

Hi everyone,

I appreciate your feedback and I'm writing here to respond. The responses spanned everything from "This is amazing and wonderful" to "please lecture us in class and let us do homework at home". Many students expressed that they felt I didn't answer their questions. I think that not having your questions answered when you're trying to learn something can be confusing and frustrating. I recognize that I teach in a "Socratic" fashion, where I answer your question with a question that I hope will not only help you find the way, but also help you remember how you got there. Sometimes this works, but I bet it can be frustrating. When we are frustrated, we often think there's something wrong. I don't think that frustration is bad. I think that often, frustration is the feeling of learning, consistent with the first Veritassium video that we saw. At the same time, I also recognize that if my questions don't lead you to the right direction, then they are not helpful... AND if you are sad doing physics, then we need to change something. So, I will henceforth respond to questions more attentively, and I'm asking you to also struggle with me as well. Additionally, you can let me know if you've tried it my way and you feel it isn't working.

I feel that the main benefit of learning physics in parallel is that it helps us recognize which way to solve a problem. However, I see that many students are still relying on using rather complicated kinematics formulas that we haven't learned yet to solve simple energy problems. So I realize that if I want you to adopt a different process, it might be a good idea to provide clearer guidance. For instance, rather than ask you to do the \*\* concept analysis at the beginning of question 3 on the problem set, I think it would have been more productive to ask you to show for each of the three scenarios why using energy is the best way to solve the problem. I will invoke this in your next problem set.

A few students wrote that they don't like Tracker. We may use Excel in the future, I'm not sure yet. I don't think that we'll use Tracker – although you can use it for your project if you want.

Please make sure you check in with the main course timeline for the quarter and the more detailed week timeline. Additionally, please look over the textbook. Although you may choose to not read the sections exhaustively, I think it would be to your benefit to at least scan each of the identified chapters to see where the information is in case you may want to refer back to it.

To varying degrees, I see students adapting to this different way of learning. Actually, so far, this is working out better than I had hoped. I think I'm doing a pretty good job, but I think you are doing really great. Thanks. I will continue to collect your feedback on the last day of the week, but feel free to let me know if there is something you find important to communicate.

Thanks  
Pete