Communication Systems in Baseball

At any moment during a Major League Baseball game, you will see players, coaches and umpires communicating with one another. Communication systems can be as simple as hand gestures between player and coach. More complex systems of telephones, cameras, and radar are used to facilitate communication between players and coaches. These systems are also used to collect data to improve player performance.

Devin Pickett - Click image to play video
Pickett uses technology to analyze player performance. How does his role as Baseball Information Coordinator for MLB rely on communication systems?

Devin Pickett uses video to analyze player performance. In the war room, MLB's Statcast shows all the data collected from video and radar from within each stadium. With easy access via the Internet, Pickett can watch video of any play, of any game since 2015. This powerful tool allows him to analyze player statistics such as pitch speed and player running velocity. By watching video, he can inform coaches of how a player reacts to a ball, or how successful a specific pitch is against certain players. Pickett compares this data with what scouts collect from the stands and communicate their findings to the coaching staff. Coaches use this information to make decisions on the best players for a game or to draft for the season.

Checking the Lineup

Coaches receive data from baseball coordinators and scouts to build the best lineups for each game. How are these data communicated to the coaches and players?

Communication is Key
Communication of data to coaches and players helps them to improve their play. Currently games are recorded, then watched later to critique player performance and technique. But can you get this information to a player faster?

Design a communication system that would allow coaches to provide feedback to players in real time, instead of waiting until after the game. What are the benefits of having instant communication with players? What are the drawbacks?

Scale / Criteria	2	1	0
Describing a Communication System	I have described with detail a communication system that allows coaches and players to communicate in real time.	I have described in general a communication system that allows coaches and players to communicate in real time.	I have not described a communication system that allows coaches and players to communicate in real time.
Pros and Cons	I have thoroughly considered and presented the benefits and drawbacks of having this new communication system.	I have presented either a benefit or a drawback of the new communication system, but not both.	I have not presented either a benefit or a drawback of the new communication system.