

# 17 Catherine Medrano

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[MUSIC PLAYING] CATHERINE MEDRANO: My name is Catherine Medrano, and I'm a sociology professor at College of the Sequoias. And I use Sociology-- A Down to Earth Approach by Jim Henslin.

Being a professor means that I get to help my students unlock the information that's already inside of them. One of the biggest challenges that I faced was just trying to get my students to read the material. That led to challenges in terms of just having active participation and engagement in the class.

My students had very low exam scores. So when I was lecturing in class, I felt like I had to cover everything, including what they were supposed to have read. I felt like well, maybe it's my fault.

So I tried to do things to help them. I curved their exam scores. I gave them study guides. And even after all those aides, they were still failing my class.

At that point, I just knew I had to try something different. After I implemented Revel, my student's exam scores went from a 67% to an 83%, which was just incredible. And I was so proud of them.

And in a sense, it was kind of my fault. If there is technology, if there is something out there that I can do to help them be more successful, then I think it's my job to do it. My students really expect that everything is going to be available electronically, whether that's instant access to grades, uploading their essay assignments, or even reading materials.

Revel really allows the content to come to life. When students are reading, not only are they reading, but they're also engaging with the material. My students really like the mobile app. They really enjoy listening to the audio. With all the interactives and the quizzes, it just really allows them to delve a little bit deeper.

I really like the assessments at the end, that really just asks the students to really reflect on what it is that they've read. They can become active learners with Revel. And research shows that active learning, that is where the learning happens. They're able to retain the information better and become better students.

Revel features videos so students can watch. And especially, what I really like is that they're so current. Revel also features interactives that I really like with charts and graphs. So they're not just looking at static numbers, they're able to click on things. In a sense, entertaining them, but really making it fun to learn. And I think that's a great benefit.

Now that I use Revel in my classroom, my students come to class prepared. They ask questions. They're able to really reflect on their own personal experiences. We're able to have more in-depth analytical conversations. Their performance in class, their exam scores, they're participation, everything has just increased.

I love that I am challenging my students. And that I'm reworking things as I go. I don't have a TA so Revel is my TA. Revel helps me with grading and really helps to support me in the classroom. And that's what I really like about Revel is that it makes me a better teacher.