The Interactive Learning Toolkit: technology and the classroom

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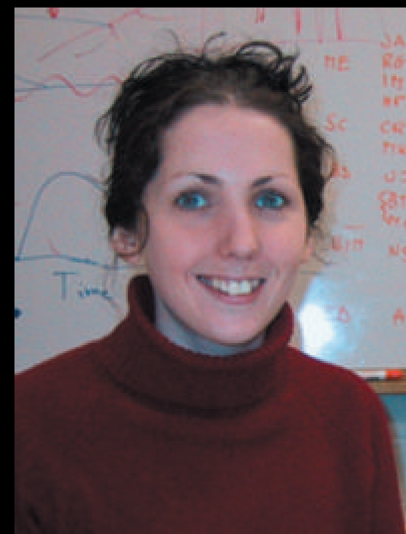
Université Laval
Québec, QC, 10 June 2008

Doug van Wieren



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Suvendra Dutta

and also....

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Editing:

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Beta testing:

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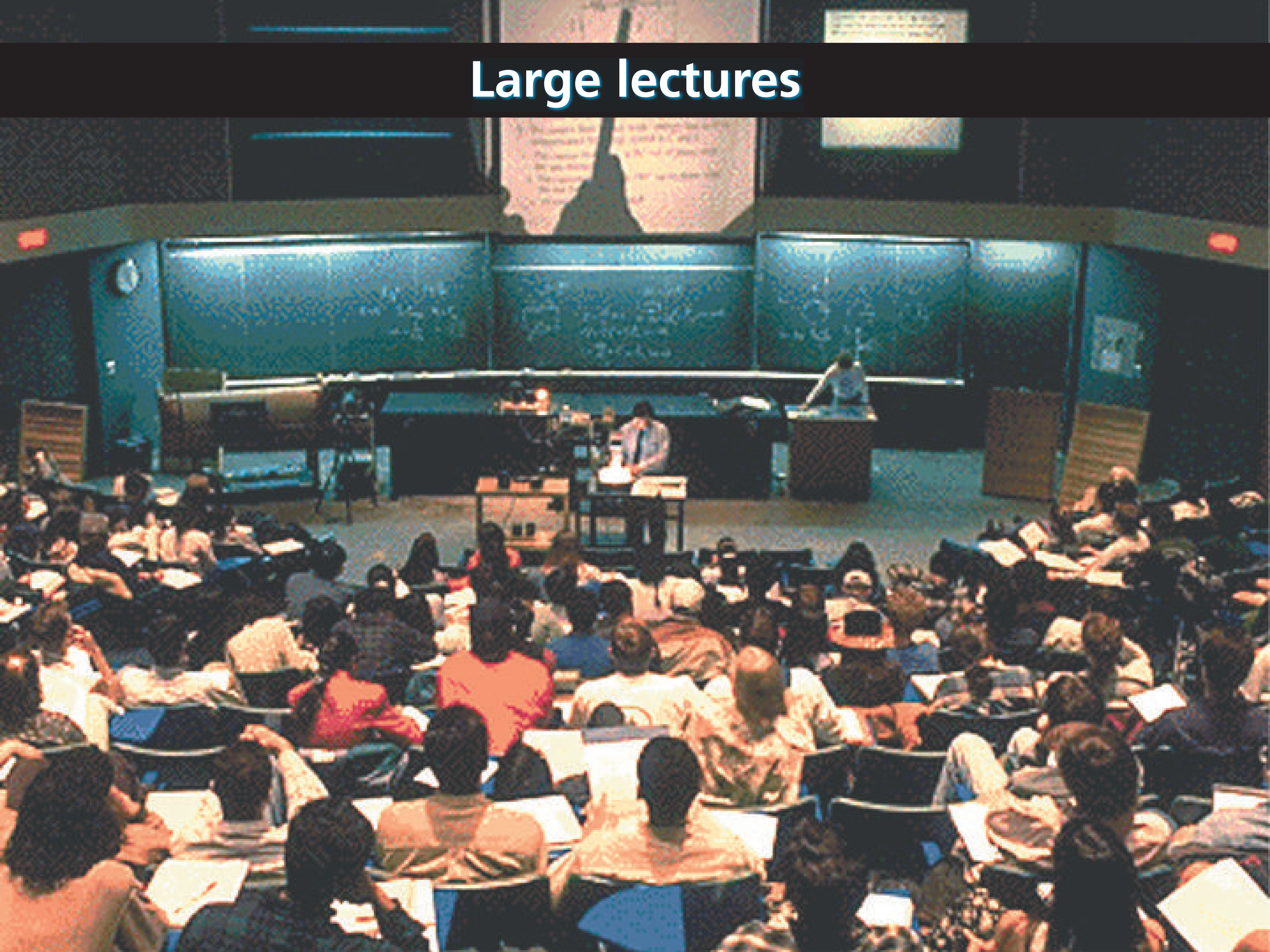
Andrew McKinney (MIT)
Sue Gautsch (USC)
Prof. Catherine Crouch (Swarthmore)
Prof. Clifford V. Johnson (USC)

