

# TURNING TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

## 2 BIG QUESTIONS



June 19, 2012

Turning Technology User Conference  
Aarhus, Denmark

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[mazur.harvard.edu](http://mazur.harvard.edu)



# I'm thinking about using Peer Instruction in my class:

- A. No
- B. Maybe
- C. Yes

## 2 Big Questions

## Workshop Goals

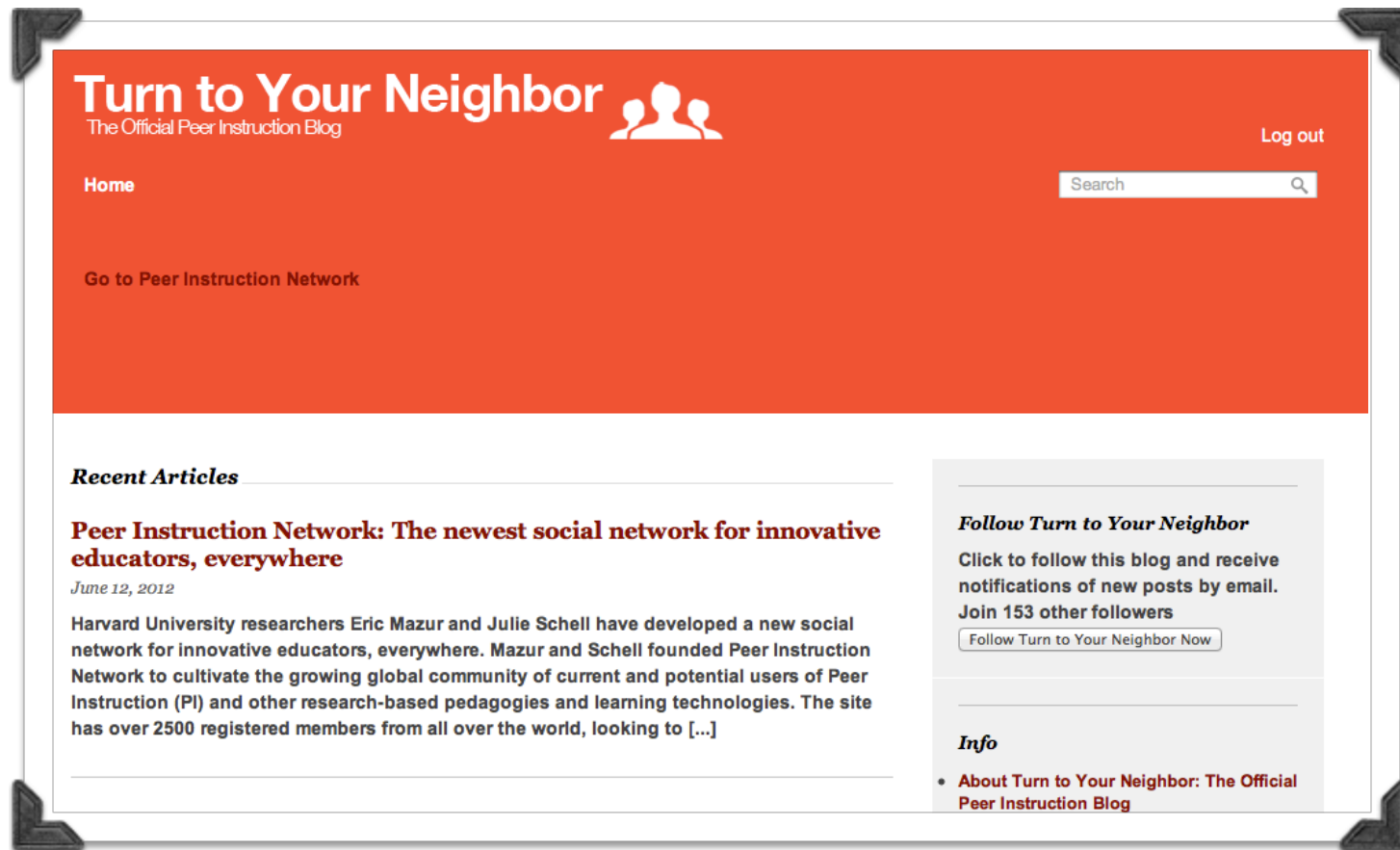
### **in this workshop you will:**

- Identify 2 Big implementation questions pertaining to clickers and Peer Instruction
- Commit to your own opinion on these questions
- Discuss your opinions with your neighbors
- Gain access to resources to read more about Peer Instruction and clicker implementation

# What is “Turn to your neighbor?”

- A. One of the 10 Commandments
- B. The catch phrase of Peer Instruction
- C. A piece of Turning Technologies software
- D. I don't know

it is also our blog...blog.peerinstruction.net



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Turn to Your Neighbor' blog. The header is orange with the title 'Turn to Your Neighbor' and the subtitle 'The Official Peer Instruction Blog'. There is a 'Log out' link in the top right and a search bar. Below the header, there is a 'Home' link and a 'Go to Peer Instruction Network' link. The main content area features a 'Recent Articles' section with a post titled 'Peer Instruction Network: The newest social network for innovative educators, everywhere' dated June 12, 2012. The post text describes a new social network developed by Harvard University researchers Eric Mazur and Julie Schell. To the right of the article, there is a 'Follow Turn to Your Neighbor' section with a button to follow the blog and receive notifications, and an 'Info' section with a link to 'About Turn to Your Neighbor: The Official Peer Instruction Blog'.

