



Melissa Erskine

Professor of English and German at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas

Challenges

- Traditional textbook solutions don't provide students with immediate feedback.
- Students can be self-conscious of speaking a foreign language in front of their class and need a way to overcome that fear.

Solutions

- iLrn for Introductory German

Results

- Instant homework feedback in iLrn provides immediate feedback potentially correcting mistakes before they develop into habits.
- Video assignments within iLrn allow students to hear themselves speaking the language and alleviate their apprehension before sharing with the class.
- Students are engaged and motivated to use a solution that allows them anytime/anywhere access.



Success Story

iLrn makes course materials come alive in Melissa Erskine's Intro to German course

Melissa Erskine is a Professor of English and German at Blinn College in Brenham, Texas. She uses iLrn in conjunction with the *Vorsprung* textbook for her Intro to German course. Melissa teaches all levels of German in addition to her intro course.

iLrn assignments help students pace themselves

The homework activities in iLrn are an important part of Melissa's course. "Students complete the workbook and lab assignments as part of their grade. Students also take the self-tests as a part of their completion grade to ensure they are monitoring themselves," said Melissa. The value of iLrn homework goes beyond students getting credit. Melissa believes that the immediate feedback students receive after completing their homework is extremely helpful to their progress in class. "An important benefit is my students can get instant feedback [from iLrn assignments]. They know right away if they got something wrong instead of waiting for a lag time," said Melissa. The instant feedback helps Melissa's students understand where their strengths and weaknesses are in the course.

iLrn's interactivity helps engage students

Melissa has seen high levels of student engagement with iLrn. "The students seem to enjoy iLrn because it's more interactive to them," said Melissa. She has also found the interactive aspects of iLrn help students overcome their fears of learning a foreign language. "I created a video assignment [in iLrn] for my [students] that asks them introduce themselves and tell everyone what their hobbies are....They like it because they can hear themselves and recite the language. I think it helps break down those barriers of fear of speaking out in a foreign language because they can hear themselves...and practice in a different way," said Melissa. iLrn also helps engage Melissa's students by engaging different learning styles.

iLrn motivates students to learn

Melissa has found iLrn to be extremely valuable in helping her teach Intro to German. Since adopting iLrn, she has noticed a difference in how students interact



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with their course materials. “I think iLrn makes students like their textbook a lot more...as well as make [the textbook] come alive,” said Melissa. iLrn’s instant feedback helps Melissa motivate her students to practice. “When I have students do textbook activities in class they ask if they can bring their laptops so they can check their work before we go over it. They want to know that they got it right immediately....even though it’s only a 2 minute wait,” said Melissa. Melissa’s students also like that they can access the homework and activities on their own time. Overall, Melissa is pleased with the difference she has seen in student engagement since using iLrn.



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