

Improving Student Interaction with Screencasts and Simulations

J. Will Medlin

Chemical and Biological Engineering

²Mechanical Engineering

University of Colorado Boulder

National Science Foundation

Engineering Excellence Fund

Shell

*John Falconer, Garret Nicodemus,
Katherine McDanel, Jeff Knutsen²*

How is a screencast better than a live lecture?

Students watch on their schedule (24/7)

Students control pace: start/stop/replay

Just-in-time use

Short, modular

Students like them

Increase student confidence

How are screencasts worse than presenting in class?

“Students can’t ask questions”

“Instructor can’t see if students are getting it”

“Students will not attend class”

Students learn by practice and feedback, NOT by someone telling them what to learn

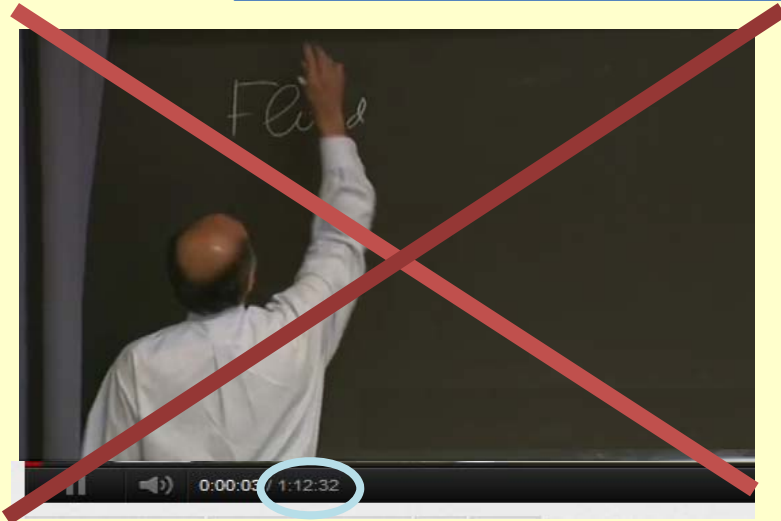
Survey 440 students about screencasts

95%: useful or very useful

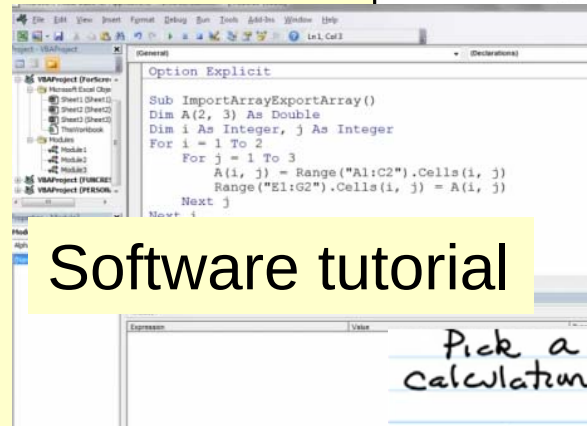
85%: better than textbook at improving understanding

92%: felt more confident about material

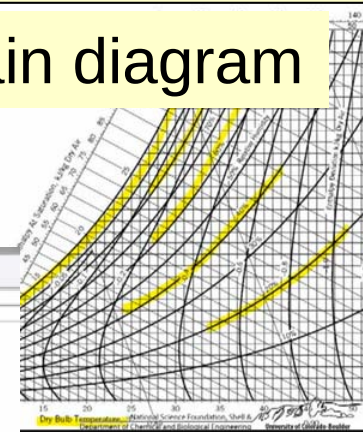
What is a screencast?



