

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

An Analysis of Today's Challenges in Education

Texas Career Education Conference
July 2009

Presenter: Jill Cardwell, *Today's Class*, Director of Client Relations

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

“How do we connect with students who have seen more innovation than any other generation?”

Because multiple factors negatively affect academic success, a solution can seem near impossible.

However, examining each factor reveals what is required in the solution. Let's look at the challenges first...

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

I. Challenges in Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

Challenge #1: Engaging Students & Establishing Relevance

- There is a disconnect between instructors & students. Just look at these student responses...
 - I enjoy being at school - 50.2%
 - School is boring - 45.5%
 - Teachers make schools an exciting place to learn - 33%
 - Classes help me understand everyday life - 39.8%

International Center for Leadership in Education

The Achievement Gap

- Broad range of comprehension levels, learning styles & socioeconomic backgrounds
- Because instructors often have to teach to lower levels, it is difficult to engage an entire class

"Speak so that the lowest may understand, and the rest will have no trouble."

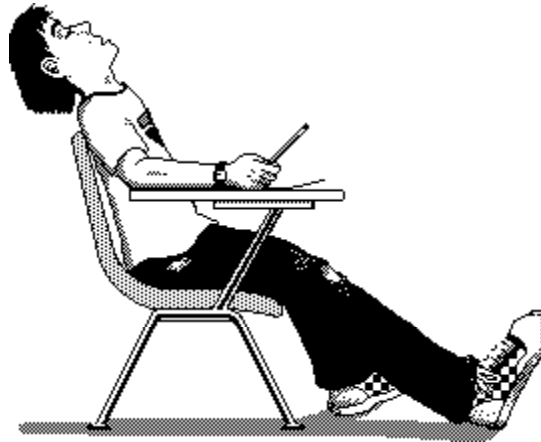
Abraham Lincoln

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

I. Challenges in Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

Challenge #1: Engaging Students & Establishing Relevance

Although he bravely faced many obstacles...



...it is unlikely that President Lincoln was tasked with keeping the attention of a room full of teenage students.

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

I. Challenges in Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

Challenge #2: Reaching Today's Students vs. Past Students

- Today's students are unlike past generations
 - Innovation
 - Dependence on technology
 - Prefer graphics over text
- Traditional teaching methods alone, that do not take into account the changing student, will not produce the same results they may have in previous generations
 - Diversification of instruction is necessary

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

I. Challenges in Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

Challenge #3: Resistance to Diversification of Instruction

Instructors may not be provided with the appropriate resources to effectively reach the students we have just described

- Instructors can face:
 - Resistance to changes in methodology due to budget constraints
 - Aversion to implementing new resources, specifically those associated with technology

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

I. Challenges in Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

#1: Engaging Students & Establishing Relevance

It is difficult to maintain the interest of teenage students while effectively communicating the answer to the age-old question: “When am I ever going to use this?”

#2: Reaching Today’s Students vs. Past Students

Relying solely on teaching methods that do not take into account the new challenges of today’s students will not produce the same results as before.

#3: Resistance to Diversification of Instruction

Instructors looking to expand their classroom with a teaching supplement can meet resistance from those who do not recognize the need for change and the potential for benefit.

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

I. Challenges in Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

Results: Drop-Out Rates

In 1994, Congress decreed graduation rate to be 90% with the United States at the top in math and science.

Despite over a decade of education reform, one third of any freshman class in the United States does not graduate.

...Despite predictions drop-out rates are on the rise

When some students fail to see the significance and real-life application in school, they simply leave.

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

I. Challenges in Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

Results: National Impacts

- Agendas with decisions based on politics
- Negative view toward Career & Technical Education

The United States ranks:

–1st among OECD nations in *college dropout rates*

–21st among OECD nations in *high school graduations rates*

Reference: Organization of Economic Cooperation Development; Education at a Glance 2007; www.oecd.org

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

I. Challenges in Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

Results: National Impacts

2005 National Association of Manufacturer's Skills Gap Report

Over 80% indicated that they are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers overall – with 13% reporting severe shortages and 68% indicating moderate shortages.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) ; www.acteonline.org

Ineffective attempts at improvement have resulted in the United States lagging behind globally and many jobs being left unfulfilled.