…and hundreds students in dozens of courses

Large lectures



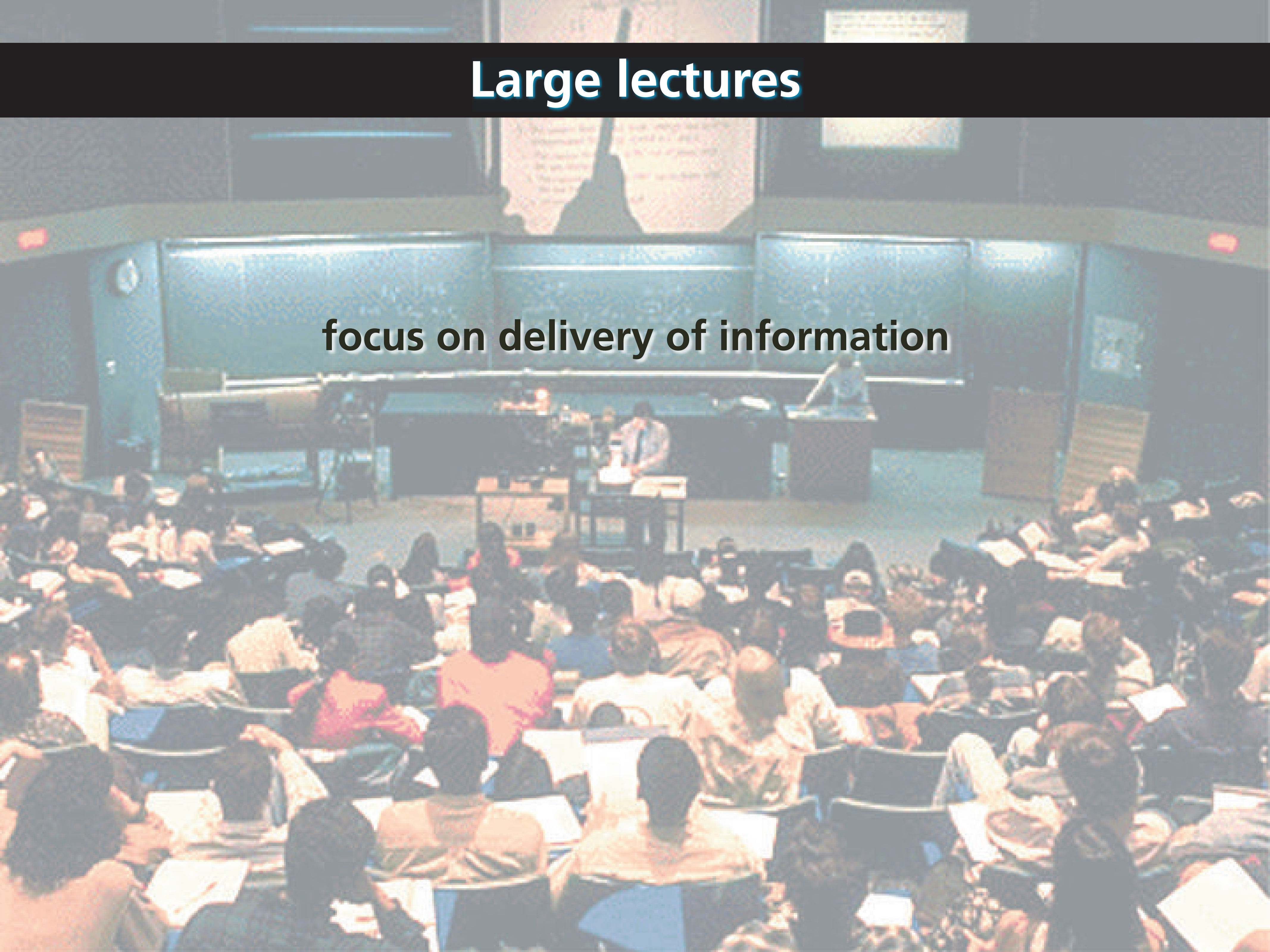
Large lectures

universally loathed by students and faculty alike

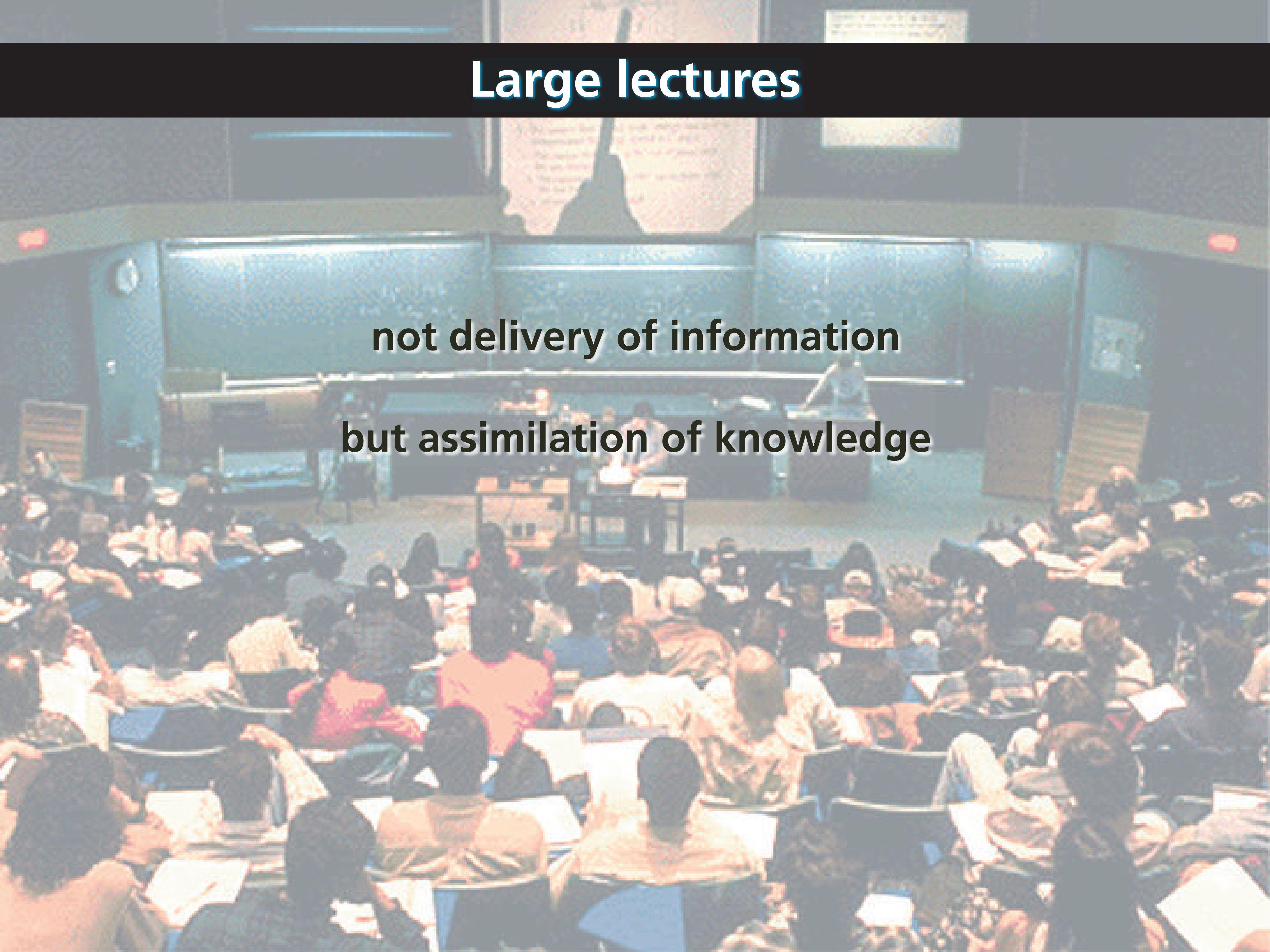
(but here to stay!)

