



Revel improves results*

Spotlight on: Revel History

Pearson interviewed instructors across the United States in fall 2020 to understand how they're using and experiencing Revel History. Through this work, we found that Revel History empowers students to actively participate in learning.

Improved student performance

David Toye, full-time professor at Northeast State Community College in Tennessee, finds that when his students use Revel, they perform better both in class and overall in the course, as compared to those who don't take advantage of its learning resources.

"I see that students who are engaged with Revel and reading the textbook are doing very well in my course. The ones who do not read generally get a C or worse. The ones who are doing the reading come to class and are more likely to speak up and do well on class activities."

Kevin Brady, full-time professor at Tidewater Community College in Virginia, agrees, seeing how Revel's resources help students get consistently higher average course grades, as well as increases retention.

"I am seeing student success in my class. Very few students fail my course. They are consistently pulling As and Bs and I think the videos are really helping them as they don't discourage them. They don't overwhelm them. They are one of the best features of Revel. It keeps me going back to Revel to say I am not going to change anything about this."

David Kiracofe, full-time professor at a 2-year school in the southeast, believes the students' engagement with Revel translates to improved performance, especially when compared to how he previously administered assessments.

"Overall, Revel really helps keep students engaged, so their performance improves. They do get more points on the end-of-chapter quizzes than I might have normally expected students to get on a test. When we're in a standard class where I gave paper and pencil quizzes, they ran towards a B- average. With Revel, they are pushing towards an A-. I think it's because the embedded quizzes help keep them focused and help reinforce comprehension. That improves their confidence and improves their mood."

Interactive resources that engage students

Kevin Brady finds value in the variety of resources in Revel because they keep students engaged in the material, therefore strengthening their knowledge of historical concepts.

“The [interactives] keep them engaged. Once they finish a video they get to see the quizzes, the primary document, activities and more videos. It is kind of building upon what they can see next. It’s like entertainment for them.”

David Toye also appreciates the videos and how they keep students coming back to Revel, saying:

“I like the brief videos and I think the students, especially this generation of students, think anything visual or graphic is much more engaging than just purely text.”

High quality content and authoritative authors

Kevin Brady appreciates the author’s style and ability to write a textbook that resonates with students of all levels, not just those desiring to be history majors. The author’s ability to entice students to delve deeper into history is one of the main reasons he continues to utilize Revel.

“I love H.W. Brands. He is a phenomenal storyteller. He definitely has charisma, a real knack for this. He is not only a great speaker, but he is also a great writer. He is so concise, with a bullet-point type style, so the information is not overwhelming for students. He writes in such a way that he’s not dumbing it down for anybody, but he’s not keeping it at such a level that only a history major would understand it. Students walk away from the chapters

knowing the main themes. During our class meetings I will ask students what they did not understand, if there were any issues, and I don’t see that much from students [since implementing Revel]. It is not like I used to see when I used other textbooks where students were so confused about the material. This textbook works so much better.”

He also finds the content of the textbook develops critical thinking skills. The enriching content has a positive influence on students, both in their academic careers and lives in general.

“The textbook does a phenomenal job of having that touchpoint of showing students that history is multiple shades of gray. There isn’t just one answer. It does pull them to the next level of critical thinking skills that doesn’t just help you in history, but it is a life skill that will help them throughout their careers and lives moving forward.”

David Toye finds value in the resources Revel offers. He uses them to develop questions for his quizzes as the content is in align with what he wants his students to take away understanding from the class, saying:

“I reference materials like the primary sources built into Revel and use those as I develop my own essay questions.”

A tool that supports instructors

Revel is so well aligned with David Kiracofe’s course requirements, he has made all of his assessments come from Revel, which made the program an integral part of the course design. He finds designing the course around Revel easy.

“Customizing the textbook and being able to pull stuff out of it is really helpful. It is very intuitive to be able to go in there with that flexibility within Revel to customize. It is easy to do. It is easy clicking.”

David Toye also appreciates the flexibility within Revel, as it allows him to customize the material from the textbook to meet his needs and the particular needs of his classes.

“With Revel, you are able to rearrange the material to suit your teaching style and class structure. It is a great way to complement your class activities and course lessons because you can create your class first and build the textbook around it.”

One of the main highlights for Kevin Brady is the wide variety of resources available in Revel. They allow him to tailor his course, pulling from one program instead of taking extra time each semester to search for complementary resources.

“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 History

Kevin Brady finds lectures have become more gratifying after the decision to move the Revel quizzes due before lectures. He believes that structure increases class engagement and demonstrates if students are comprehending the material.

“Previously lectures weren’t very rewarding. There were very few questions and very little interaction. Moving the Revel quizzes to before our class meetings has increased involvement from the students. I can tell they have understood the material.”

Kevin also suggests weighing Revel highly at around 40% as it encourages students to interact with the material.

“When I first started Revel, 20% of the course grade came from it, but I was having so many students just not even look at it, so I decided to increase it to 40%. Participation within Revel increased after that.”

David Toye has been very impressed with the flexibility and ease of customizing Revel. He rearranges and edits it to work for his teaching style and course structure.

“My advice to history instructors is to take advantage of being able to build the textbook around your course.”

David Kiracofe has taken advantage of the journal prompts and he has been pleased with the results, saying:

“The journal prompts are used for discussions and my students are now looking at history as being relevant. It is very much how you yourself engage with it. It gets students thinking about their perspective and a historical person while making that bridge from the past to the present. That really resonates with them. I wasn’t going to use the journal prompts but I was trying to engage my students in some class discussion, so I decided to give students those prompts and let them run with it. It has really, really paid off.”

Learn more about Revel History & Efficacy at Pearson

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

“Change is good. Change with the times. Don’t feel overwhelmed, pivot. Revel offers you enough resources, activities, and assignments so you do have the option to pivot. It pays off with student success.”

– *Kevin Brady*