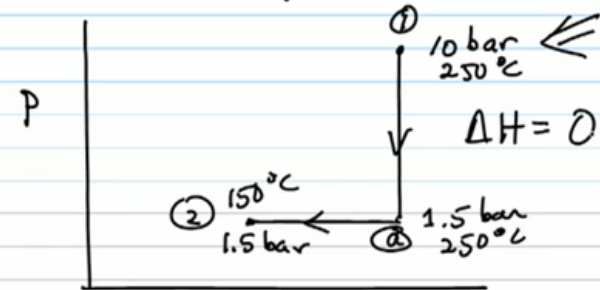
Explain diagram



Software tutorial

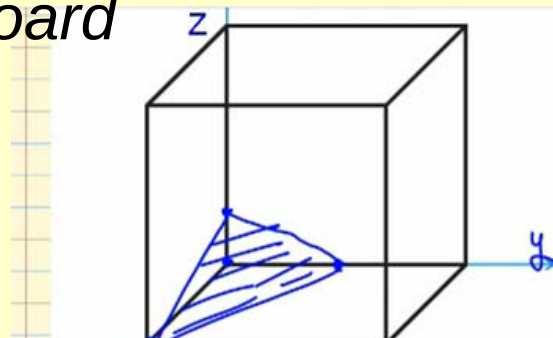


Pick a pathway to make the calculation easy



Example problem

Video of person & board
50 minutes +
Multiple topics



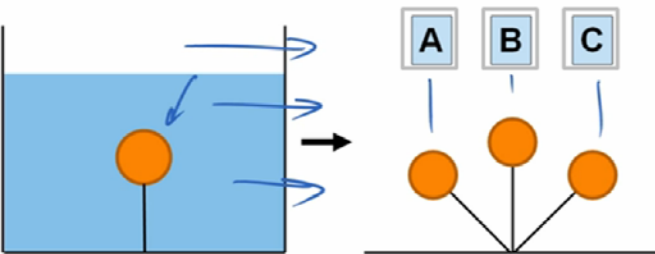
Introduce topic

Tablet PC screen capture; 3 -10 minutes
One topic; Camtasia

What is an interactive screencast?

Question

An object is tethered to the bottom of a tank of water and floats as shown below. When the tank is accelerated to the right, what will be the new position of the object?



Choose the correct answer

National Science Foundation, Shell, CQ-ESP & Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering University of Colorado Boulder

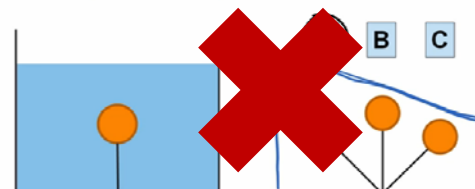
Choice A

Choice B

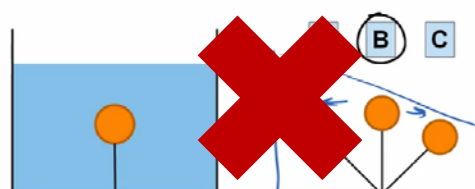
Choice C

Video Responses

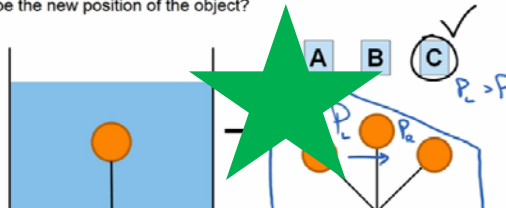
An object is tethered to the bottom of a tank of water and floats as shown below. When the tank is accelerated to the right, what will be the new position of the object?



An object is tethered to the bottom of a tank of water and floats as shown below. When the tank is accelerated to the right, what will be the new position of the object?



An object is tethered to the bottom of a tank of water and floats as shown below. When the tank is accelerated to the right, what will be the new position of the object?



Why screencasts?

