

## What is Packback Questions?

- Packback is a Q&A learning platform powered by A.I. to improve critical thinking and support curiosity in college students.
- Guides students how to ask questions. Encourage students to post links, videos, etc. to support questions/answers.
- Integration is single sign-on only and gradebook sync is on the roadmap for early Spring 2018. (TBD)

Packback Questions is an online question and answer discussion platform that specializes in the management of open -ended, student-led class -content discussion that has the look and feel of social media.

The goal of Packback Questions is to increase student confidence, curiosity, and higher order of learning. This platform not only provides an online forum space for students, but it also provides both instructors and students with an effective experience in managing participation assessment.

## To Set up Packback Questions in your Course

To set up the link in your course choose one of the options listed. You can create the Packback link in 2 different ways that will incorporate the tool in your course.

- By using the + sign at the top left side of your course where “Tool” Links can be made. Make sure it is not the landing page for the course or it will take you to the outside link and not your course home.
- Under the Tools tab inside of a content area select more tools and in the second column you will see the Packback option.
- Instructor accounts are free and you will need to do a one time set up for your account.

**\*Fee Associated with Packpack:** There is an \$25 fee for access and participate in each course community. The fee is per course per semester/quarter. For example, if you have only one class using Packback this semester, you only have to pay once for the entire semester. If you have two classes using Packback this semester, the \$25 fee is paid twice

\*\*\*If you take the same class for two different semesters and they both use Packback, you would have to pay the \$25 fee twice.

## How can Instructors use Packback Questions in the classroom?

Packback Questions is meant to increase student participation and engagement through a student's natural curiosity. Specifically, Packback Questions can be used to:

1. **build classroom community.** By using Packback, students are provided opportunities to interact with one another between class sessions as they relate their 3 experiences to classroom content. In doing so, they begin the process of audience analysis needed in most communication classes. Packback also provides the opportunity for classes to interact with one another
2. **foster critical thinking.** Using Bloom's Taxonomy, Packback provides several guidelines for posing and answering questions that move beyond course content. Packback provides moderators that will monitor student contributions and provide instruction on how to pose insightful questions and responses. They will remove knowledge level questions, anything too class specific, or duplicate answers, and provide coaching to prompt critical thinking.
3. **manage assessment of student engagement.** While instructor s can provide discussion prompts as well as student feedback, Packback will work instructor s to determine the grade percentage awarded to participation and provide the m with weekly reports and class room analytics. These reports reveal hot topics, top students, and top questions in the community, which can then be used to foster in-class discussions.
4. **maximize instructional time.** Because insightful discussion of course concepts takes place between class, instructors can highlight and reinforce the conversations in class. Packback offers several suggestions to help move the discussion into class. Instructors then can use the remaining class time to reinforce the content through experiential activities.
5. **allow reticent students to contribute to the discussion.** Although it is important to provide students the opportunity to articulate and defend ideas in class, some students are reticent to communicate orally in a classroom environment. Packback affords these students opportunities to demonstrate engagement with the course content and lend their voice to the conversation.

Packback Questions is driven by student curiosity, which is demonstrated through student participation and engagement. To assess student participation, students must have an outlet to express their curiosity. Packback Questions does so by providing a platform for students to engage in effective participation, both in and out of the classroom.