McGraw Hill Education connect®

Digital Success Stories

Connect with SmartBook®

INSTRUCTOR:
Liz McLean,
St. Lawrence College, ON

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE:

Liz McLean is a Full Time Instructor at St. Lawrence College Cornwall Campus. She has taught at St. Lawrence College for the past 11 years in the following programs: Business and Arts & Science. She is a passionate and effective instructor, facilitator, and trainer. Liz McLean is a graduate of the MBA program at Dalhousie University and the Bachelor of Computer Science Degree at the University of New Brunswick.

COURSE NAME:

Organizational Behaviour

COURSE TYPE:

Hybrid

ANNUAL COURSE ENROLMENT:

50

TEXT IN USE:

Canadian Organizational Behaviour, McShane, Ninth Edition

DATE:

November 2015

To learn more about
Connect + SmartBook contact us at:
• iSupport@mheducation.com
• 1-866-270-5118

PRIOR EXPERIENCE

Describe the points of frustration you faced before selecting Connect with SmartBook.

❝   Main points of frustration included:
• Students not handing in homework,
• Students coming to class unprepared, as well as,
• The amount of time spent grading assignments.

What were the main reasons you selected Connect with SmartBook?

❝   I am not sure if I selected this technology or it selected me. My first introduction to Connect was when it became part of a textbook offering that I was already using for an Introduction to Human Resources course in the Fall of 2010. I was intrigued by the idea of technology that would allow me to create, and my students to complete, assignments online.

Compared to other learning technology that you've used, what do you like most about Connect with SmartBook? Please explain why.

❝   I was very disappointed with other publisher's software; it was not user friendly and my students did not like it at all. That was my only attempt at using technology before I began using Connect in 2010. What I like most about SmartBook is that it engages students to read the text prior to coming to class which allows for a much higher level of discussion about the topic during class time. Also, a much higher percentage of students actually do the Connect homework assignments.

EXPERIENCE USING Connect with SmartBook

What McGraw-Hill Education learning technology are you using in your course? How long have you used it?

❝   Currently using McShane 9e with SmartBook and Connect for the first time in a new hybrid course Fall 2015, although I have been using them all for a couple of years now in another OB course that I teach.

Describe how you are currently using Connect with SmartBook in your course, and what percentage of your course grades do you assign?

❝   SmartBook as an assignment that must be completed before the class where we will begin discussing that particular chapter. It assesses a student's area of strength and weakness and will continue generating questions until the student has mastered the material. Students may immediately link back to the segment in the text where they are having trouble. Students will complete 15 SmartBook assignments this semester weighted as 15% of their final grade.

After a chapter has been completed, students are then assigned a SmartBook assignment to be completed after the class that will reinforce and assess the learning that took place. Students will complete 15 assignments this semester which are also weighted as 15% of their final grade.

What benefits have you seen from requiring Connect with SmartBook rather than making it recommended or optional?

" It has becoming increasingly clear that even though students do not always complete assignments that are worth marks, they virtually never complete anything asked of them that has no grade value attached. Making this technology recommended or optional would unfortunately result in a handful of keen students using it, with the students needing it the most not using it at all. By making it worth a significant component of their grade, students actually do the work which most definitely helps them in learning the material and preparing for tests.

How easy or hard was it to implement Connect with SmartBook in your course? Please describe what process you took to get started, including leveraging McGraw-Hill Education's support.

" Implementing this technology was extremely easy. There is an excellent user interface that makes it very easy to navigate the system. The students also find it very easy to use. McGraw-Hill Education's support is absolutely incredible, on those rare occasions, when I need it.

How is Connect with SmartBook different than other learning technology that you've used?

" The other technology I tried was several years ago and related to a different type of course. I remember at the time having a lot of trouble learning the system, as well as having significant technical difficulties, which is certainly not the case with this technology.

OUTCOMES & RESULTS

What changes are you seeing in student outcomes as a result of requiring the Connect with SmartBook in your course?

" Every semester there is a direct correlation between the test scores and students who complete their online SmartBook assignments. On average, the students who are successfully completing the SmartBook assignments are obtaining higher test scores than those who are not.

What data have you tracked or collected to show how effective Connect with SmartBook has been for you?

" Our Dean talks to faculty and students regularly and hears directly from the students that they enjoy using the technology and see it as a very useful learning tool. He is constantly boasting about McGraw-Hill's Connect with SmartBook to instructors as he feels we need to be moving more towards the use of more technology in the delivery of our courses and that we are a shining example on our campus.

How has using Connect with SmartBook changed the way you teach your course?

" Since adopting this technology, I spend far less time teaching the basic concepts in class and more time discussing and applying them. The automated grading function allows me to give a higher number of assignments for students to complete that contributes positively to higher outcomes.

What are your students telling you about Connect with SmartBook?

" Last year, I taught a course that only used Connect to a group of students that had taken a course from me the previous semester that had both Connect and SmartBook. I was very surprised to hear how much they voiced their disappointment that there would not able to use the SmartBook assignments for their course. I think that speaks volumes in terms of what students are finding. They see this online work not as a burden, but as something they quite enjoy and as something that is adding value to their learning experience.

BEST PRACTICES & TIPS

What advice would you suggest to your colleagues or instructors who are incorporating Connect with SmartBook in their courses for the first time?

" My main advice would be to talk to someone at their campus or at another college who has already been using the technology. It is very helpful to have someone who has been through the learning curve and already has developed a list of what works well and what to avoid. Also, anyone who is a bit timid the first time can start small and expand their usage as they become more comfortable with the technology.

What is the single biggest reason you would recommend Connect with SmartBook?

" My main reason for recommending this technology is that it really is an effective learning tool. It places more responsibility for learning in the hands of the students who seem to welcome the challenge.

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INSTITUTION PROFILE:

For nearly 50 years, **St. Lawrence College** has been a vital part of the communities in Eastern Ontario with campuses in Brockville, Cornwall, and Kingston. St. Lawrence College provides a variety of post-secondary programs and services to support the success of students while contributing to local and international economies. It serves a diverse population of 6,700 full-time students from across Canada, representing over 40 countries worldwide, and offers over 85 full-time academic programs to meet the needs of contemporary learners and has over 20,000 continuing education students and 1000 staff.