**Turn to Your Neighbor**  
The Official Peer Instruction Blog

Log out

Home

Search

Go to Peer Instruction Network

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**Recent Articles**

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**Peer Instruction Network: The newest social network for innovative educators, everywhere**  
*June 12, 2012*

Harvard University researchers Eric Mazur and Julie Schell have developed a new social network for innovative educators, everywhere. Mazur and Schell founded Peer Instruction Network to cultivate the growing global community of current and potential users of Peer Instruction (PI) and other research-based pedagogies and learning technologies. The site has over 2500 registered members from all over the world, looking to [...]

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**Follow Turn to Your Neighbor**  
Click to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.  
Join 153 other followers  
[Follow Turn to Your Neighbor Now](#)

---

**Info**

- [About Turn to Your Neighbor: The Official Peer Instruction Blog](#)

## How do we pick topics to feature on the blog?

- A. We cover topics we think are most important
- B. We use feedback from the community to tell us what is important
- C. We do search Twitter for trending #peerinstruction topics
- D. I don't know

## How do we pick topics to feature on the blog?

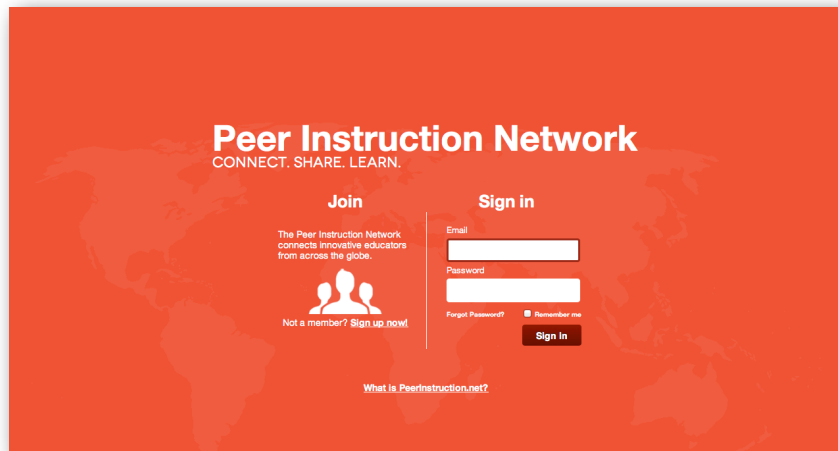
A. We cover topics we think are most important

**B. We use feedback from the community to tell us what is important**

C. We do search Twitter for trending #peerinstruction topics

D. I don't know

users submit questions  
when they sign up...



