



## Top Hat--a Mobile Audience Response System and Learning Platform for Classroom Engagement

### Objective:

Explore the functions of Top Hat and learn how to integrate a mobile audience response system (ARS) in the classroom to improve student engagement. <https://tophat.com>

From Gosseau et al. (2016) **use mobile ARS as a tool to support teaching, not as the focus of your teaching.**

### Rationale for using ARS technologies

Mobile (BYOD) ARS technology replaces older clickers and provides **meaningful and timely feedback** in large and small classroom settings that is sometimes challenging and difficult. This technology also engages **all students simultaneously** with material, as a basic active learning strategy.

- ARS technology can be used to review past material or break up a lecture into smaller mini-lectures using content driven questions that emphasize key points.

### A Brief Description of Top Hat

The Top Hat system is one example of BYOD classroom engagement platforms that can be accessed from any mobile device. **(FYI: Top Hat it has now been adopted as the ARS for DVM students in all 3 years of the curriculum.)**

Top Hat has excellent support as you work through issues <https://support.tophat.com/s> as well as they have articles to aid instructors.

### What can Top Hat do?

- **In-class questions (w/ multiple question types available)**
  - Anonymous or not
  - Graded or not, participation credit or not
  - Synchronous or asynchronous (self-paced)
  - Option to leave open for review
- **Out of class questions and discussions**

- Answer submissions with or without hints or feedback
- Assign Questions for Homework or Review
- Assign Questions to individual students as homework
- Anonymous discussions
- **Attendance feature (NOT A REASON TO USE TOP HAT!!)**
- **Pages** – more complex content +/- embedded questions; Electronic Documents

A Top Hat Course called "**Top Hat How To" Sandbox Course**, was created **go to the following URL** <https://app.tophat.com/e/948529>; to show you how Top Hat looks from a learners perspective (which was extremely important to me when I was first using Top Hat).

Top Hat use for instructors is always free, and the instructor simply creates an account, and can immediately invite students to join his/her course. +

## Activity

- 1 Go to <https://tophat.com> and create an instructor account and course (If don't have a course already).
- 2 With the idea of a tangible product spend the next 5 minutes putting together a question to share, either regarding your content or just a sample practice question. (Then pair up and share with someone.)

## REFERENCES

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- Gousseau M., Sommerfeld C., & Gooi A. (2016). [Tips for using mobile audience response systems in medical education](#). *Adv Med Educ Pract*. 2016 Dec 1;7:647-652 <https://www.dovepress.com/tips-for-using-mobile-audience-response-systems-in-medical-education-peer-reviewed-article-AMEP>
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