

**School:** Missouri State University  
**State:** Missouri  
**Type:** 4-year  
**Enrollment:** 24,000  
**Course:** World History  
**Course Type:** Flipped Face to Face Class  
**Product in Use:** Launchpad for Strayer's Ways of the World  
**Instructor:** Professor Eric Nelson



**LaunchPad**  
macmillan learning

Professor Eric Nelson teaches World History at Missouri State University in Springfield. In the Spring 2014 semester he began using the newly launched online program, **LaunchPad (LP)**. Having used other learning resource platforms in the past, he found LP more beneficial because it is based on the textbook itself and is not a generic World History resource. Professor Nelson teaches the course in a face-to-face environment but also has an online course and the need for a consistent, integrated media is especially important to him. Using LP, the instructors can assign readings in the interactive text and embed discussion questions, activities, and multi-media. Dr. Nelson uses the site to upload his podcasts for each lesson as well as using the online learning activities to reinforce learning. The students' learning materials are in one easy to assign place.

*"The integration of my podcasts into the e-book on **Launchpad** ... has allowed me to better align myself to the text, and it has allowed me to speak to the student as they are reading."*

Besides assigning due dates for all activities, including the readings, Professor Nelson requires the LearningCurve activities for reading mastery and to ensure that the students prepare for class. He also embeds historical reasoning exercises in LP to help with critical thinking and synthesis of the materials.

**Professor Nelson attributes LaunchPad with an improvement in students' comprehension of the material and for the creation of a more relevant learning experience for his students.**

*"Their out of class experience is much richer now. Moreover, the system has allowed me to set up an assessment scheme that accomplishes that very difficult balancing act of challenging my strongest students while providing real time support for their weaker counterparts. **LearningCurve** is key to this, but so is that ability to create a more dynamic reading experience through the integration of my podcasts and links to outside sources."*

# CASE STUDY

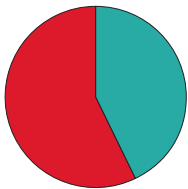
## Missouri State University

Students have reported back overwhelmingly positive responses to LaunchPad and Professor Nelson's course. Interestingly, his students ranked the due dates for readings and assignments the most beneficial to their own learning!

At the end of the Spring 2014 term, the students were asked to participate in a survey to measure their reaction and affect of the LaunchPad learning platform. 14 students replied.

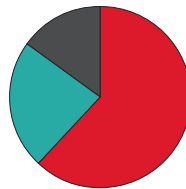
### Relevant results are:

*I like using online learning tools to reinforce what I am learning in the text.*



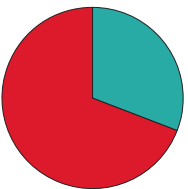
- 57% Strongly Agree
- 43% Agree
- 0% Neutral
- 0% Disagree
- 0% Strongly Disagree

*Using LaunchPad helped me learn the course materials better than without it.*



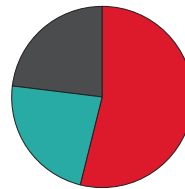
- 62% Strongly Agree
- 23% Agree
- 15% Neutral
- 0% Disagree
- 0% Strongly Disagree

*I think there is a benefit to using the LaunchPad online learning materials as homework.*



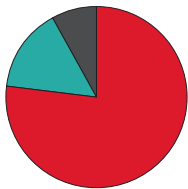
- 69% Strongly Agree
- 31% Agree
- 0% Neutral
- 0% Disagree
- 0% Strongly Disagree

*I think that using LaunchPad helped me to get a better grade in the course.*



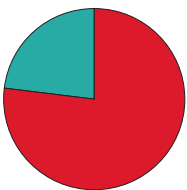
- 54% Strongly Agree
- 23% Agree
- 23% Neutral
- 0% Disagree
- 0% Strongly Disagree

*I like having due dates to review the materials in LaunchPad because they help me manage my time.*



- 77% Strongly Agree
- 15% Agree
- 8% Neutral
- 0% Disagree
- 0% Strongly Disagree

*Having due dates for the online materials helped me prepare for class.*



- 77% Strongly Agree
- 23% Agree
- 0% Neutral
- 0% Disagree
- 0% Strongly Disagree

This data is compiled from 14 students who replied to the voluntary survey.

### Student comments:

*Though there are due dates, learning and reading have flexible times.*

*I like how interactive it is. It's much more fun learning from this tool than just a textbook!*

*The LearningCurve quizzes really help to cement that knowledge and assist where you may have trouble.*

*I like the LaunchPad quizzes! They help me prepare for my tests!*

*I liked the LearningCurve quizzes. They're well set up and they just really help to reiterate the important ideas discussed in the chapter.*

*I think it provides more feedback than the physical book alone, and it's a very helpful tool in helping students to really understand the course material.*