

**ADDING INTERACTIVE COMPONENTS
TO A WEB-BASED CHEMISTRY COURSE**

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ABSTRACT

Online courses can provide students with a course unique to their own needs. To realize this potential, the course must be designed to accommodate branching points where individual students can expand or streamline instruction. The technique utilized to create these branching points in our web based freshman chemistry course is called a flash quiz.

The experiment involves presenting students with a series of instructional units. Units containing flash quizzes are experimental sections and units containing no flash quizzes serve as a control. End of unit quizzes serve as a measuring stick for students to base their understanding of the material in the unit. The students are then questioned by email, about feelings of readiness for quizzes, overall confidence in understanding the material, and overall impressions of the unit. Student responses are recorded from interviews and results interpreted by cataloguing common responses. We present the initial data collected from our experiment.