survey: N = 410 students



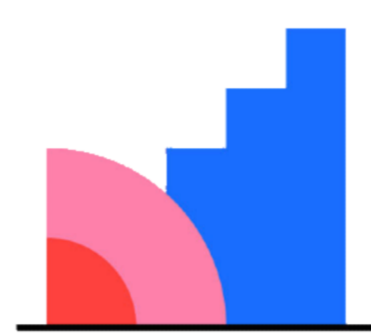
5

“ I felt very engaged in lecture and wanted to come. ”

“ I was able to ask some clarifying questions that really helped me without having to disrupt the flow of lecture. ”

7

Students that found negatives with Mentimeter digital polling tended to report that the technology was slow or sometimes did not work. Like all digital learning tools, there are obstacles to overcome when implementing a brand new tool and much of these complaints related to user error.

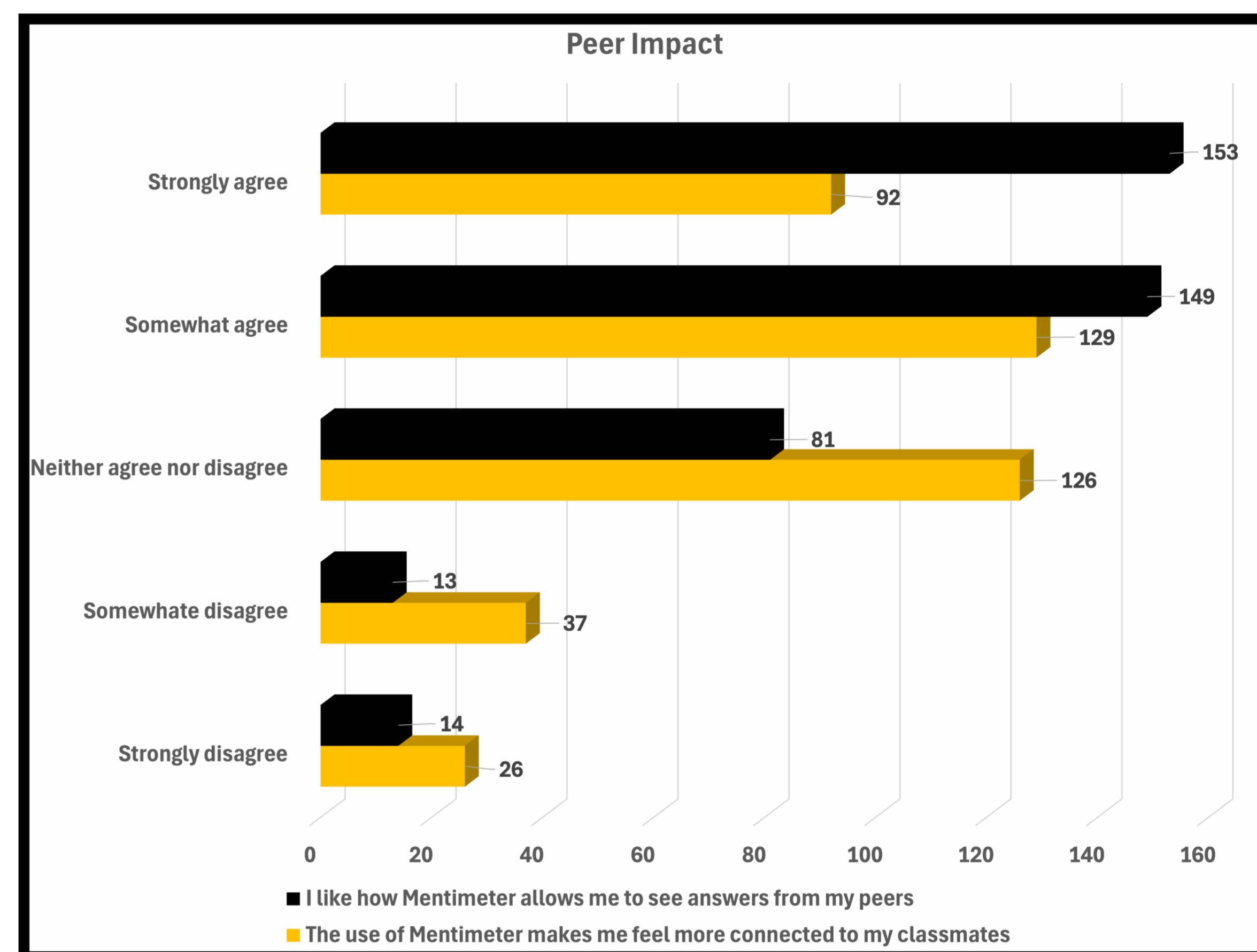


## Mentimeter

2

Polling is not new to education, but new solutions like Mentimeter challenge student fee polling models and allow for students to access polling across multiple devices. With so many digital polling solutions available, we asked our students what they thought about digital polling and Mentimeter!

4



“ It was super easy to use and fun in class. Doing activities like polling helped me feel less alone in the class when I was struggling with certain topics. ”

“ I like that it is anonymous because as someone with anxiety I don't raise my hand or ask questions. Mentimeter makes it more comfortable to ask questions or guess without the fear of being wrong. ”

6



“ I liked the stopping and making sure everyone was on the same page. ”

“ I liked how it showed the responses live in class, and allowed us to create good discussions around the data being displayed in real time. ”