Author conversations

On creating interactive learning experiences

Mary Anne Poatsy
Montgomery County Community College

The ability to reach students, and now, especially with the technology where students can have all the content on their phones, and wherever they are — it just, I think, allows them to fit learning in at their convenience.

Tech in Action was created with the intent and the vision of incorporating videos and multimedia right in the text, right where students could use them. And so, because the technology hadn't caught up to that vision, we were really forced to just put little margin notes, like — click here, you know, go off and do your video here — which probably students never did.

So now that Tech in Action is in Revel where they can literally read and there's the video and they click right on, and it's not an inconvenience for students. Really it's not an extra effort for them to click on that. That, I think, will really help their learning process.

Moreover, we're really cognizant of the fact that students learn in different ways. And so being able to interact with the textbook visually, and auditorily, and manually, I think will also reinforce their learning. So that technology is really important for the students. How we've written to it — really we haven't adjusted our writing too much. I mean, we didn't have to create videos for it because that's always been part of our spiel, so to speak.