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

I. Challenges in Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

We have now identified the main factors that negatively affect educational success.

It is now much easier to determine what is required in an effective solution

The Problem: Students are suffering academically because the appropriate resources are not in place to effectively engage them. Traditional methods alone are no longer sufficient.

The Result: The students, their communities and the country are all affected by the increased drop-out rates and the masses of young people without a formal education or career readiness skills.

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

II. What Should the Solution Look Like?

“We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” -Albert Einstein

What is required to overcome the challenges and succeed?

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

II. What Should the Solution Look Like?

Challenge #1: Engaging Students & Establishing Relevance

*Improving academic performance requires **connecting with students** in new ways*

The Solution Must:

- Enable **student-paced learning**
- Establish **relevance and real-world application** of the material
- **Leverage technology** that the students are so comfortable with
- **Maintain student interest** by presenting material in a format today's students prefer

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

II. What Should the Solution Look Like?

Challenge #2: Reaching Today's Students vs. Past Students

Improving academic performance requires instructors to have the right tools to supplement their expertise if instructors are going to connect with this new generation of learners

The Solution Must:

- **Empower instructors** with resources needed for **diversification of instruction**
- Be **easy to use** with minimal training required
- Provide flexibility to **easily customize integration** into an instructor's existing curriculum
- Provide methods to **track student success** and **assess student retention**
- Deliver **valuable results** in the classroom

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

II. What Should the Solution Look Like?

Challenge #3: Resistance to Diversification of Instruction

Improving academic performance requires decision makers to determine if a solution meets certain criteria.

The Solution Must:

- **Engage students**
- **Empower instructors with varied computer experience**
- Provide resources to **maximize the value**
- Show that it has **been successful in improving academic performance**

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

- Interactive *e*Learning tool used by over 35,000 students
- Web-based program offering engaging accessible content
- Captivating supplement providing valuable instructor resources
- Serves Automotive, Health Science & Cosmetology programs
- In over 30 states, several of which provide access through a state grant

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

- Enable **student-paced learning**
- Establish **relevance and real-world application**
- **Leverage technology**
- **Maintain student interest**
- **Empower instructors with varied computer experience**
- **Have easily-customized integration w/ minimal training**
- **Track student success and assess student retention**
- **Deliver valuable classroom results**
- Provide resources to **maximize the value**
- Have **previous success in improving academic performance**

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

Today's Class accomplishes all of the requirements and more...

“Says who?”

“How does it work?”

“What is the process?”

“What does it look like?”

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“Says who?”

When we asked how they felt about the following statement...

“Today's Class is a valuable way to cover the theory, terminology, and fundamentals of a course.”

98.77%

“Agree or strongly agree”

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“Says who?”

*"I experienced great success with the program at South Mecklenburg High School in Charlotte, NC last year. The end of the year Vocational tests (VOCATs) in automotive resulted in no failures, 75% of all classes scored acceptable or proficient (3 or 4), and in all **exhibited a 26% increase over the previous year.** Although I consider myself a capable teacher I must honestly credit Today's Class with being **a large part of the success.**"*

David Griffin, York School District (York, SC – formerly of South Mecklenburg High School, Charlotte, SC)

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“Says who?”

“Many teachers have found that students are more engaged in class assignments and with homework assignments. Several teachers at Back-to-School Night were approached by parents who commented that 'my son is spending hours on the computer going through the units; he has never been this engaged in school before.'”

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“Says who?”

When we asked how they felt about the following statement...

“Today's Class is intuitive and easy to use.”

97.56%

“Agree or strongly agree”

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“Says who?”

When we asked how they felt about the following statement...

“Today's Class Technical Support is easy to reach and quick to respond to my concerns.”

98.04%

“Agree or strongly agree”

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“Says who?”

"Your technical support guys have been very helpful. I have been able to access the site and check it out throughout the summer. I found it to be very user friendly. I am beginning to try out the Today's Class with my second year students.... the goal is to get them thinking about what they can do to improve their learning on an individual basis."

Joe Hart Chippewa Valley High School (Clinton, MI)

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“How does it work? What is the process?”

- Students put into Today's Class
- Instructor assigns class work and/or homework
- Students access course modules online
- Instructors: instant grading, student information, course browser access, resetting option, message center

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“What does it look like?”