Large lectures

focus on delivery of information



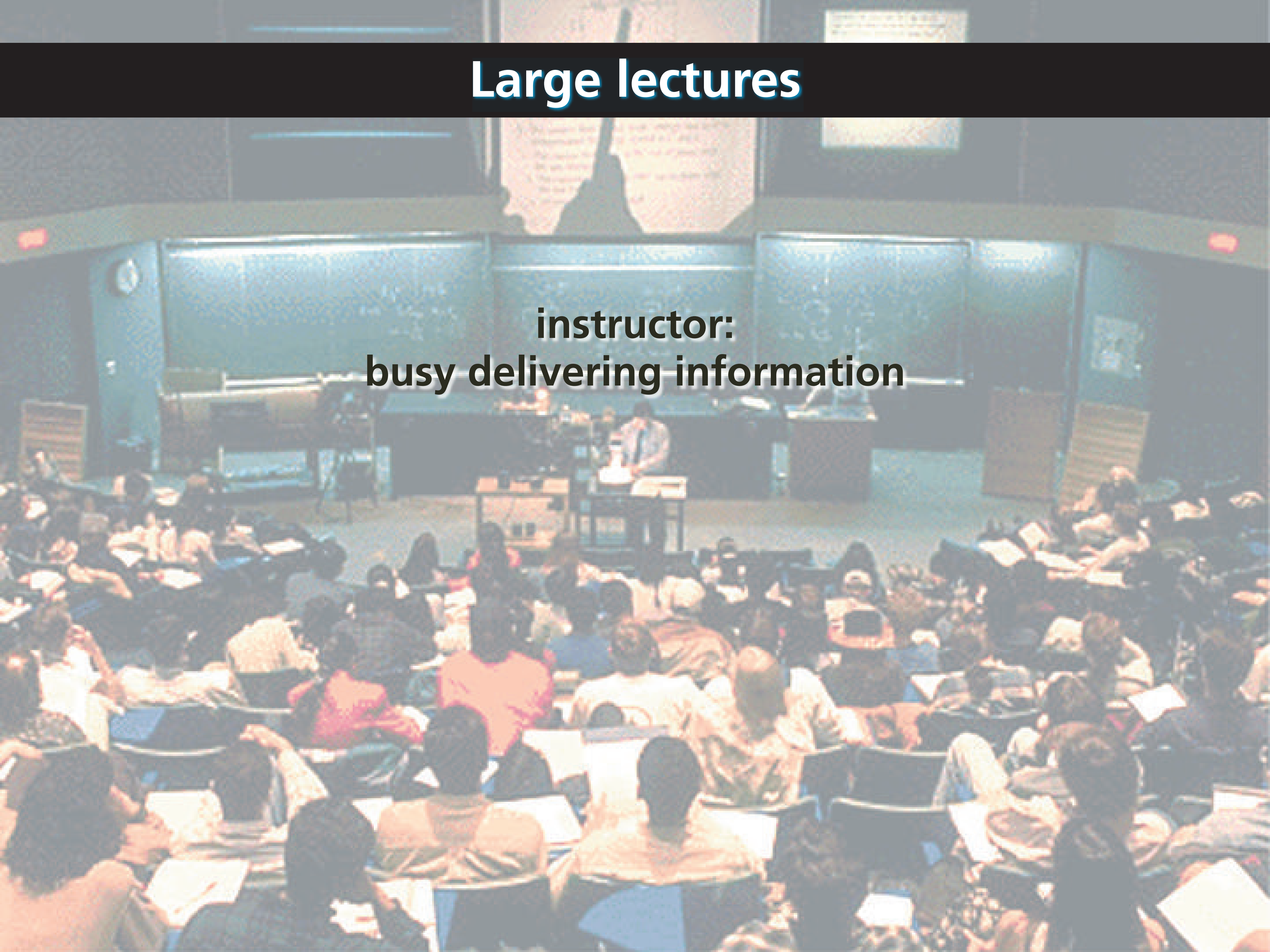
Large lectures



not delivery of information

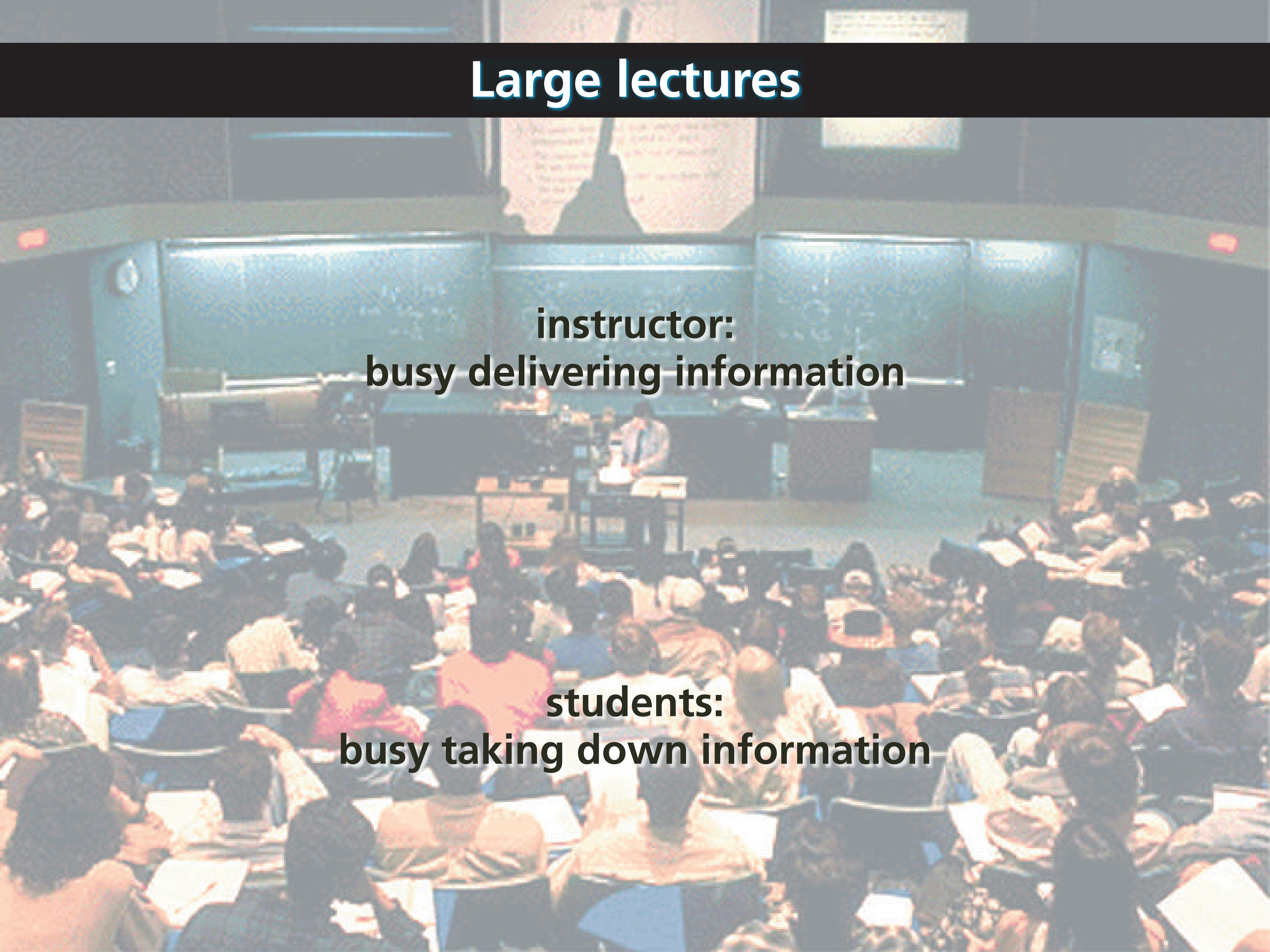
but assimilation of knowledge

Large lectures

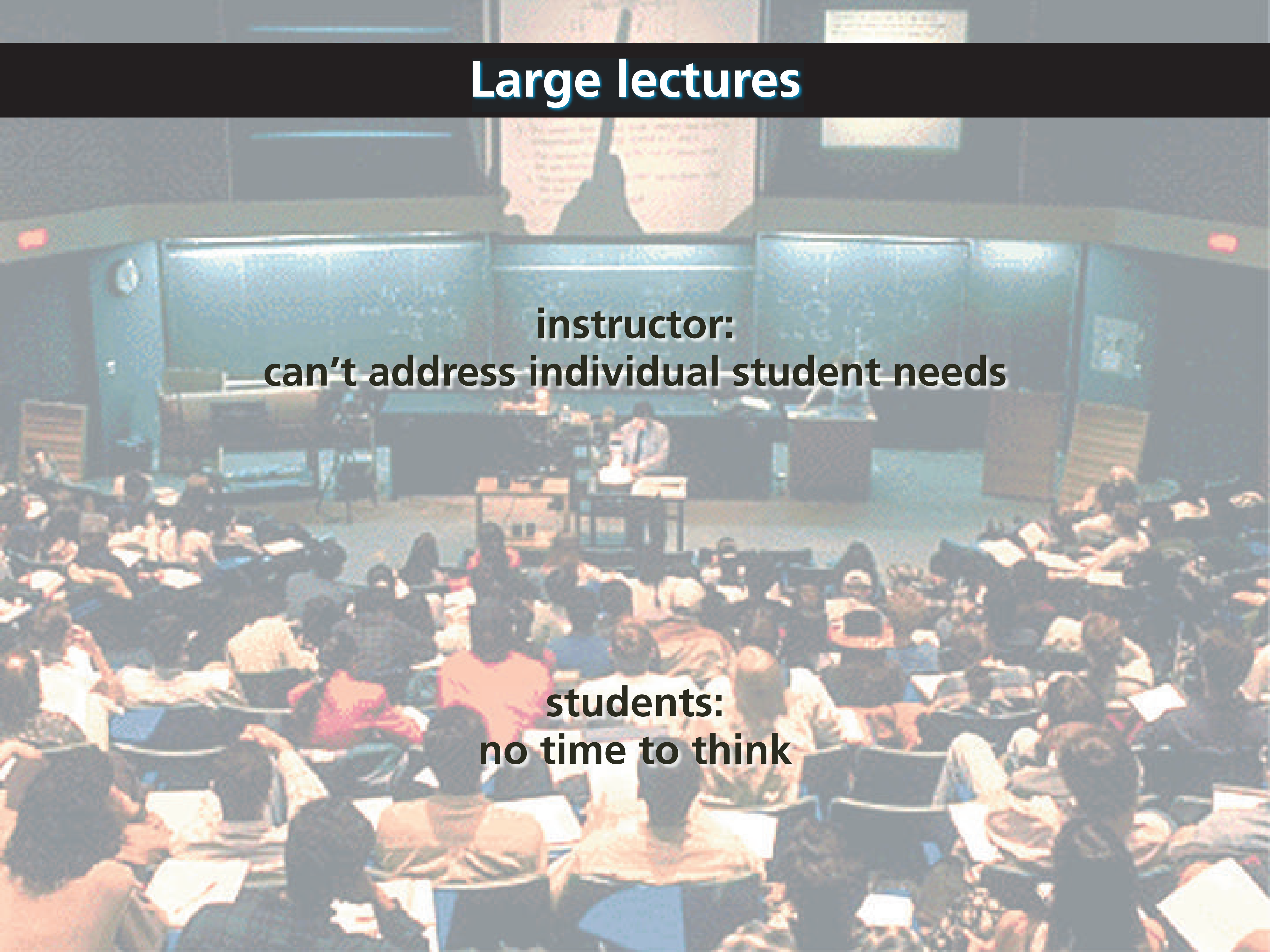


