

Although Turning Point™ interacts well with Microsoft Powerpoint™, we found that Powerpoint files provided by our publisher did have some problems. Curran used PowerPoint files provided by the publisher of “Essential Biology with Physiology” (Campbell, *et al.*, 2004) and had some trouble with the TurningPoint software integrating with the publishers’ PowerPoint files. She found that she needed to view the slide master and remove all of the preset animations from the slide using custom animation. If this was done on the first slide of each PowerPoint file, TurningPoint software worked properly. Other technical difficulties occurred because Crossgrove uses a Macintosh (Apple, Cupertino, CA) computer. At the time the study was initiated there was no Macintosh (Mac) version of TurningPoint, so Crossgrove wrote her PowerPoint on her Mac and then added the TurningPoint slides on a PC. TurningPoint for Mac was released in January 2007. For basic slides, the Mac version functions similarly to the PC version, but it is missing some features of the PC version, including features needed for the ‘Jeopardy’ game that we use (see Appendix B of supplemental material).

Several technical difficulties were encountered by the students in using the TurningPoint system. One was the short lifespan of batteries in the clickers, despite the supplier’s claims that the batteries would last one year. We hypothesized that the buttons of the clickers were getting pressed in students’ purses and backpacks, so the bookstore purchased clicker holders (similar to a CD cover) for spring 2006. This seems to have solved the problem. We have also noticed each semester that 1-2% of clickers fail to transmit the identity of the student to the receiver.

Campbell, N. A., Reece, J. B. and Simon, E. J. (2004) Essential biology with physiology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. San Francisco: Pearson Education/Benjamin Cummings.