A screenshot of a login interface for 'TODAY'S CLASS.COM'. The interface features a logo on the left consisting of an apple icon and the text 'TODAY'S CLASS.COM'. To the right of the logo are two input fields: the first is labeled 'USERNAME' and the second is labeled 'PASSWORD'. A 'Login' button is positioned to the right of the password field.

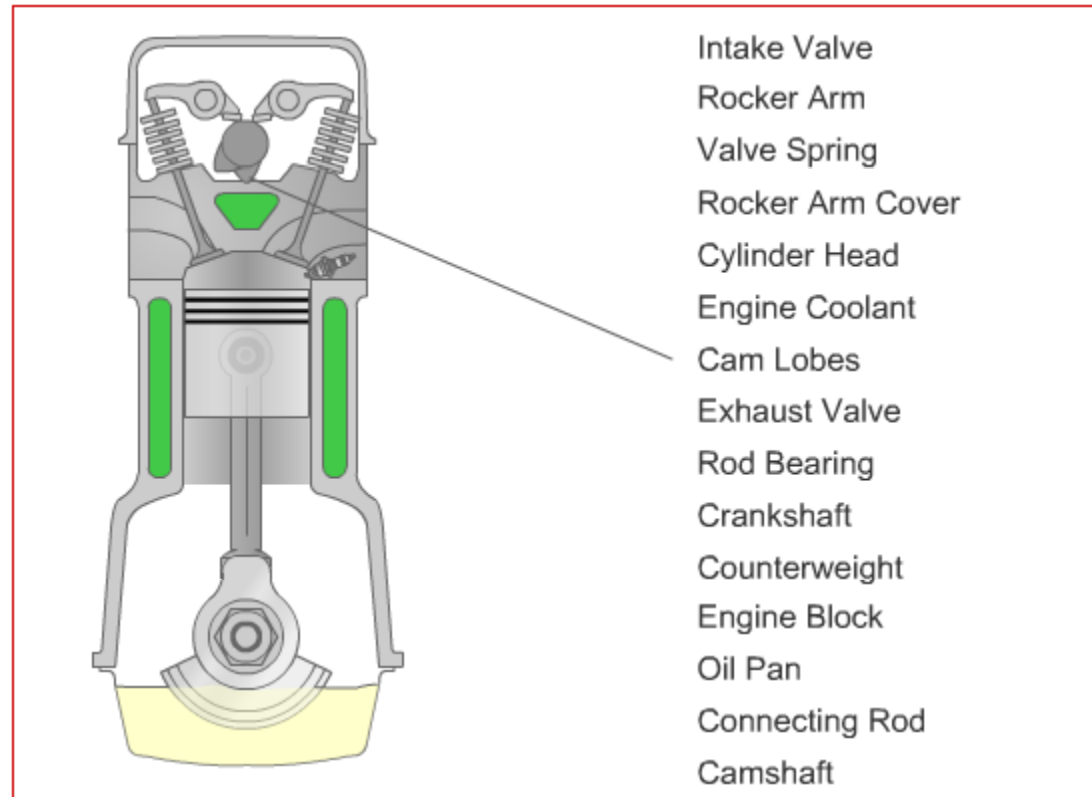
Introduction

- Introduction continued
- Basic Engine Parts and Operation
- Other Engine Designs
- Quiz 1
- Engine Classifications
- Characteristics of Combustion
- Quiz 2
- Engine Systems
- Ignition Systems
- Cooling System
- Lubrication System
- Exhaust System
- Emission Controls
- Computer Systems
- Quiz 3
- Diagnostics
- Quiz 4
- Final Test

Introduction

The engine is the power plant of a vehicle. Automotive engines have gone through tremendous changes since the automobile was first introduced in the 1880s, but all combustion engines still have three requirements that must be met to do their job of providing power – air, fuel, and ignition. The mixture of air and fuel must be compressed inside the engine in order to make it highly combustible and get the most out of the energy contained in the fuel mixture. Since the mixture is ignited within the engine, automobile power plants are called **internal combustion** engines. Most can be further classified as **reciprocating piston** engines, since pistons move up and down within cylinders to provide power. This up-and-down motion is converted into turning motion by the crankshaft.