Not top to bottom, able to use color and sequence in time

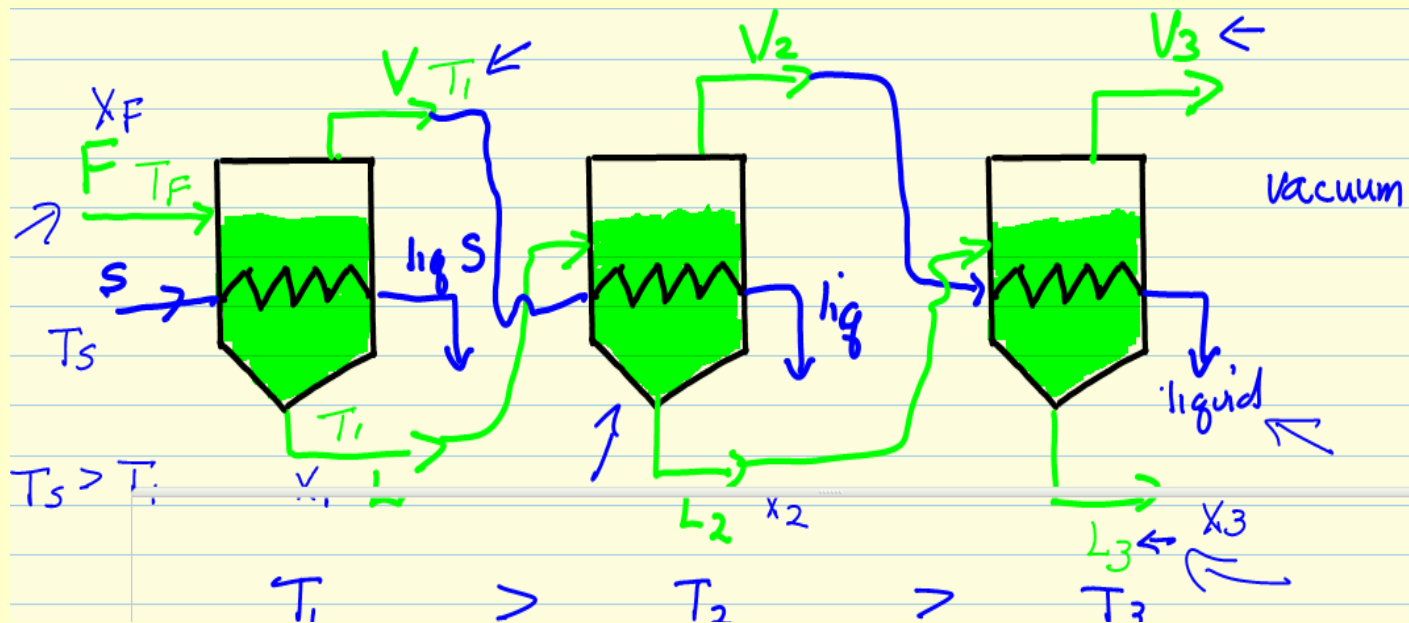
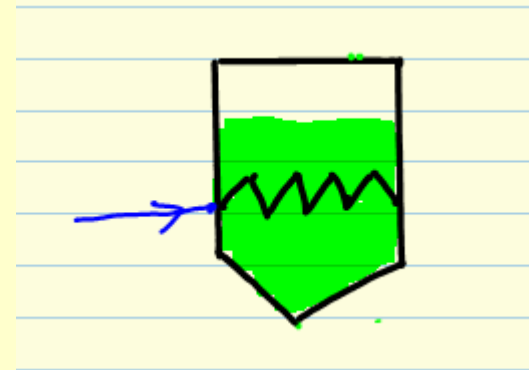
Freezing point depression

$$\ln x_w = \frac{\Delta H_f (T_s - T_f)}{R T_f^2}$$

Diagram illustrating the equation for freezing point depression:

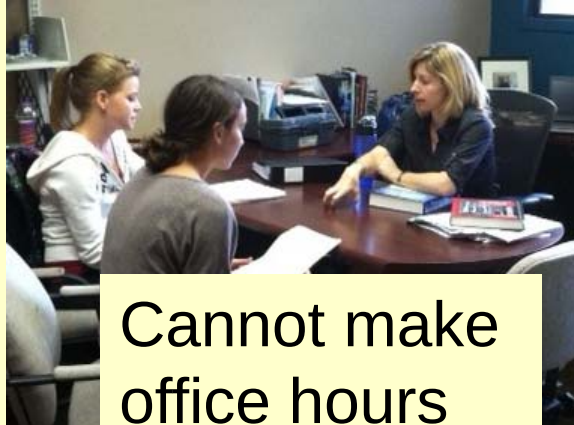
- ΔH_f : heat of fusion of pure water
- T_s : freezing point of water with solute
- T_f : freezing point of pure water
- R : gas constant
- x_w : mole fraction of water

Why screencasts?
minimize cognitive overload



Diagrams and verbal explanation at same time enhance
learning [Clark & Mayer, 2011]

