

Reflection: Using Google Forms in an educational setting

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I see Google Forms as a great tool for education... and not necessarily just in the direct hands of the students, but also as a collaborative data-collecting tool to be used for teachers and administrators.

Obviously, there are some applications for direct student use. Hardly a year goes by in my middle school where I am not accosted by dozens of kids collecting data for some survey project. It is a favorite and timeless assignment that I remember from my own childhood: Pick a topic, ask some questions, then compile the results in a statistical analysis that must include a graph of some sort. Google Forms brings this assignment into the modern age, with data collection via the web and email and statistical analysis available in a spreadsheet format. It takes an otherwise innocuous assignment and adds a “real world” application to it.

From an administrative point of view, I can envision data collecting to help steer professional development initiatives and take the pulse of the faculty on various topics. Any good educational initiative includes a component of data collecting for feedback... and Google Forms makes that data collection about as painless as it can be.