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Polls to the rescue?

Ack! How can I tell whether my students understand concepts and examples during online classes when I can't look over shoulders at their notepads and can see only a handful of faces? Polls can help – and somehow many people are unaware of this functionality that exists in many video conferencing platforms.

I'll also briefly muse on the silver lining that many faculty are - for the first time - exploring approaches and ideas for classes beyond the traditional lecture and test format.