

TurningPoint

1. Introduction

TurningPoint is an audience-response system which is used extensively in instruction for 1st and 2nd year medical students at The George Washington University. TurningPoint allows a question to be displayed to students and for the instructor to poll the audience for responses. TurningPoint questions are usually in a multiple-choice or true/false format, and student responses are aggregated using any of a variety of charting and display formats.

To use TurningPoint, you will need:

1. TurningPoint clickers. Clickers are the individual devices which students use to submit their response. At GWUMC, the clickers are provided by the Dean's office to all 1st and 2nd year medical students. A small pool of clickers is available to borrow from GWU's [Center for Innovative Teaching & Learning](#). The GWU Bookstore also sells clickers if you are interested in acquiring a supply for your program.
2. TurningPoint receiver. A TurningPoint receiver is the device which collects and aggregates student responses. A TurningPoint receiver resembles a flash drive and is plugged into the USB port on the instructor's computer terminal. At GWUMC, TurningPoint receivers are permanently installed in Ross 101 and Ross 201, and the Dean's office may have additional receivers available to borrow.
3. TurningPoint software. TurningPoint software is required to create and display the interactive questions to which students respond. TurningPoint software can be downloaded for free from the [Turning Technologies website](#). TurningPoint software integrates with Microsoft PowerPoint to create interactive slides.



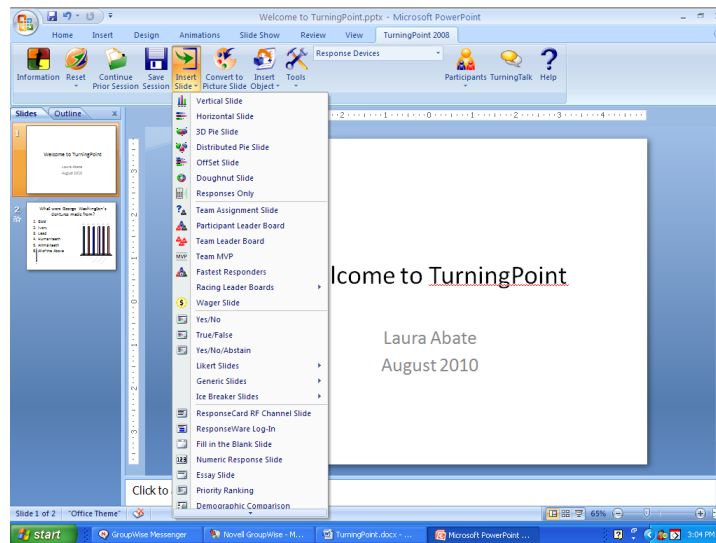
TurningPoint

2. Creating TurningPoint Slides

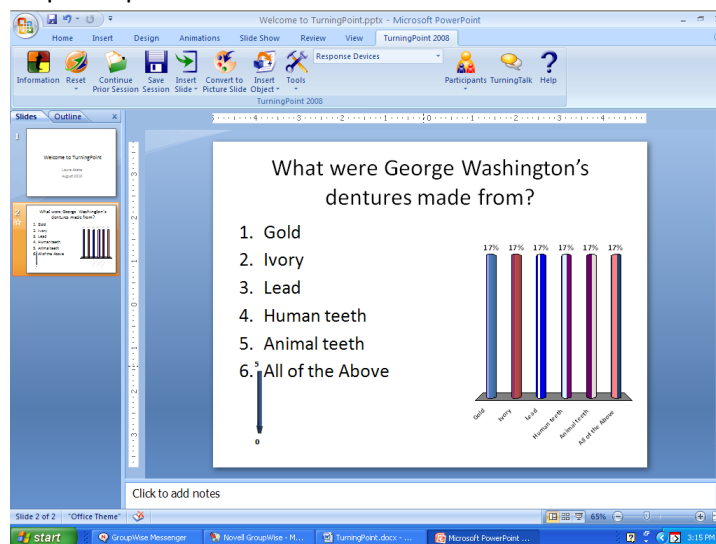
To create TurningPoint slides, you will need the TurningPoint software which integrates with Microsoft PowerPoint and which can be downloaded for free from the [Turning Technologies website](#). When you run TurningPoint, it opens PowerPoint plus the TurningPoint add-on which displays in its own menu in PowerPoint.

To create a TurningPoint slide

1. Click on the TurningPoint menu then click on the 'Insert Slide' icon and select a format. The format designates the display for the results of your TurningPoint slide. The first six menu options comprise the most popular display formats: Vertical Slide, Horizontal Slide, etc.



2. A blank slide with the selected display format will open. Click in the title area to enter your question, and then click in the main text section to enter the possible responses with one response per line.