instructor:
busy delivering information

Large lectures



Large lectures



instructor:
can't address individual student needs

students:
no time to think

Technology

Technology

not a magic bullet

Technology

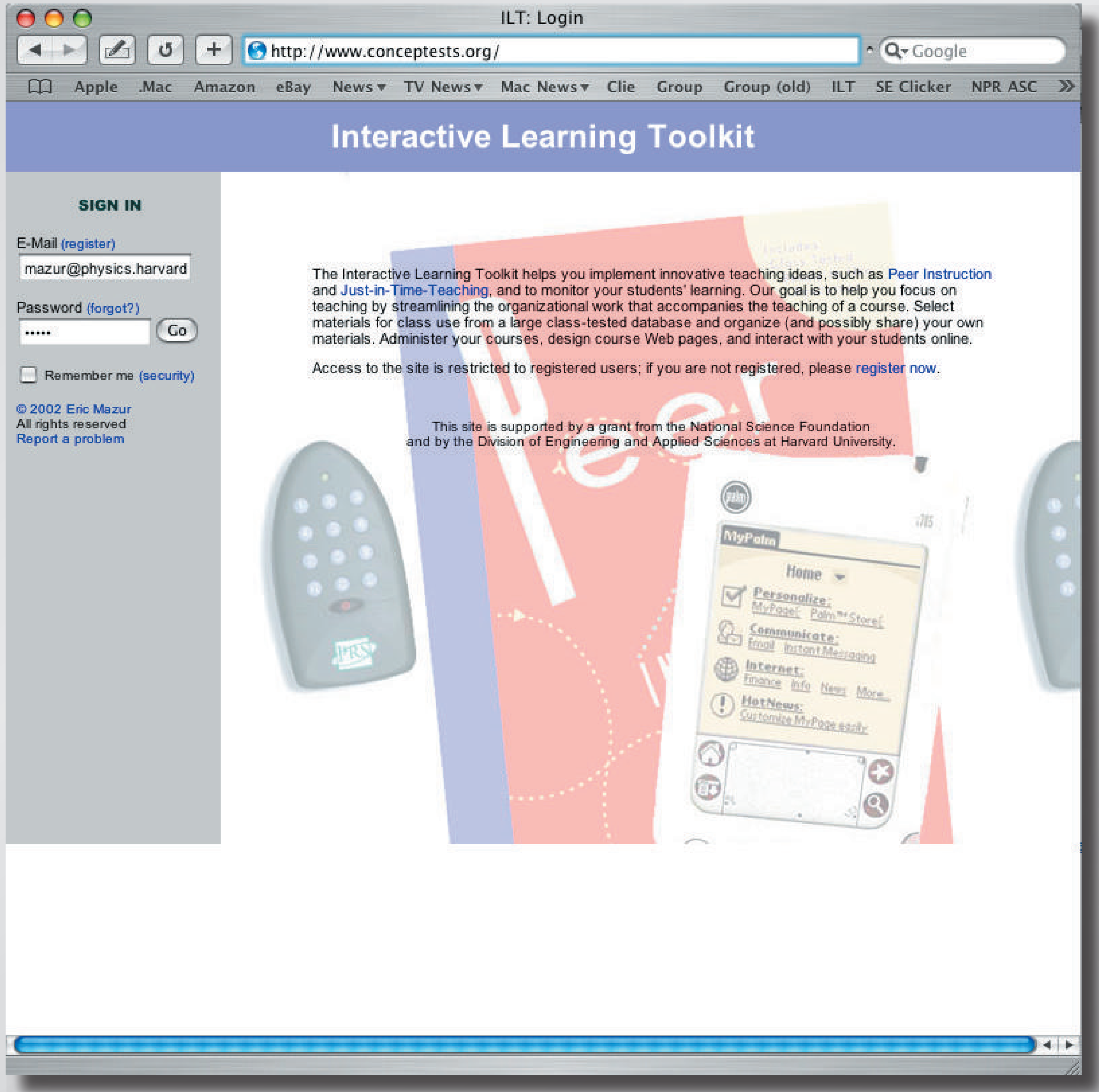
new method for delivering old content

Interactive Learning Toolkit

Use technology to

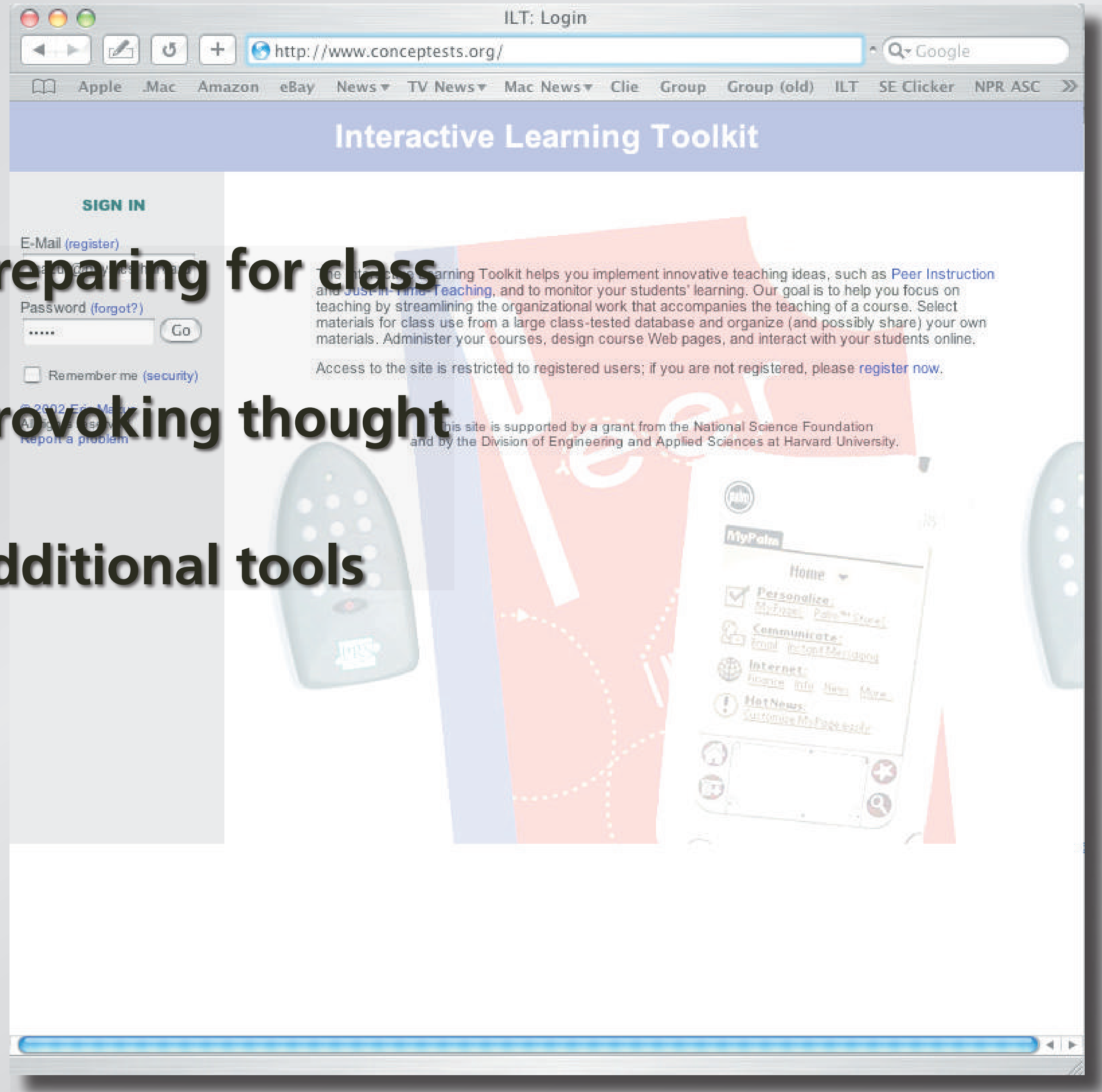
- facilitate new modes of learning
- increase interaction
- help instructor address student needs