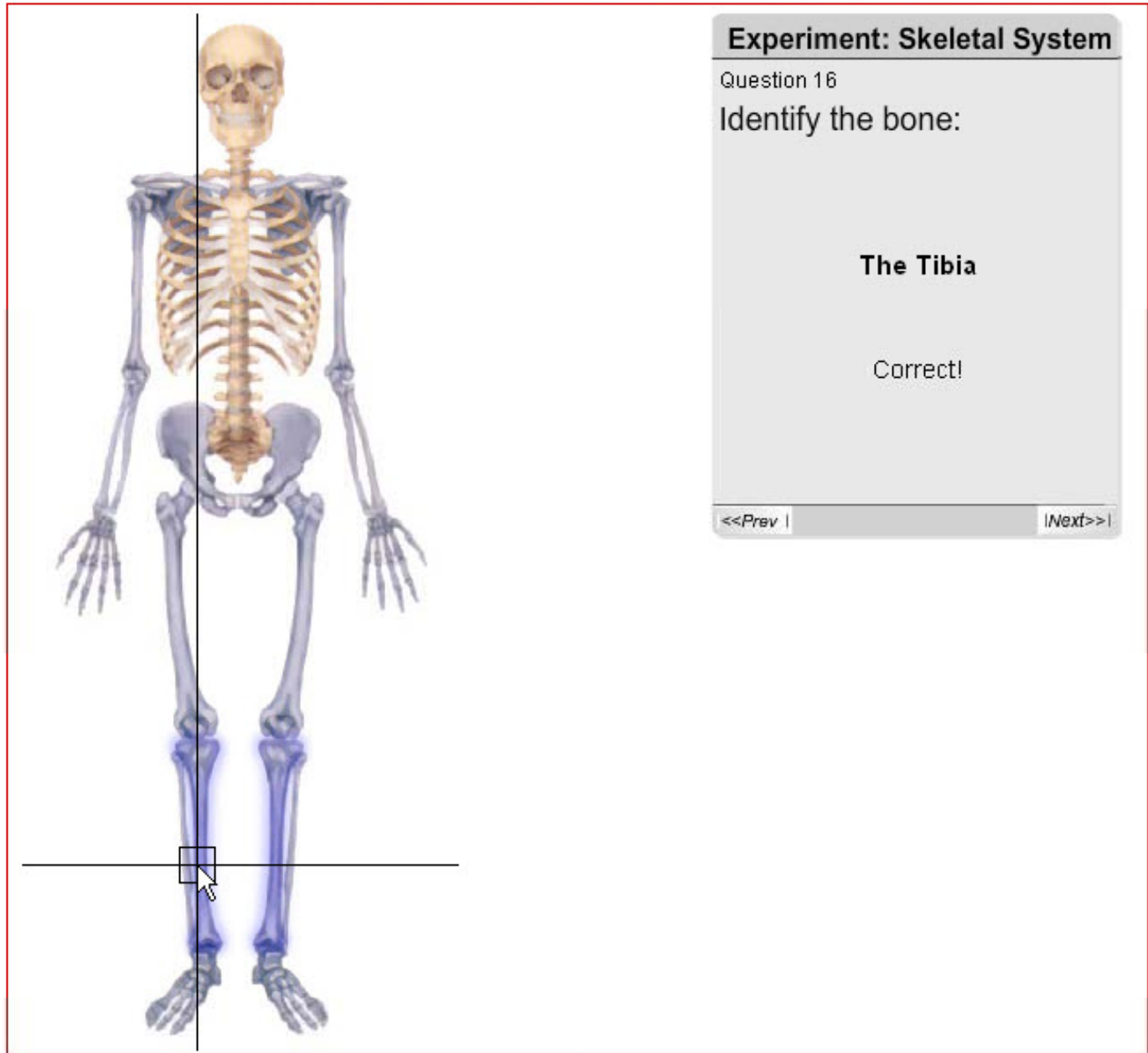
Roll your mouse pointer over the names on the list to identify some of the main components of the engine.



Progress

0%

- Introduction
- Body Planes
- ◆ Axial and Appendicular Skeletons
- ◆ Quiz 1: Bone Identification
- ◆ Bone Types
- ◆ Joints
- ◆ Diseases and Disorders
- ◆ Quiz 2: Types and Disorders
- ◆ Experiment
- Conclusion
- Memory Game
- Final Test



Experiment: Skeletal System

Question 16

Identify the bone:

The Tibia

Correct!

