

# Revel improves results\*

## Spotlight on: Revel Psychology

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

### Connecting Psychology to everyday life

Kathleen Hughes, full-time professor at Pasco Hernando State College in Florida, believes Revel is a valuable tool that helps students understand their own everyday lives. The content is designed to connect psychology to real-life, explain why psychology matters, and how to apply it to life.

"One of the priorities I have is helping students to understand themselves, their role as students, how to do better, and how to be a better student.

I think giving them Revel, a tool that helps support that, helps their everyday life of just being a student.

It's not just with the text, it is being able to read something and then see a video and interact [with the content]; to practice, and all of a sudden, they are not just words in a book. It is just a different kind of experience.

The more you interact and the more the content you're interacting with, [it] is designed to help connect to your life. [This] is how Revel is written and created. Students are making more of a connection. They see how it matters and applies to their life. It resonates with them."

Lisa Bohon, full-time professor at California State University Sacramento in California, likes how the text and embedded videos within Revel include real-world examples.

Not only that, the journal writing poses applicable questions and the personality inventories help students learn more about themselves.

“Revel poses questions that are more applied in nature, where students can think about how those things apply to themselves. I have really enjoyed the personality inventories. I have learned so much about myself. Students can go online and look to see what they scored on the inventories and find more information about the results.”

## **Quality, up-to-date content**

Sarah Gaither, full-time professor at Duke University in North Carolina, appreciates Revel's current content and how well it helps students make connections to the real world.

“I think the video examples of seeing the studies (seeing people again, who look diverse, who look like them), help [students] connect with those study outcomes in their real-world very easily.

“I think the way Revel is written in comparison to some of the other social psychology textbooks is that they use lots of modern-day examples, like connecting it to celebrities. So events which are good practice for students to consider & how these certain terms or theories actually are experienced in the real world...I know Revel has a lot more recent reenactments of studies and they are seeing a more diverse representation of students and faculty.”

Garth Neufeld, full-time professor at Cascadia College in Washington, finds the way the book is laid out resonates with students, saying:

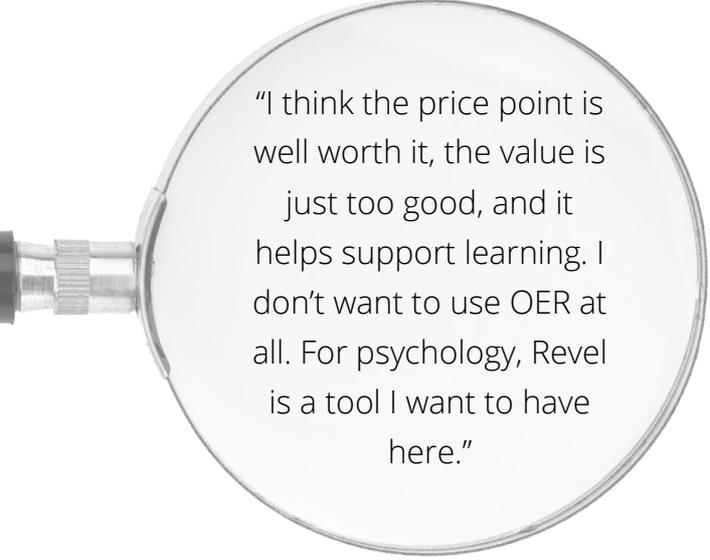
“I think the way the book is written and the way it is presented is extremely applied and relevant to my students' lives.”

In addition, Garth appreciates the specific textbook he uses in his General Psychology course as he thinks “it does a great job of being current.”

Lisa Bohon utilizes several Revel texts in her psychology courses and appreciates the comprehensiveness and quality of them all.

“The quality of the text is exceptional. The authors are respected researchers in their fields and the content is excellent.”

Dr. Bernadette O’Leary, adjunct professor at Santa Monica College in California, and Kathleen Hughes both believe Revel has ideal resources for psychology courses, especially when compared to OER. Kathleen says:



“I think the price point is well worth it, the value is just too good, and it helps support learning. I don’t want to use OER at all. For psychology, Revel is a tool I want to have here.”

Garth Neufeld agrees, saying:

“I think OER is somewhat problematic in many ways...I think it is an inferior product.”