Interactive Learning Toolkit

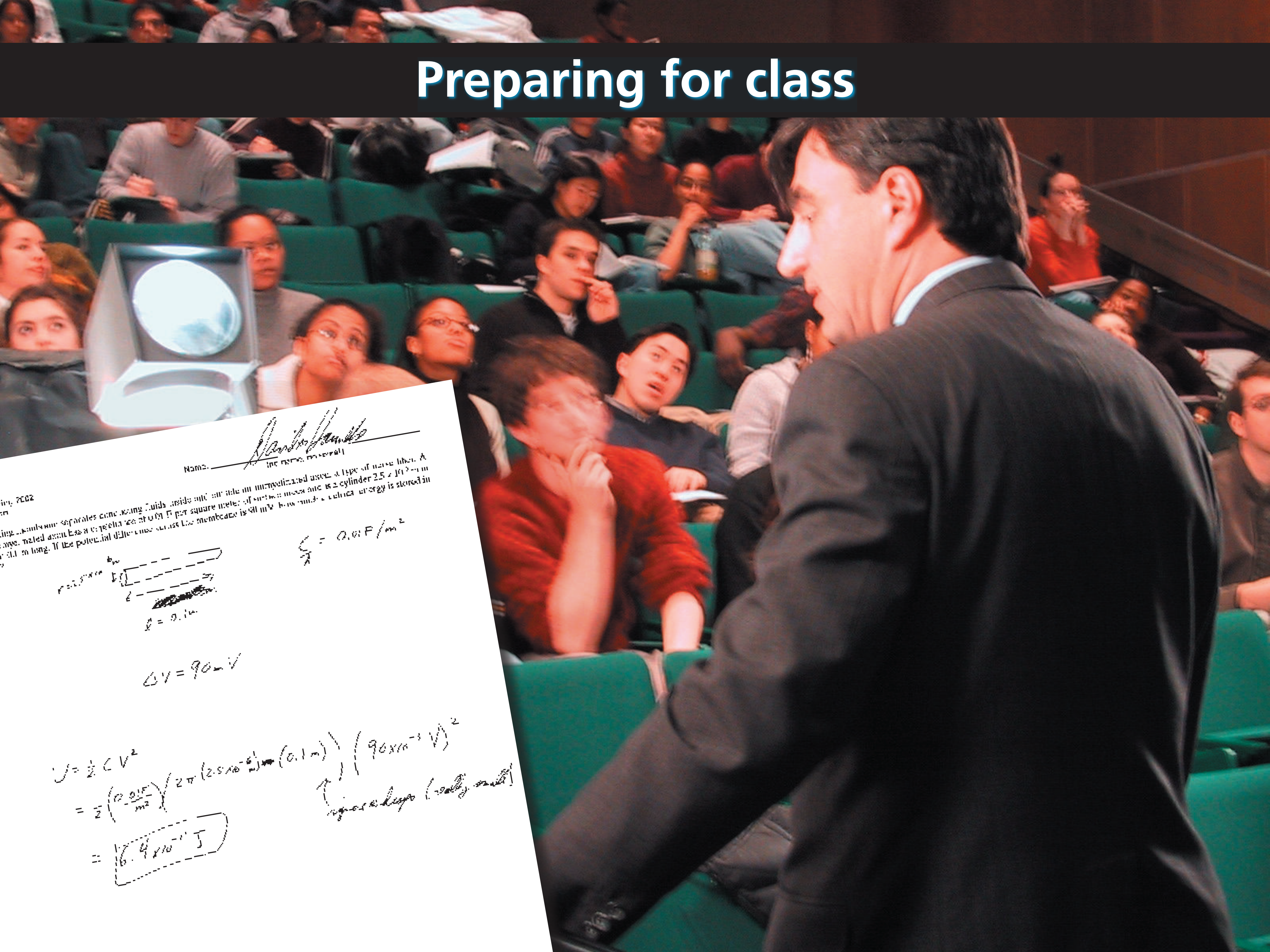


Outline

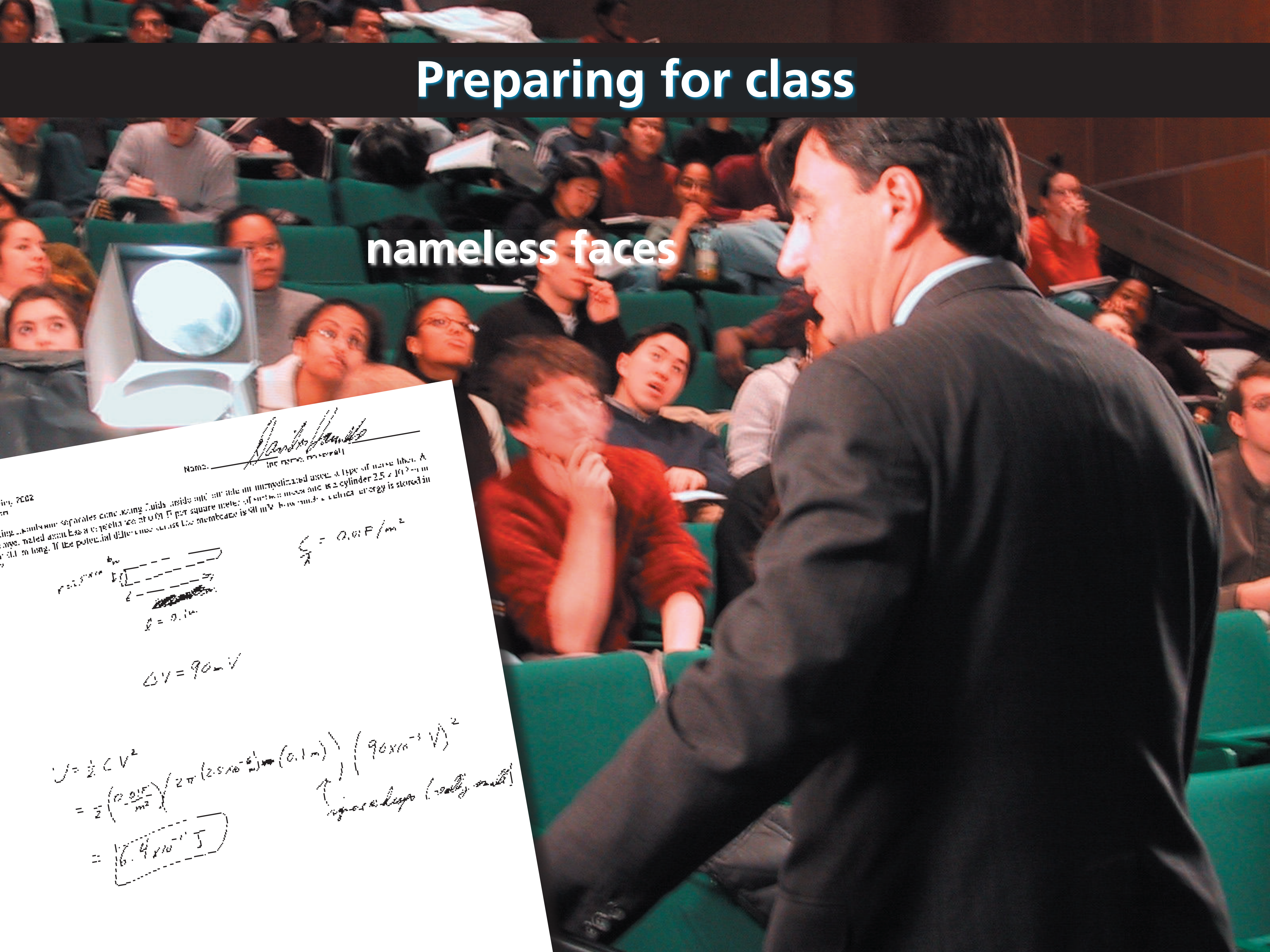
- preparing for class
- provoking thought
- additional tools