The image shows a screenshot of the Peer Instruction Network website. The page has a red background with a faint world map. The title "Peer Instruction Network" is at the top, with the tagline "CONNECT. SHARE. LEARN." below it. There are two main sections: "Join" and "Sign in". The "Join" section includes a description of the network and a link to sign up. The "Sign in" section includes input fields for email and password, a "Remember me" checkbox, and a "Sign in" button. A "Forgot Password?" link is also present.

**Peer Instruction Network**  
CONNECT. SHARE. LEARN.

**Join**

The Peer Instruction Network connects innovative educators from across the globe.

Not a member? [Sign up now!](#)

**Sign in**

Email:

Password:

[Forgot Password?](#) ☐ Remember me

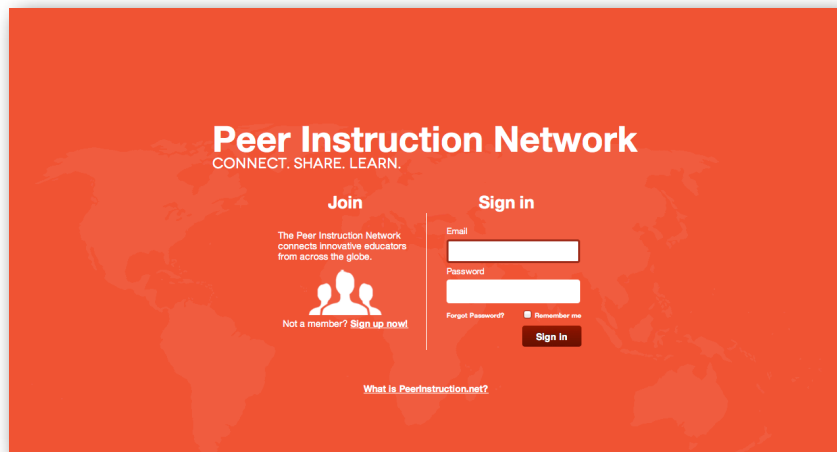
[Sign in](#)

[What is Peerinstruction.net?](#)

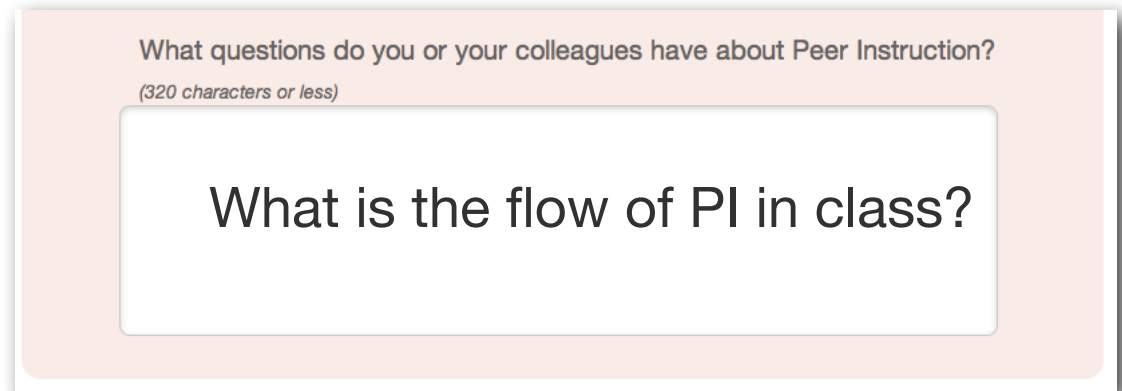


users submit questions  
when they sign up...

we analyze responses for  
most popular questions...



