

Vignette: a snapshot of your applied project experience**Name:** *Michael Seery***What was your project title?***Pre-lecture resources to reduce in-class cognitive load***What is your discipline/area of professional practice?***Chemistry***Why did you need to do this project at the time?***I had noticed that students, especially novice learners in chemistry, were having difficulty with the large amount of new terminology in the discipline. I wanted to investigate whether giving them some advance information prior to a lecture would help them.***What technologies did you use?***The resources were created using Articulate Studio, incorporating quizzes. These were embedded in the Virtual Learning Environment and linked to the Grade-book using SCORM.***What were the main challenges in your project? How did you overcome them?***The difficulty was getting time to create resources—I set aside a time each week to create resources, they were made “just in time”! A related difficulty was finding somewhere quiet to record audio—I found a place and a time that suited. I thought a major problem would be getting student buy-in, but that wasn’t an issue.***What was the outcome of your project?***An observed difference from previous years in student grades between those who had and had not completed chemistry disappeared in the year of the study. Students enjoyed (and wanted more of) the resources and how they linked into the lectures. Most importantly for me and my teaching practice, I gained a lot of awareness about how much new terminology is in lectures and how getting more discussion in lectures, talking out these new terms would be beneficial.***What is happening now? Has it developed since? How?***I’ve used the resources for a second year and observed again that there was no difference in student grades based on their prior knowledge. I am really pleased with this, as this was the main aim of the work, and was afraid that it might have been a one-year blip! The concept is being developed by other lecturers for their first year modules in chemistry.***URL/Link to Project:***A paper published on the project was published in the British Journal of Educational Technology: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-8535.2011.01237.x/abstract>**I recorded a video abstract for the paper: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3vbvt4IZyCI>**You can view some of the resources here: <http://michaelseery.com/chem1306/>*