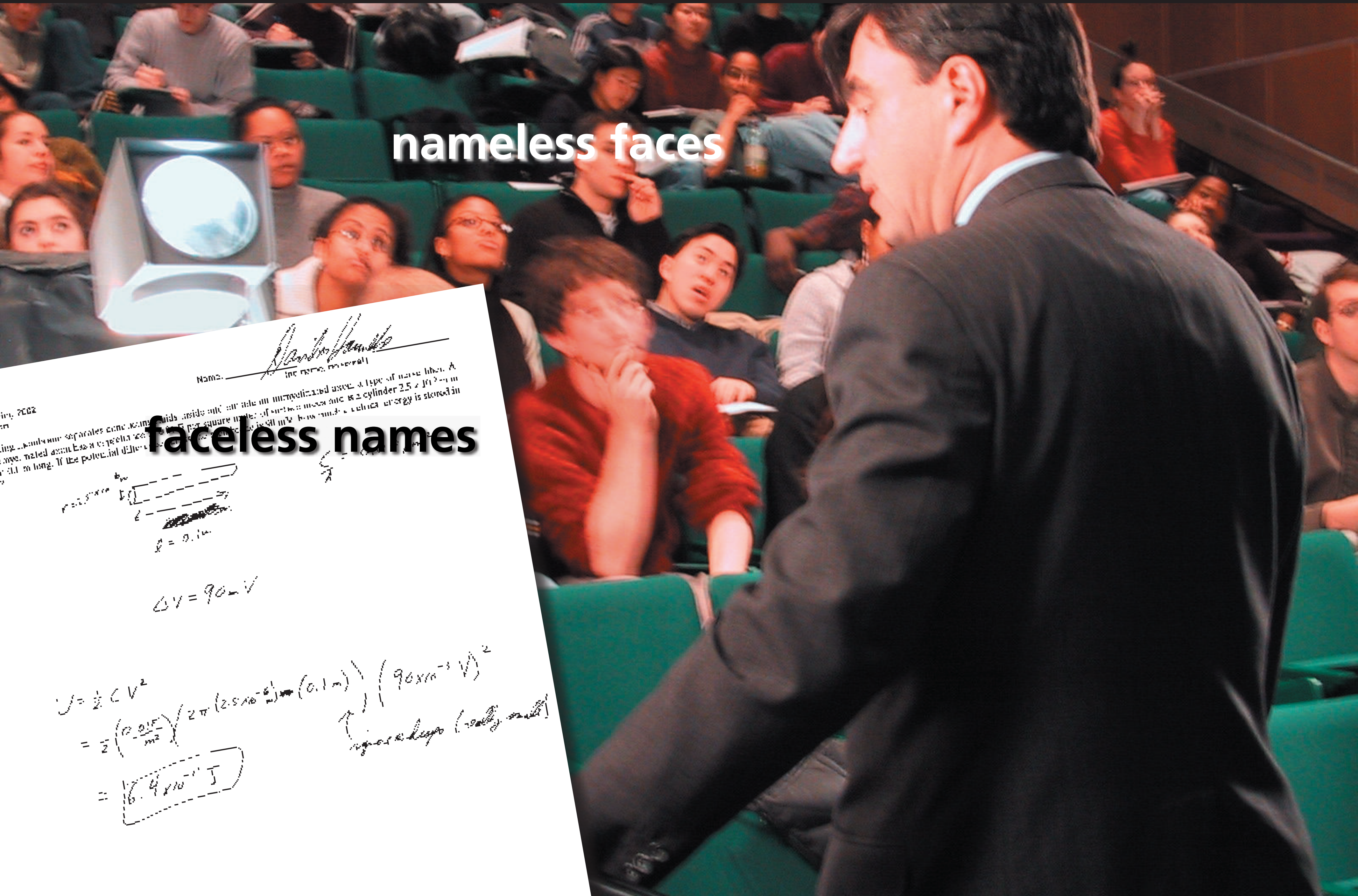
Preparing for class

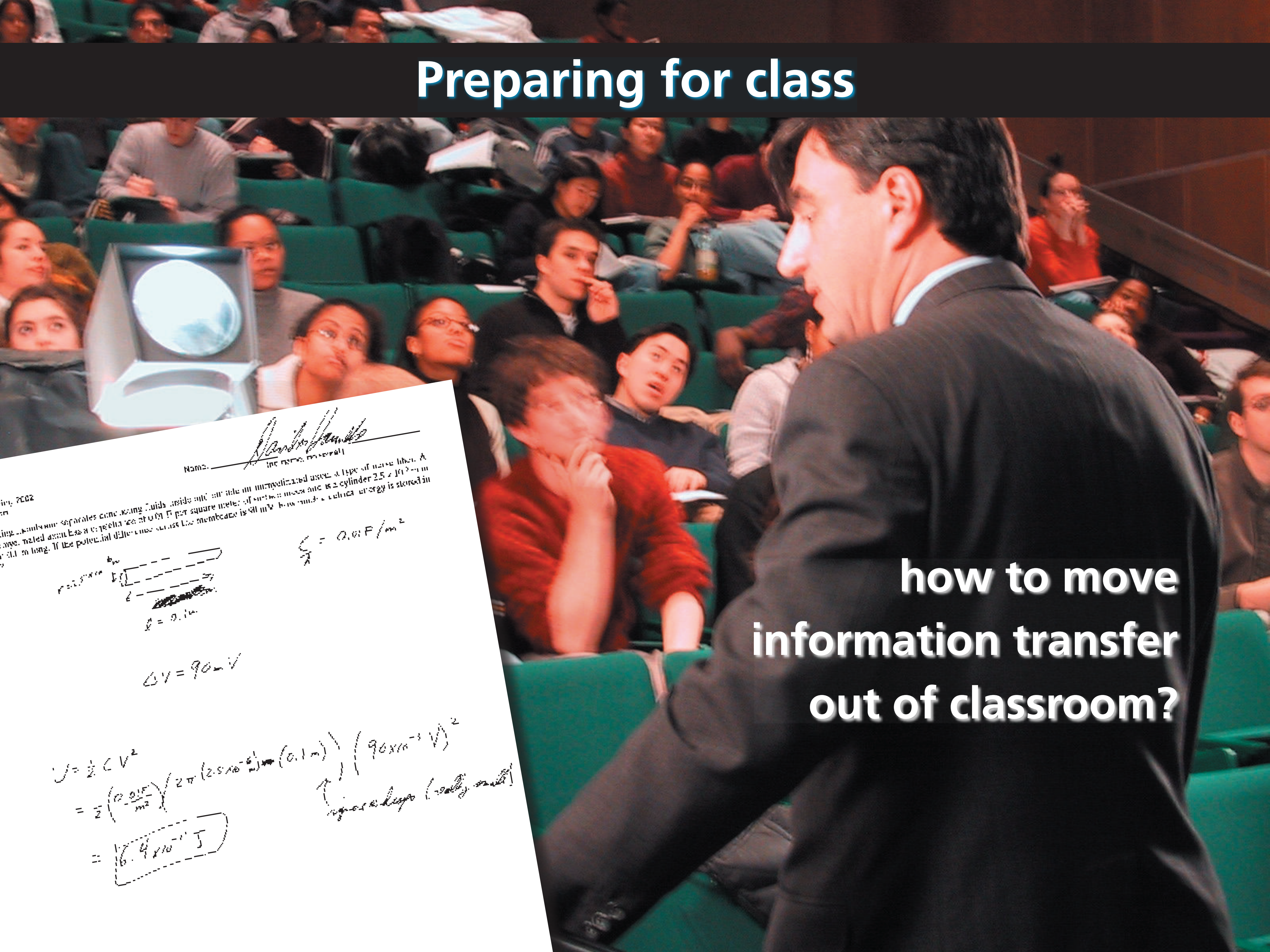


Preparing for class

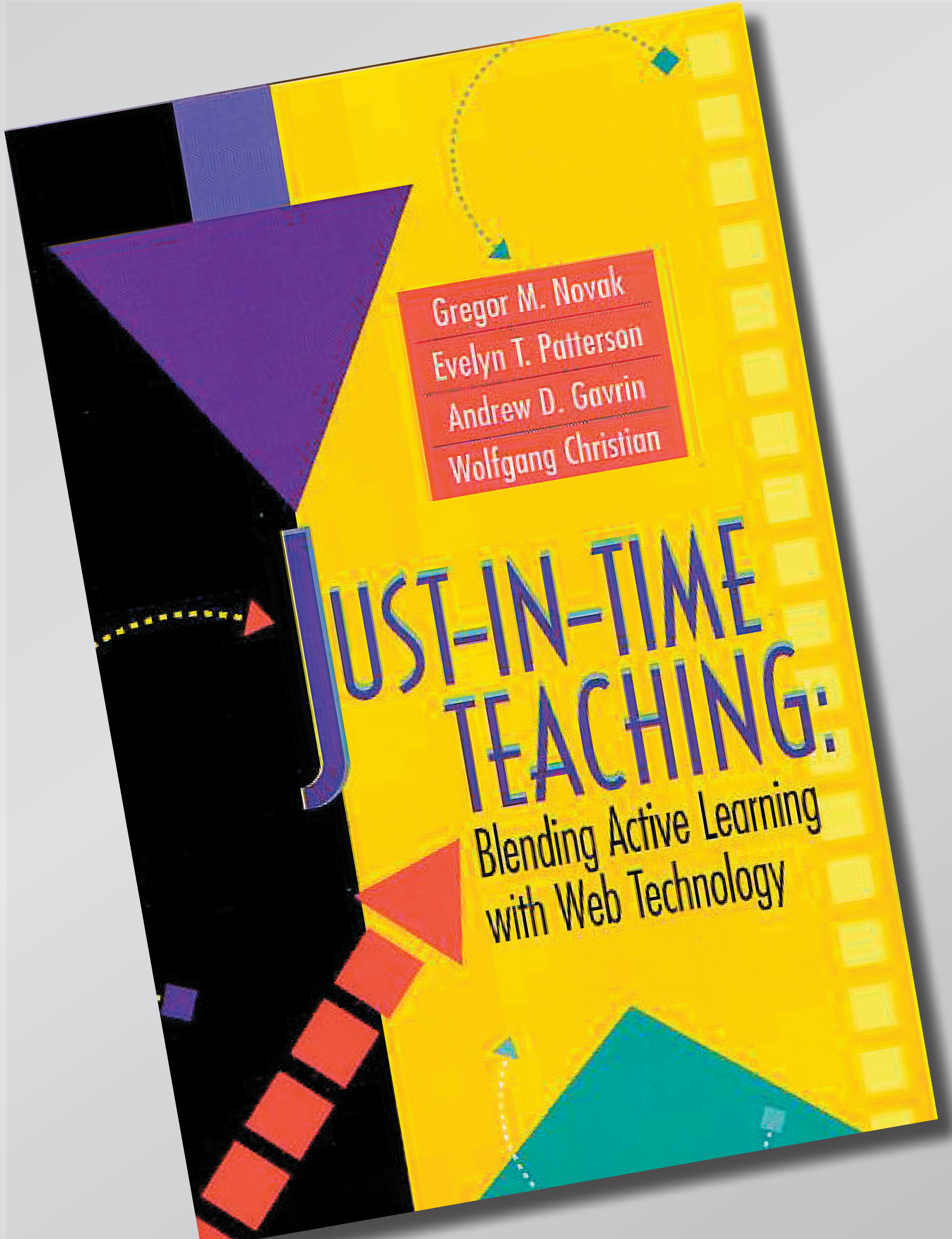