<<Prev | |Next>>

Progress

0%

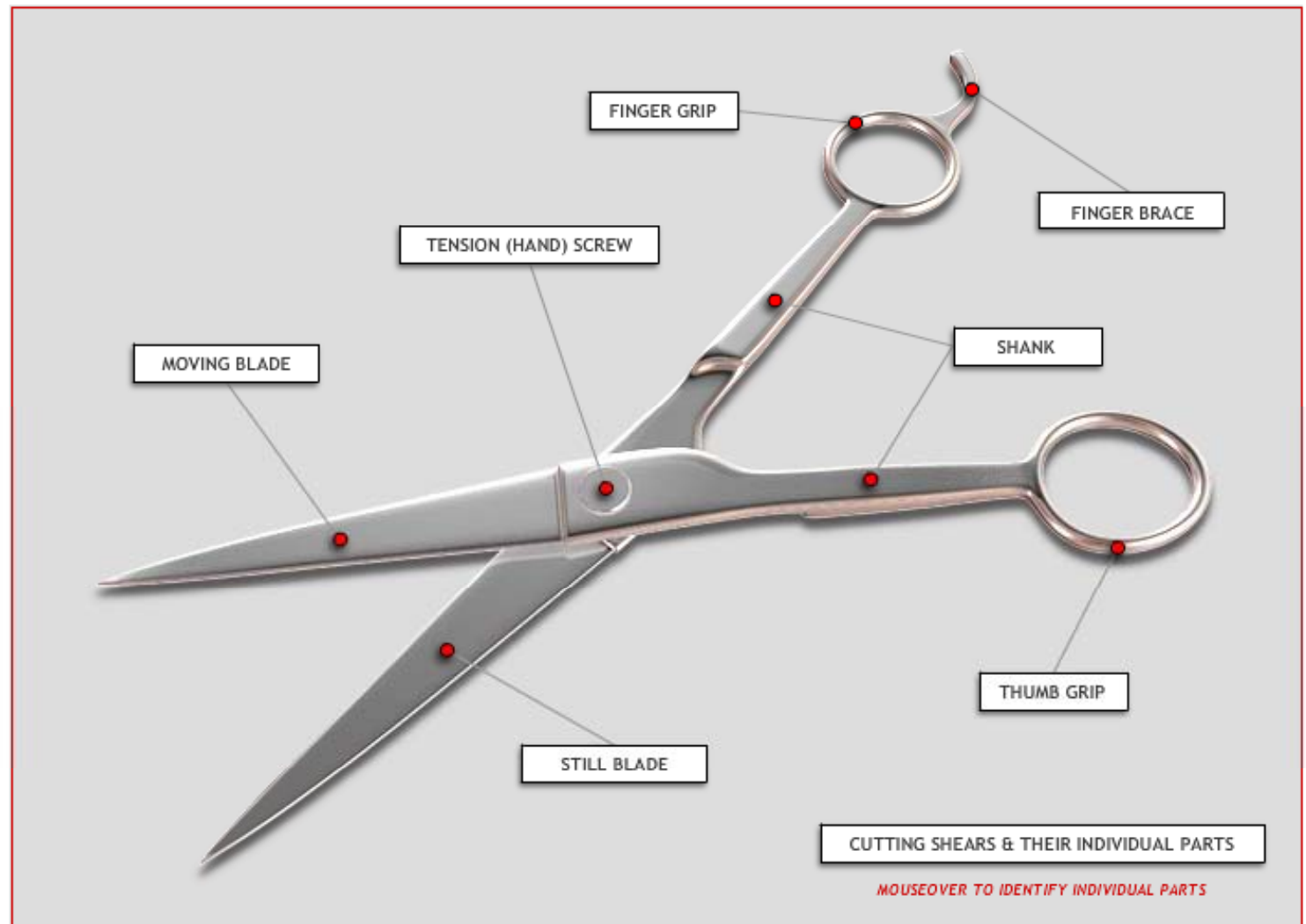
- Introduction
- Basic Tools and Cutting Techniques
 - Holding Shears
 - Cutting Positions
 - Taper (Thinning) Shears
 - Razor
 - Clippers
 - Combs
- Cutting Techniques and Texturizing
- Sectioning and Distribution
- Lines, Angles, and Elevation
- Guidelines, Overdirection, and Crosschecking
- Quiz 1: Tools and Techniques
- Basic Haircuts
 - Solid Form
 - Uniformly-Layered Form
 - Increase-Layered Form
 - Graduated Form
 - Clipper Cut
- Quiz 2: Basic Haircuts
- Conclusion
- Final Test