How to use screencasts

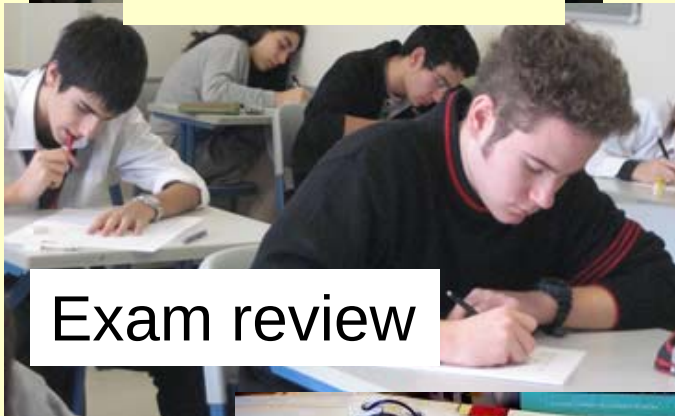


Cannot make
office hours



Help solve HW

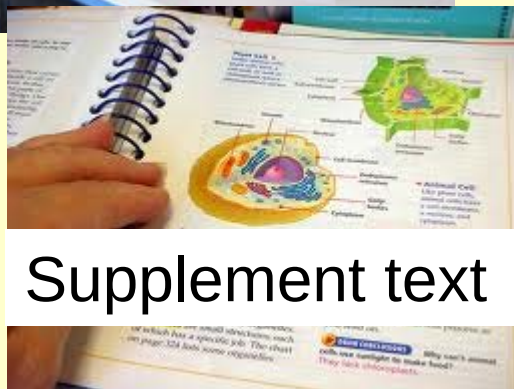
View before class



Exam review



Students lack
pre-requisites



Supplement text



Online
course?

Student who are hesitant to ask

Interactive Simulations

Q SEARCH

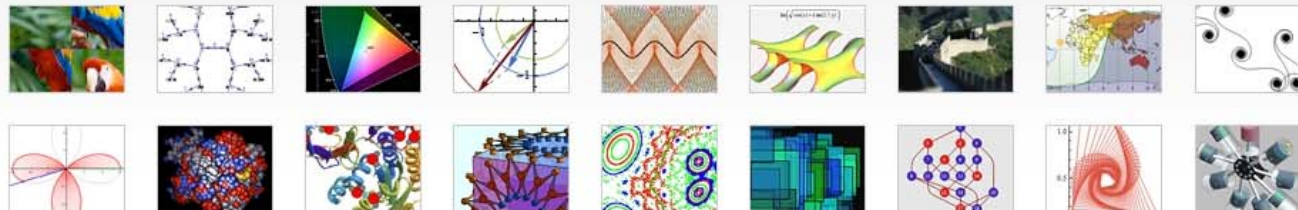
EXPLORE LATEST ABOUT

PARTICIPATE AUTHORIZING AREA



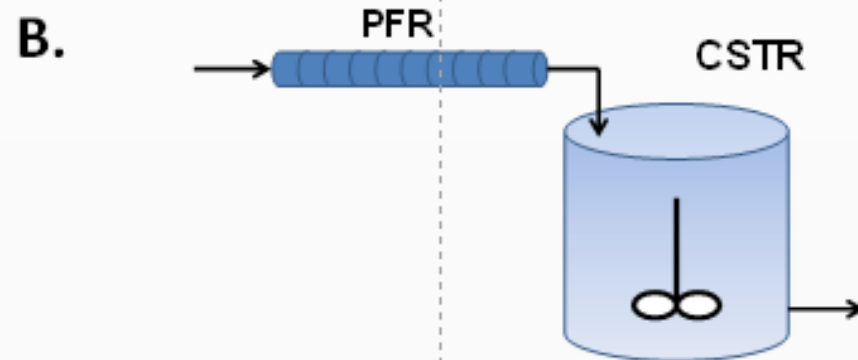
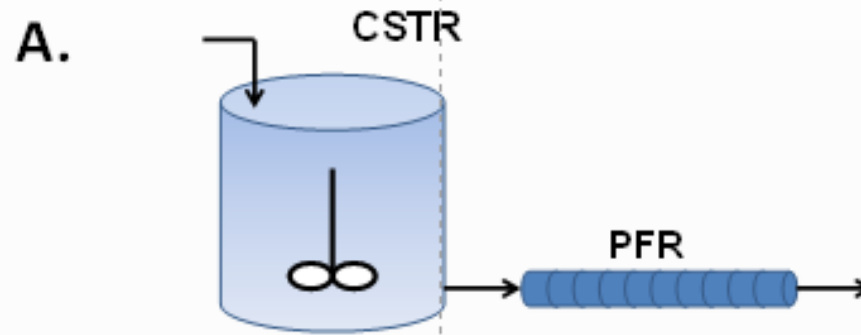
FEATURED DEMONSTRATIONS

