



Carly Stacey

Student,
Texas Christian University

Challenges

- Freshman forced to adjust to unfamiliar and less structured college environment in which personal responsibility is a necessity.
- Students often required to use technology they say is not helpful in comprehending classroom material.

Solution

- MindTap for Criminal Justice

Results

- Students regard MindTap as a high-quality learning technology that improves the quality of their work.
- MindTap prompts deeper concept comprehension and results in improved academic performance.



Student Success Story

Future Attorney Credits MindTap for Time Management Skills and Better Grade in Criminal Justice

Texas Christian University freshman Carly Stacey is a California native and is experiencing for the first time what it's like to be on her own. "No one tells you what to do," she quickly learned. "You have to be an adult and make your own structure, show up for classes, and take responsibility for getting your work done."

Adjusting to life as an independent person can be especially difficult, students say, when professors force them to use technology that produces few if any academic benefits. "Sometimes they just assign a lot of busy work and the technology doesn't really help," she said.

Carly suggests that if students had a digital course companion that really worked, they'd have more time to focus on adjusting to college life and excelling in and out of the classroom.

MindTap Helps Reduce the Pressure New College Students Experience

After graduating from TCU, Carly plans to attend law school and become an attorney. It's a goal she believes will now be easier to achieve with Cengage Learning's MindTap tool, a digital learning solution that helps students become critical thinkers by customizing learning experiences, providing real time mobile access, and the ability to track individual student performance with helping her better manage time and prepare more thoroughly for exams.

Unlike other ineffective educational technologies she has used, Carly says MindTap provides her with the courage required to stick her neck out when reaching for academic greatness. Specifically, she cites the pre-test assessments that gauge her understanding without harming her actual grade.

"It doesn't penalize you for a poor initial performance," she said. "When I'm not pressured to do something I actually enjoy it more, get more out of it, and it's so much better than just cramming or memorizing to get through the test."

MindTap Stimulates Out-of-the-box Ideas and Results in Improved Test Results

Carly was so sure MindTap was providing her an edge other technologies were not she put the platform to a test, literally! For one exam, Carly prepared only with her lecture notes and traditional textbook. For another, she used MindTap and its online textbook search function which, after typing in a keyword, automatically highlights each and every reference to the search term included in the text.



“I’d
recommend
MindTap
because
it helps
students
develop
valuable
critical
thinking
skills.”

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The results of Carly’s test?

“I used MindTap to prepare for the first test and got an A,” Carly revealed. “For the second test I didn’t use MindTap and got a C.”

Carly now relies on MindTap to prepare for exams and says the tool provides detail and context even rich classroom lectures do not. “Yes, it has really helped me a lot and saved me time by giving me study guides and options I otherwise would’ve had to make myself or go without.”

MindTap Improves Critical Thinking Skills and Results in Higher Quality Student Work

As a future attorney, Carly understands she’ll be required to think deeply about complex topics if she is to be successful. While she has good relationships with top-notch professors, she credits MindTap with providing her the analytical skills she believes will be necessary to be a star in the courtroom.

“I’m really thinking outside the box now,” Carly said. “Even when the professors do not assign all of the material available in MindTap on a given topic, I explore them on my own because it really helps with my critical thinking skills.”

Besides better test grades, Carly suggests professors can see MindTap’s fingerprints on the rest of her course work. “I’d recommend MindTap to other students,” she said. “It’s a nice way to quickly access in-depth information that helps focus students’ attention and study habits on what’s most important.”



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