Kathleen Hughes appreciates the learning science behind Revel. Kathleen believes the way Revel is designed and the variety of tools available help students engage with the content and excel in the course.

“Revel is the kind of product that has been designed to help support student learning by people that study how faculty teach and students learn...I want to encourage people to use it more. It is a way to help students get content in a totally different way,

You now have this tool that gets you to interact with the content. You can click on a video; you can click on a word you don’t understand and learn more about it. You can teach yourself while you are reading. You have assessments at different points that are there to engage students in content and help them to do better, help them to learn.”

## Developing critical thinking skills

Lisa Bohon finds that Revel enhances her students' abilities to think critically.

"The writing and personality inventories develop critical thinking. I have taken essay questions from the Pearson test bank as a starting point and have students write about the topics and respond to someone else. In doing that, that's part of critical thinking, your ability to take something abstract and then thinking about something in the real world that applies to you."

Garth Neufeld stresses the importance of critical thinking in his General Psychology course, as it is a core outcome. He finds Revel is paramount in developing their critical thinking skills, saying:

"Revel gives them a foundation for understanding content and it is their first exposure they are going to have to think critically about Psychology. Getting exposure to content in different ways, which Revel does in an excellent way, sets the table for critical thinking."

Tammy Mahan, full-time professor at College of the Canyons in California, believes the questions in Revel reinforce thinking critically. Tammy says:

"Many of the questions in Revel are geared toward things that actually have to be applied, it's not just about memorizing content. They are applying content to real-life situations."



## Improving performance through increased comprehension and retention

Dr. Bernadette O'Leary sees students performing better in their homework, exams, and overall grades due to the support Revel offers with comprehension and retention.

"I've noticed an increase, a wonderful increase, in student performance and not only course grades, but points that they earn from each chapter. [Students are] more attuned, they're comprehending more, they're remembering more. I notice that in the point values, as they're doing the homework and then also as they are preparing for the exams. So, I do think that a companion site like Revel can actually help students comprehend as well as retain more information"

Lisa Bohon finds the regular testing throughout Revel has led to increased performance in her courses.

"Revel gives them feedback, but even without feedback, the consistent testing improves performance, even when you're talking about slightly different material. So why would that be? Well, it just gets you to think about stuff early and often.

Garth Neufeld is certain his students are comprehending concepts due to the opportunity for retrieval practice, saying:

"I feel very confident students are retaining information from Revel. It is the main reason I am using Revel, because learning research shows practice retrieval after you've read something puts it into memory."

## Top tips for using Revel Psychology

Kathleen Hughes recommends attributing a substantial portion of the total course grade from Revel because it is a great incentive for students to do their work. **“With 15-20% of the total course grade coming from Revel there is enough incentive for [students] to complete the work because it is a difference between a letter grade.”**

Sarah Gaither agrees, saying making Revel count towards the final grade is beneficial for her and students. She has found that when there are points attributed to Revel quizzes, students read more. **“My main goal was to get students to read more... and using the integrated chapter quiz at the end of each chapter assignment has been a really nice way for me to incorporate that as a participation grade that forces students to at least half read.”**

Tammy Mahan finds weighing Revel heavily helps those students that don't perform well on exams, saying **“I think weighing Revel at 30-40%, considering how much work there is to be done, is really helpful. It helps the student that is not the best test taker to show they are dedicated to the class.”**

Lisa Bohon emphasizes the importance of taking advantage of the Learning Management System (LMS) integration capabilities, **“I love that Revel articulates within our LMS. It is syncing the grades and that's fabulous and brilliant, it really reduces my workload.”**

Dr. Bernadette O'Leary agrees, saying, **“If I could give the highest praise to anything, I would say, please take advantage of the integration with the LMS. It will really save you a lot of time.”**

Garth Neufeld sees the benefits for his students as well, **“It's nice for student access, that they don't have to login anywhere else, they get everything through our LMS. They purchase through our LMS, and that's pretty cool.”**

## Learn more about Revel Psychology & Efficacy at Pearson

Learn more about how Revel Psychology could benefit your course by visiting:

<https://www.pearsonhighered.com/revel/educators/browse-products/disciplines/psychology.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: <https://www.pearson.com/news-and-research/efficacy.html>