[View latest »](#)



Potential Application

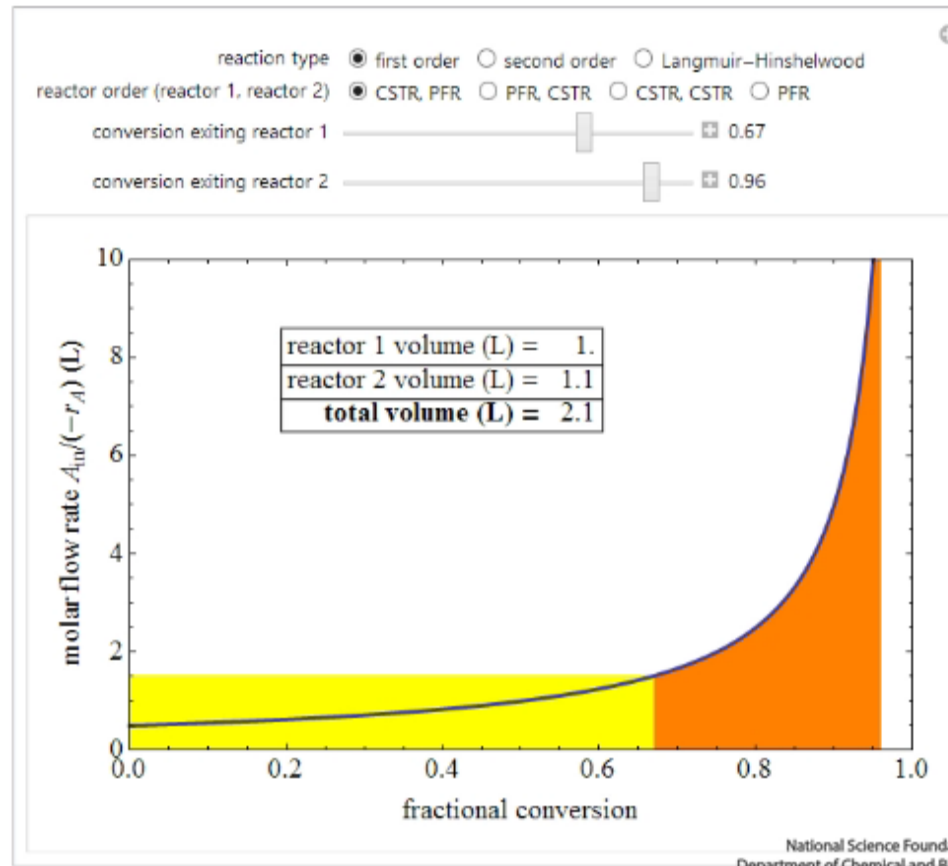
Which system has higher conversion for a 2nd-order isothermal reaction?



C. Same for both

Interactive Simulations

Minimized Volume for Reactors in Series



How to use simulations

- In-class demonstration
 - System for conceptual question (ConcepTest)
 - Peer discussion
 - Problem solution
- Generate HW/exam problems
- Pre-class preparation for students
- Textbook supplement
- HW help

What's available?

9560 simulations

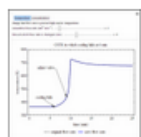


Wolfram Demonstrations Project™

9558 Interactive Demonstrations
Powered by CDF Technology»

- 425 Chemical Engineering
- 266 Mechanical Engineering
- 205 Electrical Engineering
- 36 Civil Engineering
- 40+ by LearnChemE

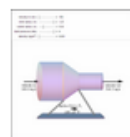
Simulations by LearnChemE



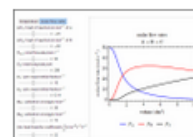
[Continuous Stirred-Tank Reactor That Loses Cooling](#)



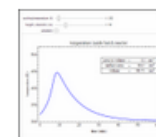
[Evaporative Crystallization With Recycle](#)



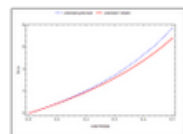
[Linear Momentum Balance in Aerodynamic Thrust](#)



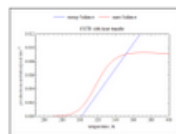
[Sensitivity of a PFR to Model Parameters](#)



