



# Revel improves results\*

## Spotlight on: Revel Political Science

Pearson interviewed instructors across the United States in early fall 2020 to understand how they're using and experiencing Revel Political Science. Through this work, we found that the high-quality, relevant content in Revel Political Science helps students succeed.

### **Current & relatable content that applies to students' everyday lives**

David Dr. Rich Haesly, full-time professor at California State University Long Beach, finds real value in Revel's Current Events Bulletins because they highlight important events. The Bulletins also strongly resonate with the students and establish high-quality writing prompts that engage students and encourage informed discussion.

"The Current Events Bulletins...are ripped from the headlines. [They are] ideas that become really great sources for writing prompts. This is stuff [students] need to know, not just to do well in the course, but they are important ideas to think about."

Kyrie Kowalik, full-time professor at a 4-year school in New Hampshire, utilizes the Politics In Plain Sight Videos to highlight to students how politics plays a role in their lives.

"I like to use the [Politics] In Plain Sight videos to show how politics affects student's everyday life. I think those help illuminate to students that politics does impact their lives on a daily basis."

David Raymond, full-time professor at Northern Maine Community College, believes the textbook author and intro videos in Revel help students see the application of political science in their lives.

"[The author] is good when it comes to bringing in the real-world connection in his textbook, especially in the intro videos that connect concepts for the students so they can see Political Science does have a relevancy for them."

Terri Evans, part-time professor at a 2-year college in British Columbia, Canada, says even her students are pleasantly surprised with the currency of the textbook.

“Students tell me they are seeing stuff in the textbook they don’t expect to see because it is updated so frequently. It is the most current a textbook could possibly get.”

## Helping students succeed

Terri Evans finds students who take advantage of Revel quizzes perform better when compared to those who don’t utilize Revel.

“For the students that do not do well on their exam or need some improvement, the first thing I do is go into Revel and see if they are even using the system. I found for those students that are not using Revel to do some testing along the way, compared to those that do, there is a grade difference there.”

“The students that did take up work in Revel, it helped them. It helped them prepare for their final exam and their learning improved.”

In addition, Terri finds for those students that engage with Revel perform at a more consistent level.

“Students that were active in Revel had more consistent marks on their exams than those students that were not engaging with the system.”

Kyrie Kowalik believes the variety of resources available in Revel is very useful as a study guide before the final exam, which helps students be successful in her course and prepared for future courses as well.

“I have noticed students tend to do better on the final exam when they have the Revel resources to review. It makes it a lot easier for students to review the material for final exams.”

“Revel helps them engage. It is another layer and the more times you touch something the easier it is to remember. It’s more likely that not only are they going to pass the class doing their work in Revel, but they’ll retain it in the future as well.”

Since utilizing Revel in her courses, Dr. Elizabeth Williams, adjunct professor at Santa Fe College in Florida, has seen her students move up a full letter grade. She is so confident Revel will help her students succeed in her course that she emphasizes the importance of its use in her syllabus and especially during the first few classes.

“Students that do their work in Revel do better on exams and subsequently in the course. I tell my students in the first few classes that this has been proven over the past four or five years to increase a course grade between half a letter to a full letter grade.”

“The sooner and more seriously students take the Revel materials, the better their grades will be and reflect their active learning.”

– *Kevin Brady*

## Monitoring student engagement & performance

Dr. Elizabeth Williams monitors student engagement and performance to intervene with struggling students.

“The student performance data I receive (on individual students, their grade trend, and time spent on task) allow me to tailor much earlier intervention with struggling students. I meet with them earlier in the term, well before poor performance on much more heavily weighed exams. It is a sort of preventive academic counselling, and very active listening on my part.”

In addition, Dr. Williams sees value in using course performance data to inform teaching, saying:

“This data gives me very early real time indications of what is unclear, confusing, or hard to understand so I can modify my class discussion to improve learning on the topic.”

Kyrie Kowalik appreciates that she is able to see the frequency in which students are engaging with the course material through Revel.

“I really like the access in Revel and seeing if students are doing their reading. It tells me if they are engaging. I can tell how many hours they are in the textbooks. That is information I don't get otherwise, so that's really great. That is my favorite part of Revel, the information I have on my students and that I know what they are doing.”

Dr. Rich Haesly finds Revel helps him have a better understanding of individual student engagement. When students approach him after performing poor on an exam, he can review their use of Revel, what resources they utilize and how long they spend within the system. He uses it as a tool to encourage them to develop ways to successful study for exams.

“I monitor students on Revel and for those students that did not do well on their first exam, it is not a surprise they didn't even open their chapter. I am able to talk to them and tell them Revel is a viable solution to help. I have found it really useful to guide them back to the reading. It helps reinforce what they might be struggling with and develop study habits.”



## Top tips for using Revel Political Science

Dr. Elizabeth Williams utilizes Revel to benefit both high achieving and struggling students.

“If a student is still struggling in the D or very low C range before the final exam, I ask for a B+ student volunteer to individually tutor and work with the struggling student on Revel and exam preparation. In exchange, if they BOTH take it seriously (I see time spent on Revel) and the D student shows improvement, I excuse the B+ student from the final exam. This is a huge reward good students treasure, as final exam week is stressful.”

David Raymond uses Revel’s Big Question as a study guide and writing prompts for students.

“I use the Big Question that I would then convert into a writing question. They also know there would be some multiple-choice questions on the exam related to that. So, I use those questions like a study guide for my students. I would then build my exam questions off them.”

Terri Evans appreciates that when students get an incorrect answer Revel automatically takes them back to the appropriate section to review material. Because she thinks this is instrumental in their success, she gives them multiple attempts to get the correct answer.

“I give them two to three opportunities to get 100% and I think there’s a benefit in repetition. We learn more from making mistakes than we do sometimes from doing things well. Revel encourages them to try again and then puts them in the right section for the right answers before moving on to the next set of reading.”

James Masterson, full-time professor at Morehead State University in Kentucky, believes incentivizing work in Revel motivates students to read, which means they are better prepared to perform successfully on their exams.

“I decided to build Revel into the grade because I really wanted to encourage students to do the quizzes. I believe the quizzes help students before they take their test. I also believe it is a way to ensure that students are reading the material.”

Terri Evan agrees, weighing Revel at 10-15% of the final grade. She finds another added benefit is that it helps dissuade end of the semester cramming. “I give them 10-15% of their final course mark from Revel for completing their section quizzes so they are rewarded for reading and they are earning some marks along the way. I like having marks distributed across the semester as this helps student not have all their marks be returned at the end of the term crunch.”

## Learn more about Revel Political Science & Efficacy at Pearson

Learn more about how Revel Political Science could benefit your course by visiting: [pearsonhighered.com/revel/educators/browse-products/disciplines/politicalscience.html](https://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/educators/browse-products/disciplines/politicalscience.html)

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