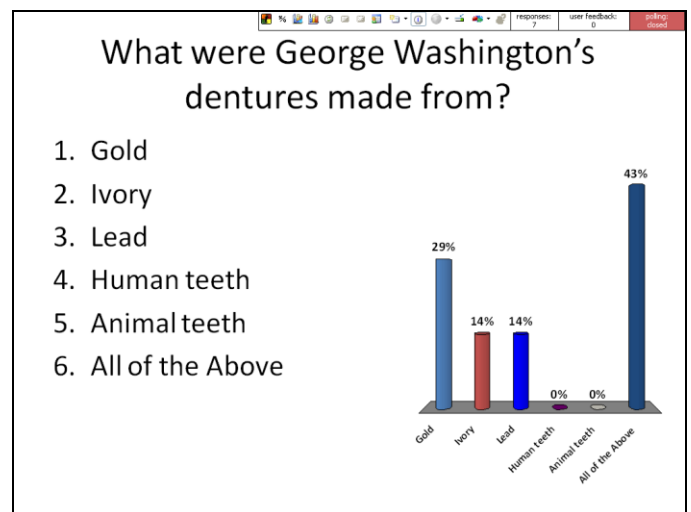
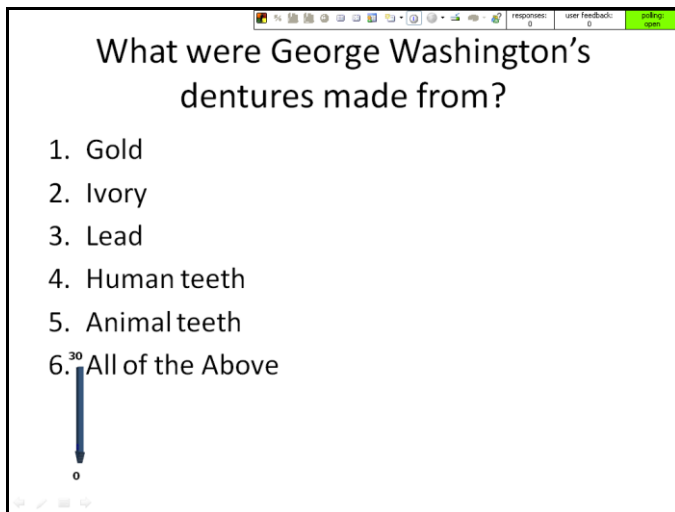


TurningPoint

3. Running your TurningPoint presentation

When you're ready to use your TurningPoint presentation in a class, you'll need to take a couple of simple steps to make it work successfully.

1. Plug the TurningPoint receiver (i.e. flash drive) into the computer where you will do your presentation. A TurningPoint receiver is already installed in the podium computers in Ross 101 and Ross 201.
2. Start the TurningPoint software and open your presentation.
3. On the TurningPoint menu, select 'Reset.' This clears all previous responses from your TurningPoint slides so that you will see only student responses submitted during this session.
4. Ensure that you have TurningPoint set to accept an adequate number of clicker responses. From the TurningPoint menu in PowerPoint, access the Tools menu then select Settings. On the Settings panel, select Response Devices and be sure that Expected Devices is at or slightly higher than the number of clickers you anticipate using in the class, then click on Done.
5. You can now run your TurningPoint just as you would run a PowerPoint presentation. When you display a TurningPoint slide, polling will automatically be open. You can track the number of responses received via the display in the upper right portion of the screen. When you are ready to close polling, simply advance to the next slide and the results of your slide will display.



6. At the close of your presentation, you may save the session in order to save student responses to the TurningPoint slides. TurningPoint provides a Reports area to review and analyze the results of your TurningPoint slides and sessions.

TurningPoint

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Do I need to learn an entirely new software program to use TurningPoint?

Answer: No. TurningPoint works as an add-on to PowerPoint. TurningPoint slides are different from PowerPoint slides in that they know to prompt users to respond with their clickers and can receive and tabulate the data from student responses.

Question: I have all my course materials in PowerPoint and don't want to recreate them. Can I use TurningPoint?

Answer: Yes. You can use an existing PowerPoint slide with TurningPoint. You'll simply use TurningPoint to add the interactive slides and can continue to use the PowerPoint functions to edit your regular slides.

Question: I don't have TurningPoint on my computer. How can I get the software installed?

Answer: If your computer is supported by CASS, you can install TurningPoint by clicking on the icon in the Novell-Delivered Applications folder on your computer desktop. If you would like to install TurningPoint on your personal computer, you may obtain a free copy of the software from the [Turning Technologies website](#).

Question: Is it possible to re-pose a question to students using TurningPoint?

Answer: Yes. If you would like to re-pose a TurningPoint slide to students, click on the icon [insert description here] on the TurningPoint menu which displays whether polling is currently open or closed. This will re-open the question and clear the responses to allow you to re-poll the class. The data from each iteration of the question will be stored in your session data so that you can see how students responded each time you used the TurningPoint question.

Question: Does TurningPoint offer additional features?

Answer: Yes. TurningPoint offers a number of features and functions which have not been covered in this basic material. One popular feature is the ability to add a count-down timer to prompt students to respond. You can learn more about TurningPoint on the Turning Technologies website which offers a full range of [product guides and manuals](#), [online tutorials](#), and [case studies](#).