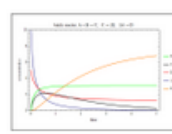
[Scale-Up of a Batch Reactor](#)



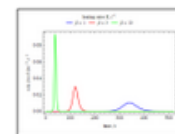
[Batch Reactors at Constant Volume or Constant Pressure](#)



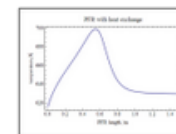
[Multiple States in an Isothermal Continuous Stirred-Tank Reactor](#)



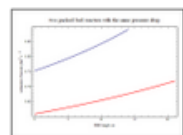
[Batch Reactor with Multiple Reactions](#)



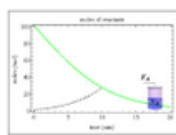
[Temperature Programmed Desorption](#)



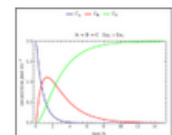
[Parametric Sensitivity of PFR with Heat Exchange](#)



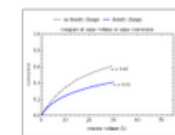
[Pressure Drop in a PBR using Ergun](#)



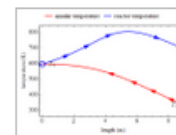
[Selectivity in a Semibatch Reactor](#)



[Series Reactions in a Batch Reactor](#)



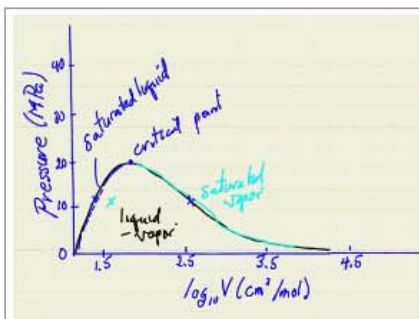
[Ignoring Density Change in a PFR](#)



[Autothermal Reactor](#)



www.LearnChemE.com



Screencasts

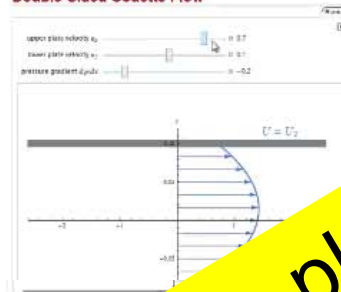
Screencasts are short screen captures, usually of a tablet PC, with instructor narration. They are solutions to problems, explanations of concepts, software tutorials, introduction to topics, descriptions of physical material. Screencasts supplement textbooks, classes, and office hours and allow students to learn at their own pace.

Examples of popular screencasts include:

- [How to use Psychrometric \(Humidity\) Charts](#) (Material and Energy Balances)
- [Stress-Strain Diagrams](#) (Material Science)

[Interactive screencasts](#) present a multiple choice question and an answer within the video. The video response guides the user to the correct answer. For more information, see our [interactive screencasts](#).

Double-Sided Couette Flow

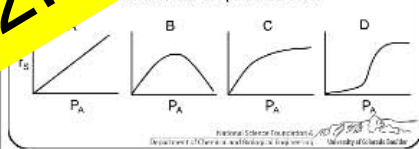


Interactive Simulations

Wolfram Mathematica (Wolfram Demonstrations) are available for a number of chemical engineering topics. These simulations are used to determine how system behavior changes when variables are changed using sliders. They can be accessed using free Wolfram based browser plug-ins or using the free [Wolfram CDF](#) (Computable Document Format) to be loaded offline; a Mathematica software license is not required. For more information on these simulations and their use, go to [Wolfram Demonstrations](#).

These simulations are copyrighted © 2013 Wolfram Demonstrations Project & Contributors. For more information on the Wolfram Demonstrations Project [Terms of Use](#) for more details.

For the following sequence of reactions, which requires a vacant site. Using the Arrhenius equation, which is the most likely reaction rate vs. pressure of A?



Instructor Resources

ConceptTests challenge students with qualitative questions that are not answered by memorization. Used in tandem with peer instruction, ConceptTests can dramatically improve functional understanding while allowing instructors to gauge students understanding immediately and tailor their instruction accordingly.

Course packages provide digital OneNote based resources containing class notes, ConceptTests, reading assignments, screencast recommendations, homework problems and exam questions.

Instructors: [Check out the resources](#) to request access our 1300+ ConceptTest inventory or course packages.

>2.1 million plays/downloads in last 12 months