Building Interactivity using GoSoapBox, an Online Student Response System

By Prof. Pilar Munday, Foreign Languages and Culture, CAS

GoSoapBox is a student response system, similar to clickers, but which does not need special equipment. It works on computers and any mobile device. You can create polls, quizzes, and discussion boards. Students can also add their own questions and these questions can get upvoted, so the professor knows which one is more pressing. In my Spanish courses I use the discussion boards and ask quick questions in Spanish. Students see other students’ answers but not their names, which is crucial in building confidence in their language skills. Many students use their phones to answer. I project on the board and go over the main mistakes, deleting incorrect answers. Students get feedback but still maintain anonymity. Quizzes are also very useful to have students review important material. In addition, GoSoapBox also offers a confusion barometer, where students can indicate if they are understanding the lecture.