BASIC TOOLS & CUTTING TECHNIQUES

In order to cut hair one must be aware of the types of tools that are used as well as learn how to use them appropriately. The next few sections introduce some of the more common tools you will encounter.

Shears

Shears cut in a straight line, resulting in a hair edge that is blunt. By using angles and lines, shears can create various patterns to create a wide variety of hairstyles. You can see a diagram of shears below, with the labeled parts:

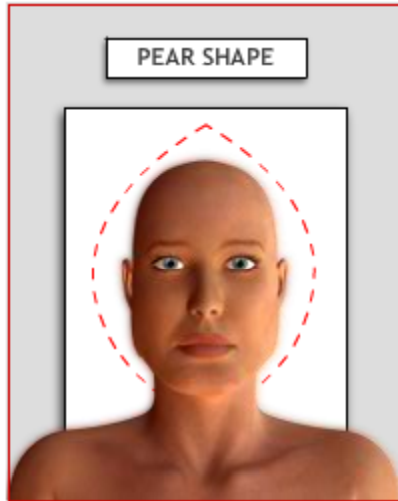


Progress

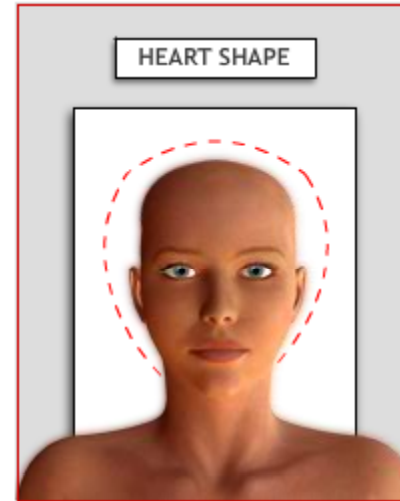
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- Introduction
- Elements of Design
- Principles of Design
- Hair Design and Natural Hair Features
- Quiz 1: Elements of Design
- Hair Design and Body Shape
- Hair Design and the Face
 - Facial Structure and Facial Shapes
 - Facial Shapes
 - Profiles
 - Other Facial Features
- The Basics of Client Consultation
- Quiz 2: Facial Shapes and Design Decisions
- Conclusion
- Final Test

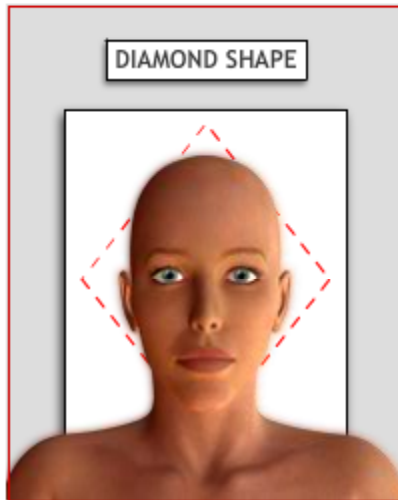
- Pear (Triangle)



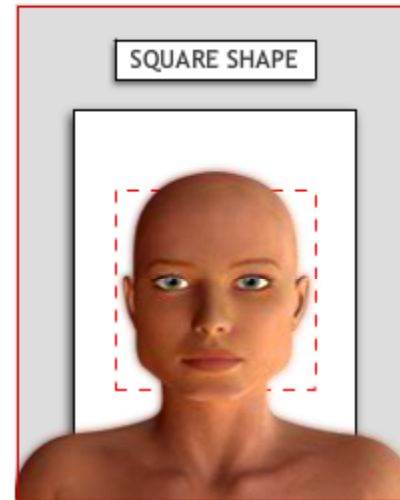
- Heart (Inverted Triangle)



