

Using iClicker in an Accessible Classroom

Accessibility Best Practices

Polling

- When polling students, we recommend that instructors **verbally read the questions** to accommodate students with visual disabilities as well as cognitive or learning disabilities. We are continuing to find ways to make polling questions more accessible.
- Avoid use of target questions as it can cause problems for screen reader and keyboard users.

Anonymity

- Some students with disabilities may experience anxiety about answering questions publicly. Enabling anonymous polling can encourage participation without fear of being singled out.
- Anonymous mode is available in iClicker Courses only, not Events, since all polling in Events is automatically anonymous. In Courses, you can choose to ask any of the question types above in Anonymous mode. This allows you to ask sensitive questions that students might not feel comfortable answering if their response could be traced to their identity. To switch your poll to Anonymous mode, select the menu icon on the iClicker toolbar and turn Anonymous on.
- Note: [Exit Polls](#) can't be set to anonymous. Students are identified with their response to the instructor.

Handling Accommodations

Extended Time

- Generally, extended time on assignments is offered relative to what time students are offered as a whole. For example, if students are given 2 hours to take an exam, a student with an extended time accommodation may have 3 hours, or time and a half, to complete the exam.
- The iClicker team is exploring methods for allotting time accommodations within the tool. While this exploratory work happens, instructors should consider the time they plan to provide for students and adjust that time to meet the needs of all their students. For example: If you open a poll and plan to give students 30 sec to answer, consider leaving it open for 45 sec or 1 min.

Alternative Formats for Questions

- No matter how accessible a tool is, every user will have a unique experience using it. Sometimes, what meets accessibility requirements doesn't align with individuals needs. For this reason, Macmillan is happy to offer any of the content we create for iClicker in alternative formats free of charge. In this case, most often students will request assignments in word format, making it easier for them to either customize font sizing and type as well as contrast.
- Message our team at WebAccessibility@macmillan.com to request alternatives.

Ensuring Accessibility of iClicker for All Students

Alt Text

- When creating Assignments or Pre-Created Quizzes, you have the option to add alt text. Alt text (alternative text) is a written description of an image that allows users who cannot view the image for any number of reasons (from internet connectivity issues to visual disabilities) to perceive its contents.
- For more information on how to write effective alt text, review the help article on [Image Alt Text in iClicker Cloud](#).
- When uploading images to Assignments or Pre-Created Quizzes, you will receive a prompt to add alt text.
- When writing alt text, do not use characters that cannot be found on a keyboard. Alt text can only include [ASCII printable characters](#).
- Alt text does not have a character limit, but we do recommend instructors to write clear and succinct questions so that screen reader users can perceive the contents of the slide.
- Note that when polling, alt text can be generated automatically using optical character recognition.

Accessible Hardware Design

- Large Buttons: Remotes are equipped with sizable buttons to facilitate easy navigation for all users.
- Braille Labels: iClicker+ and iClicker 2 remotes feature Braille button labels, aiding students who are blind or have low vision.
- Haptic Feedback: Remotes can be ordered with a vibration feature that provides vote confirmation through haptic feedback, ensuring students receive immediate acknowledgment of their responses.

Slide Design

- Macmillan Learning often produces presentation slides that can be used with iClicker that are title specific. These slides are built from an accessible template for easy sharing with any student. Color contrast is checked on Macmillan authored slides so when they

are screenshotted for polling, students who are color blind or have other print related disabilities can read them.

- Use the Optical Character Recognition tool to generate alternative text for the images of your slides.
- Building your own slides to poll from?
 - To increase readability, check the color contrast of your slides. There are a number of free tools out there including the [Colour Contrast analyser from TPGi](#) that are easy to install and even easier to use.
 - Consider the amount of language you include on one screen. Too many words result in small, difficult to read text.