The image shows the Peer Instruction Network (PIN) login and sign-up page. The page has a red background with a faint world map. The header reads "Peer Instruction Network" with the tagline "CONNECT. SHARE. LEARN." below it. There are two main sections: "Join" and "Sign in". The "Join" section includes a description: "The Peer Instruction Network connects innovative educators from across the globe." and a link: "Not a member? Sign up now!". The "Sign in" section includes fields for "Email" and "Password", a "Remember me" checkbox, a "Forgot Password?" link, and a "Sign in" button. At the bottom, there is a link: "What is Peerinstruction.net?".




The image shows a question submission form. The header reads "What questions do you or your colleagues have about Peer Instruction?" with a note "(320 characters or less)". Below the header is a large text input field containing the question: "What is the flow of PI in class?".

we write a post...

# Turn to Your Neighbor




The Official Peer Instruction Blog

[Log out](#)

Home

## To vote or not to vote: Best practices in Peer Instruction

March 23, 2012 · *Best Practices, Clicker questions, ConcepTests, Flipped classroom, Graduate education, Implementation, Interactive Teaching, Just-in-Time-Teaching, Peer Instruction, Small class sizes*

 [Print Post](#) [Email](#) [Tweet](#)

### Authors

Julie Schell

Peer Instruction Network member Dr. Cassandre Alvarado's graduate classroom at the University of Texas at Austin is so quiet, you could hear a pin drop. Her 18 students are sitting around a large oval table, silently staring at the front of the classroom, but not because they are listening to her lecture. Dr. Alvarado is implementing Peer Instruction for the first time this semester. She has just posed a ConcepTest (i.e. a clicker question) and has instructed her students to "take a minute to think about this question, and when you are ready, go ahead and

### Follow Turn to Your Neighbor

Click to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.  
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### Info

- About Turn to Your Neighbor: The Official Peer Instruction Blog
- Turn to Peer Instruction Network and connect, share, and learn with innovative educators from across the globe
- Turn to Peer Instruction, Eric, and Julie on Twitter

## 2 Big Questions

### **Question I:**

**To vote or not to vote? That is the question.**

# Top viewed post on blog.peerinstruction.net

Stats for June 18, 2012, 7:49 pm

Turn to Your Neighbor: The Offic... (Dashboard)

[« Return to Stats](#)

## Top Posts for all days ending 2012-06-18 (Summarized)

[7 Days](#) | [30 Days](#) | [Quarter](#) | [Year](#) | [All time](#)

### All Time

Title	Views
<a href="#">Home page / Archives</a>	4,733
<a href="#">To vote or not to vote: Best practices in Peer Instruction</a>	1,292
<a href="#">How do I get my students to prepare before coming to a flipped class?</a>	1,260
<a href="#">How to use Peer Instruction to Flip your Classroom</a>	1,077
<a href="#">How to find ConcepTests or clicker questions</a>	546
<a href="#">How to write and evaluate effective questions: Best Practices in Peer Instruction</a>	539
<a href="#">Peer Instruction and Student Resistance to Interactive Pedagogy</a>	520
<a href="#">Peer Instruction Infographic: A Day in the Life of a Concept</a>	483
<a href="#">How do you manage time in a flipped class? Peer Instruction Basics</a>	452
<a href="#">Peer Instruction 101: What is Peer Instruction?</a>	428
<a href="#">Can you flip large classes?</a>	342
<a href="#">Peer Instruction: In Small classes? With Advanced Students? In the Social Sciences? With imperfect questions? YES!</a>	304
<a href="#">Ways to Interact with Other Peer Instruction Users</a>	259
<a href="#">Show me the histogram! Best practices in Peer Instruction</a>	254

**In Peer Instruction, should you ask the students to vote first, before asking them to turn to their neighbor?**

A. Yes




B. No

C. It doesn't really matter

D. I don't know

# In Peer Instruction, should you ask the students to vote first, before asking them to turn to their neighbor?

Is it necessary to ask students to commit to ConcepTest or clicker answers on their own first, before asking them to turn to their neighbors?

