



THE INFINITY PROJECT™

The Infinity Project in My Classroom

A veteran Infinity teacher talks about the program in action.

We know you are probably wondering how implementation of the Infinity Project will affect your classroom routines, such as lesson preparation times and giving homework assignments, quizzes and tests. While we understand every teacher's classroom is unique, we thought you would appreciate a look inside the experience of veteran Infinity teacher, Andrew Brown from Dallas.

What was your first impression of the Infinity Project and how you thought it would impact your routine?

Coming out of training, I thought I would have to completely change the way I taught. Instead of teaching math and scientific principles emphasizing theory, I was showing students how to apply concepts to actually make something. I assumed I would have to change the way I thought about math and the way I approached my class.

How, in actuality, has the program impacted your daily routine? I found I did have to change my way of thinking a little, but it wasn't difficult at all because the Infinity curriculum is so strong. I still give the same number of quizzes and tests, but now I replace some of my lectures and worksheet activities with hands-on labs. In fact, the amount of planning I do may have actually gone down a little. I have found that an essential part of teaching engineering is trying new things, so I sometimes discuss topics with the class and let the students decide what they want to make. They do the planning, and I get to work alongside them trying to make something new. During these times, I do absolutely no planning, yet the students learn a lot.

Would you break down for us the number of Infinity-related tests, quizzes, assignments, labs, etc. you assign per week? We are on a six-week schedule. I give two major tests and four short quizzes per six weeks one quiz or test per week. I also assign two classwork/homework assignments and one multi-day lab assignment per week.

How user-friendly/easy to implement is the program? The curriculum is very strong and the training is excellent. The first year I felt a little overwhelmed, as I would when learning any new course. However, Infinity provides excellent support for new teachers, including online discussion groups, industry mentors, and experienced teachers who offer quick and accurate advice. It was very easy to load the companion software and to understand how to use it. Also, there are many sample labs that demonstrate how math and science are applied for various subjects, and they provide great ideas on how to build a new lab. The book is also very well written and self-explanatory, so I rarely had to go to an outside source (usually the author!) to understand a concept.

How would you describe the impact Infinity is having on your students? I have found that a significant number of my students choose to study engineering in college as a direct result of the Infinity Project—my best estimate is between 33% and 50% of my students at the end of the year compared to 0% to 5% at the beginning. Also, most go on to study advanced math and science in high school, many of whom were not thinking about doing so before experiencing Infinity. Through this program, students become excited about learning, realize they can understand difficult concepts and are more willing to take on the challenge of advanced placement courses.

What do your students say about the program? Almost without exception, my students say Infinity is the best course they have and one of the few classes they actually look forward to every day. I give the credit for this directly to the strength of the curriculum and the relevancy that it has to students.

Administered by

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