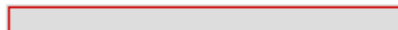
- Diamond



- Square



- Oblong (Rectangle)



- Body Planes
- Muscle Types
- Muscle Contractions
- Quiz 1
- Skeletal Muscles
 - Head
 - Trunk
 - Arms
 - Upper Legs
 - Lower Legs
- Muscular System
 - Conditions
 - Quiz 2
 - Conclusion
 - Final Test

The **orbicularis oculi** are the round muscles that surround the eyes. These muscles are responsible for the closing

TutorForm - Windows Internet Explorer

http://todaysclass.com/TutorForm.aspx

Contact Your Tutor:

To send an email to your instructor, fill out the form below and click Send. Once the message is sent, the window will close and you can continue through the course.

* denotes a required field

*To:

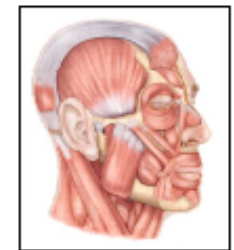
*From: Enter a valid email address.
Enter an email you check regularly.

*Subject:

*Message:

Done | Internet | 100%

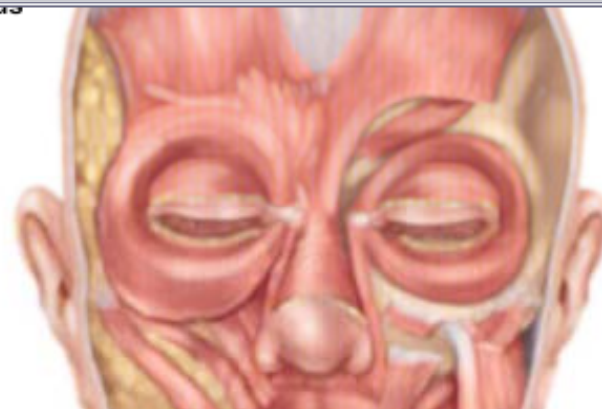
move the lips.
 mandible (jawbone) to control
 chewing motions.
 d. Facing to one side, for
 Nodding the head forward is
 the upper back), allows
 the head. Mouse over the name



otica

Corrugator supercillii

Orbicularis oculi
 Levator labii superioris
 Zygomaticus minor
 Zygomaticus major



Nasalis
 Levator anguli oris
 Masseter
 Buccinator

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[Reset Assessments](#)
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[My Profile](#)
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Mrs. C's Freshman

Barbarino, Vinnie -	5628
De Labarre, Beau -	4628
Horshack, Arnold -	2870
Kotter, Gabe -	8504
Totsie, Rosalie -	3456
Washington, Freddie -	2837

Modify Group

Mrs. C's Sophomores

Kapowski, Kelly -	9743
Morris, Zack -	2356
Powers, Samuel S	3689
Slater, Albert C	3479
Spano, Jessie -	8490
Turtle, Lisa M	4729

Modify Group

Mrs. C's Juniors

Beasley, Pam -	5556
Bernard, Andy -	5555
Halpert, Jim -	5555
Kapoor, Kelly -	5555
Martin, Angela -	5555
Scott, Michael -	5555
Shrute, Dwight K	5555
Wallace, David -	5555

Modify Group


Mrs. C's Seniors

Martin, Donna -	7393
Mckay, Dylan -	2738
Sanders, Steve -	3784
Taylor, Kelly -	3728
Walsh, Brandon -	2467
Walsh, Brenda -	3221

Modify Group

Today's Class

Course History Report

 You can click on scores to drill-down to more detailed reports.

Instructor: Chris Boyd

Course: Brakes

Group: All Groups

	Brakes Basics	Master Cylinder / Control Systems	Power Assist	Disc Brakes	Drum Brakes	Brake Service
Asdfa, Asdfa -						
Bob, Ben -						
Bob, Billy -				1/10		
Bolding, Tom -						
Boldings, Tom -						
Boyd, Bob M	0/10	3/10	0/10	0/10	0/10	0/10
Boyd, Chris -						
Boyd, Cstudent -						
Boyd, Mike -						
Boyd, Student -						
Boyd, Tom -						

Today's Class

Course History Report



You can click on Quiz/Final names to drill-down to more detailed reports.

