



Revel improves results*

Spotlight on: Revel Sociology

Revel *Introduction to Sociology* by Macionis

Pearson interviewed instructors across the United States in spring 2020 to understand how they're using and experiencing Revel *Introduction to Sociology* by Macionis. Through this work, we found that Revel Sociology delivers an engaging learning experience while developing the necessary skills and knowledge to be successful in class.

Engaging students through a dynamic reading experience

Wes Abercrombie, professor at Midlands Technical College in South Carolina, believes that the variety of resources available in Revel engage a broad range of students. It is flexible enough to cater to their differing needs, all while aligning to what students are reading and what is being addressed in class. Wes explains:

"Revel is highly adaptable to a broad scope of different types of students. It is very useful because it allows them to go to trustworthy sources, besides my own prepared materials, that augment what students are attempting to learn or struggling to understand. It's been an asset to me"

"It's structured in such a way that it encourages them to go back and read because if I am asking questions about something they haven't read yet, it prompts them to go back and read."

Increasing comprehension

We can tell students are engaging with the material and are comprehending what they are reading, as evidenced in their work. Wes says:

"I can tell when students are reading Revel because they will bring up what they read in discussions and the articles from Revel are being integrated into assignment or term papers. [As a result], I know they are reading it, understanding it, and applying it correctly."

A professor at a 4-year school in Arizona finds the resources within Revel "really help students comprehend the materials."

This professor also believes that Revel's easy to use, online teaching resources are a main benefit for instructors.

Preparing students for class and generating thoughtful discussions

Wes Abercrombie notices how Revel gives students a solid foundation to help them come to class with good questions, enabling them to fully participate in class and online discussions.

“It does help them be more prepared for class. Even if it doesn’t explain something, it gives them a foundation to ask a question so they can communicate what they are not understanding.”

A professor at a 2-year school in Pennsylvania feels the embedded assignments in Revel are beneficial for both instructors and students, “where students are ‘forced’ to read and engage with the text...and that engagement with the text makes them more prepared for class.”

Wes Abercrombie feels the discussion prompts and the variety of resources in Revel help students with the varying approaches to social sciences. He believes that Revel also helps students grasp the standards of what thoughtful responses are in sociology. This prepares students to come to class ready to discuss concepts.

“Macionis’ approaches things differently and Revel illustrates this perfectly. There’s more than one way to interpret what a social phenomena is, what is going on and how it affects people differently, and that opens them up for discussion in class. There is no right or wrong answer, just an informed response and the Revel videos stress that and so do the discussion questions.”

“What I like about Revel, and Pearson in general, is that they give us instructors so many resources. I would rather have too much to pick and choose from rather than just having one thing and that’s it.”

Top tips for using Revel Sociology

Wes Abercrombie encourages his students to familiarize themselves with chapter outlines because:

“it gives them a skeleton for what they’re supposed to be learning from page to page in the textbook and that prioritizes it for them. That has been a very useful tool that all the students use. The amount of information on Revel reflects the priority in those outlines so it helps them schedule their study time as well.”

Wes recommends taking advantage of Pearson’s “howto” PDF that helps circumvent common issues students and teachers may come across when initially starting a program like Revel. He also says reaching out to Pearson representatives can be “a god-send.”

Another professor finds the ease of access and appeal of the Revel app to be the main benefit for students; this instructor suggests encouraging its full utilization. Further, they recommend notifying students that Revel will read itself to you via the Audio feature.

Several instructors suggest integrating Revel into the institution’s learning management system (LMS), as it is easier for students to access. Wes says:

“that way students aren’t having to learn two different ways of doing the same thing. They are already familiar with their LMS and that is going to help them a great deal.”

Learn more about Revel Sociology & Efficacy at Pearson

Learn more about how Revel Sociology could benefit your course by visiting: pearsonhighered.com/revel/educators/browse-products/disciplines/sociology.html

The Efficacy & Learning team uses the science of learning to ensure Pearson products help learners achieve better outcomes. * To see how Revel improves results, read our audited, peer reviewed correlational research, which spans multiple Revel titles: pearson.com/news-and-research/efficacy.html