Answer	Votes	Percent	
Yes, it is important that students commit to an answer on their own first	49	89%	
No, skipping the first poll can save you a lot of time	3	5%	
It does not really matter	3	5%	

# In Peer Instruction, should you ask the students to vote first, before asking them to turn to their neighbor?

Yes, engages cognitive strategies of expert learners..

## **-Metacognition**

*-self-monitoring*

*-self-regulation*

## **-Retrieval effort**

## 2 Big Questions

### **Question 2:**

**To display or not to display? That is the question.**



we analyze the results...

<input type="checkbox"/> Poll		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I have developed my own ConcepTests or clicker questions and tried them out in my class.</b> created May 30, 2012	<b>18</b> votes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>What is the correct answer to the ConcepTest in the example box above?</b> created Apr 28, 2012	<b>21</b> votes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>My students will do their readings before coming to class without getting points for doing so.</b> created Apr 20, 2012	<b>54</b> votes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I have formally collected and analyzed my own classroom data</b> created Apr 13, 2012	<b>9</b> votes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>PI-Network member Christine from Mississippi wants to know: does Peer Instruction work for large class sizes?</b> created Mar 29, 2012	<b>42</b> votes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Question from a user: If I do a first vote, should I show students the results before asking them to turn to their neighbor?</b> created Mar 24, 2012	<b>102</b> votes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Is it necessary to ask students to commit to ConcepTest or clicker answers on their own first, before asking them to turn to their neighbors?</b> created Mar 16, 2012	<b>55</b> votes

**If I do a vote, should I show my students the results first before asking them to turn to their neighbor?**

A. Yes

B. No

C. It doesn't really matter

**If I do a vote, should I show my students the results first before asking them to turn to their neighbor?**

A. Yes

B. No

C. It doesn't really matter

**D. It depends**

# If I do a vote, should I show my students the results first before asking them to turn to their neighbor?

Question from a user: If I do a first vote, should I show students the results before asking them to turn to their neighbor?

Answer	Votes	Percent	
No	69	68%	<div></div>
Yes	31	30%	<div></div>
It doesn't matter	2	2%	<div></div>

CBE Life Sci Educ. 2010 Summer;9(2):133-40.

## Does displaying the class results affect student discussion during peer instruction?

Perez KE, Strauss EA, Downey N, Galbraith A, Jeanne R, Cooper S.

Department of Biology, University of Wisconsin at La Crosse, 54601, USA. perez.kath@uwlax.edu  
<perez.kath@uwlax.edu>

### Abstract

The use of personal response systems, or clickers, is increasingly common in college classrooms. Although clickers can increase student engagement and discussion, their benefits also can be overstated. A common practice is to ask the class a question, display the responses, allow the students to discuss the question, and then collect the responses a second time. In an introductory biology course, we asked whether showing students the class responses to a question biased their second response. Some sections of the course displayed a bar graph of the student responses and others served as a control group in which discussion occurred without seeing the most common answer chosen by the class. If students saw the bar graph, they were 30% more likely to switch from a less common to the most common response. This trend was more pronounced in true/false questions (38%) than multiple-choice questions (28%). These results suggest that observing the most common response can bias a student's second vote on a question and may be misinterpreted as an increase in performance due to student discussion alone.



**Brings Peer Instruction to You**  
in a live, online course.



**julie@peerinstruction.net**



# Turn to Your Neighbor

THE OFFICIAL PEER INSTRUCTION BLOG

*[blog.peerinstruction.net](http://blog.peerinstruction.net)*

*[scholar.seas.harvard.edu/schell](http://scholar.seas.harvard.edu/schell)*

*[@julieschell](https://twitter.com/julieschell)*