Dexter C. Whittinghill* (whittinghill@rowan.edu), Department of Mathematics, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ 08028. My First Semester Using 'Clickers' for Rapid Feedback: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly.

'Clickers', or audience response devices like the TurningPoint Response Card or the iClicker, are devices for obtaining rapid-feedback from your students in the course of a lecture, in order to gauge the proportion of students who have learned a concept. After posing a question to the students, depending on the proportion of correct answers the instructor has three choices. If over 80% (say) get the correct answer, the instructor can acknowledge that. If there is only a plurality of correct answers, he can have the students discuss the problem with each other (and possibly re-poll). If a high percentage get it wrong, he can further explain the topic. When used by a knowledgeable and practiced instructor clickers are an impressive tool (the Good). When used by a rookie there can be some unfortunate effects on the lecture (the Bad) or even some embarrassing and disastrous moments (the Ugly). This talk will include what motivated this instructor to try clickers, the context in which the clickers were used, and examples of the kinds of questions used in the class. The forty people who sit in the front will get to try the clickers! (Received September 16, 2008)