



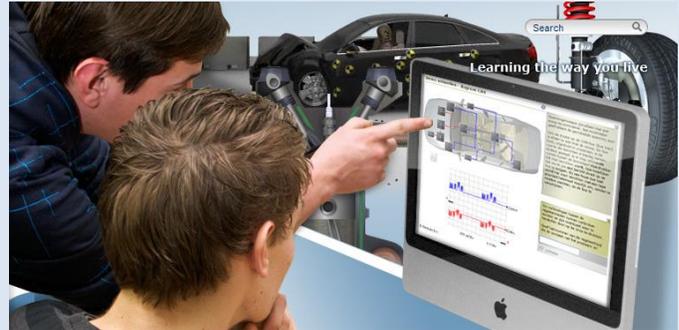
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Customer

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Electude course modules

By: Bryan MacDonald, Transportation Technology Teacher

I was introduced to this software program as a demonstration at the Waterloo Skills Competition. The program was intriguing to me and it looked like something I would like to introduce into my classroom environment.

I am a Transportation Technology teacher and I was curious about what the program could do in terms of encompassing the new style of learning; computer based. I find that today's students learn in a very different way than they did in the past, before the world of computer technology at our finger tips. The introduction of the computer has changed the landscape of research and provides answers of inquiry through an immediate search of google. Today's questions are often followed with "google it" instead of the traditional "research it" or "read a book" for that matter.

I like to run my Transportation class with some mandatory theory, I have a designated day to provide a theory based platform of teaching. In the past this

class time was more lecture based, using PowerPoints and videos to describe how on board diagnostics works or how to read a Vernier caliper. After the introduction of the Electude online course I find that the interaction of the modules that are provided far outweigh the old "talking head" syndrome. It is trackable and you can see the response of each student's answers as they are responding to them. It is interactive and each module has them measuring with the tool instead of looking at pictures. It allows the use of the equipment and tools in a virtual atmosphere and then the students can physically use the tool or piece of equipment with better confidence and understanding, potentially lowering the cost of broken equipment. It allows you to be able to see which students are grasping the information and which ones are not.

The program is extremely user friendly and I can even run the program through my cell phone, which is a benefit when you are away because you can monitor their progress at any given time. I have now built

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this software course into my Transportation program due to its flexibility, ease of use and excellent student feedback. At first I was not sure how well it would be received by the students but now they are all happy with it and enjoy it as a style of learning that they are more used to. The program allows such a flexible user ability from the teachers perspective; I can input modules for different levels of students from advanced to novice, meet the expectations of IEP's, and provide an atmosphere that will adapt to multilevel grade courses. Basically I can set it up for each student to learn a different task, something that would be impossible to provide in my classroom setting

I cannot recommend the benefits of this program enough. It is a virtual tool that I would incorporate and rely on to the same .

extent as a textbook in a science class. Electude has recently added a virtual diagnostic program that has me very excited. It is a fully detailed diagnostic platform that allows the user to diagnose a vehicle without the worry of costly mistakes. It provides a practice platform and introduces the new technologies that are being implemented into our automotive world. It is a fantastic way for the students to become familiar with the direction in which our automotive repair world is going, computer based diagnostics. In conclusion this course platform is something that I would consider an asset to the program and I will continue to use it in my classroom setting.