Student: Bob M. Boyd

Instructor: Chris Boyd

Batteries, Starting and Charging

	Date	Grade
Quiz 1	4/2/2009	0/10
Quiz 2	4/2/2009	0/10
Quiz 3	4/2/2009	0/10
Quiz 4	4/2/2009	0/10
Quiz 5	4/2/2009	0/10
Quiz 6	4/2/2009	0/10
Quiz 7	4/2/2009	0/10
Final %	4/2/2009	32

Brakes

	Date	Grade
Brakes Basics	6/17/2008	0/10
Master Cylinder / Control Systems	6/17/2008	3/10

Quiz 1

Score:
3/10

Your Quiz Summary

- | |
|--|
| 1 . Which type of muscles is excitable?
Correct Answer: All of the above
Your Answer: Smooth muscles |
| 2 . Which layer of connective tissue encloses each fascicle?
Correct Answer: Perimysium
Your Answer: Epimysium |
| 3 . Where can you find muscles without visible striations?
Correct Answer: The walls of the respiratory passages
Your Answer: The forearm |
| 4 . Swinging your arms in a wide circle would be which type of movement?
Your Answer: Circumduction |
| 5 . Spreading your arms outward would be an example of which type of angular movement?
Correct Answer: Abduction
Your Answer: Adduction |
| 6 . What is the name of muscle's state of perpetual partial tension?
Correct Answer: Tonus
Your Answer: Metros |
| 7 . What creates the striated appearance in most muscles?
Correct Answer: Bands of actin and myosin
Your Answer: Tendons and connective tissue |
| 8 . During an isotonic contraction, which point of attachment moves closer to the body?
Your Answer: Insertion |
| 9 . Which of the following statements is true?
Correct Answer: Isotonic contractions cause the muscle to change its shape while the tension remains constant.
Your Answer: Isometric contractions cause the muscle to change its shape while the tension remains constant. |
| 10 . The prime mover's relaxed counterpart is referred to as:
Your Answer: Antagonist |



TODAY'S CLASS

MELIOR TRAINING SCHOOL 1

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

RICHARD - THOMPSON

HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

EMISSIONS

ON

1/27/2009

TRAINING INSTRUCTOR2
INSTRUCTOR

PRINT
CERTIFICATE

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“What are the benefits to students?”

- Engaging and informative material
- Interactive exercises and simulations
- Incremental quizzes and final exams
- Instant grading and course feedback
- Anytime access from school or home

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“What are the benefits to students?”

Health Science: Science and healthcare students gain vibrant new perspectives on human anatomy as they explore the intricate systems of the body and view their functions and processes in narrated animation.

Automotive: Complex automotive theory is delivered in clear, practical language and with interactive simulations, allowing students to master technology and diagnostics before they step into the lab.

Cosmetology: The services and procedures of today's cosmetologists are demonstrated in vivid color and lifelike detail, giving students invaluable preparatory skills and confidence in their technique.

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“What are the benefits to instructors?”

- Reduced lecture time
- Student enrollment and class management
- Progress tracking features
- Customized reporting options
- Certificates of successful completion
- Messaging center for class correspondence

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

“What are the benefits to instructors?”

Health Science: Today's Class is a versatile supplement to nursing, health, and secondary science curricula. The program provides students with a fundamental understanding of anatomy and pathology, and its coverage of emergency response and medical ethics lays a foundation for aspiring healthcare professionals.

Automotive: Recipient of ATMC's Award of Excellence in eLearning, Today's Class creates an interactive experience with diagnostic simulations, NATEF job sheets & full-color study guides. Instructors report reduced lecture time & improved high-stakes scores.

Cosmetology: Today's Class enriches cosmetology theory and instruction with realistic demonstrations and lifelike models. The comprehensive interactive material helps instructors better prepare their students for board certification.

Identifying & Overcoming the Factors that Negatively Affect Academic Performance

III. Today's Class: The Solution

Today's Class License

Today's Class is provided to our clients on an annual license basis. The license price allows the client unlimited instructors & students with no additional fees as well as the benefit of upgrades. Since Today's Class meets many Perkins Requirements, your license may be covered by Perkins funding. District & State rates available.

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III. Today's Class: The Solution

Want to Learn More?

- Visit us at todaysclass.com
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- Enroll in a Today's Class Free Trial
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