Preparing for class

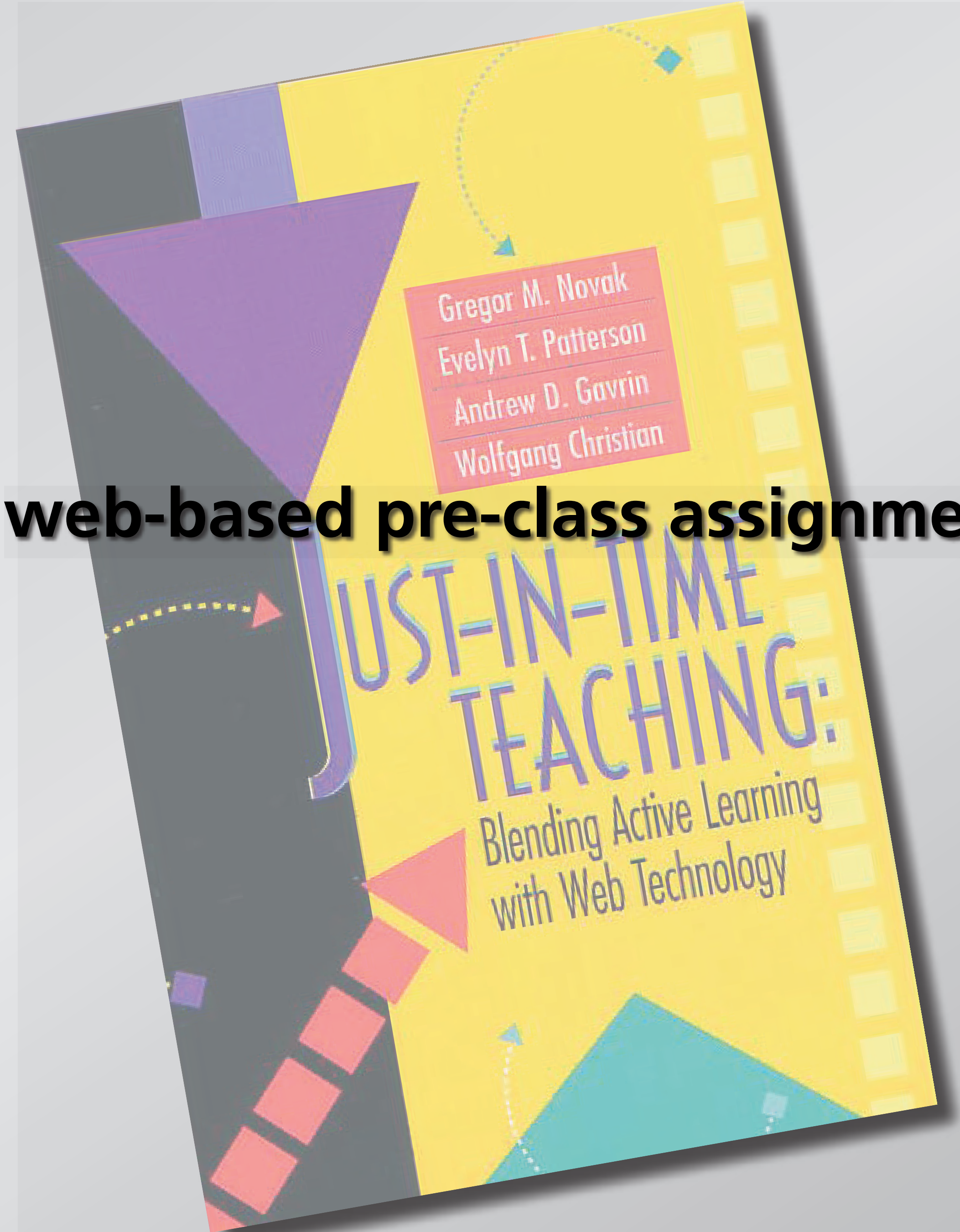



Preparing for class
how to move
information transfer
out of classroom?

Preparing for class

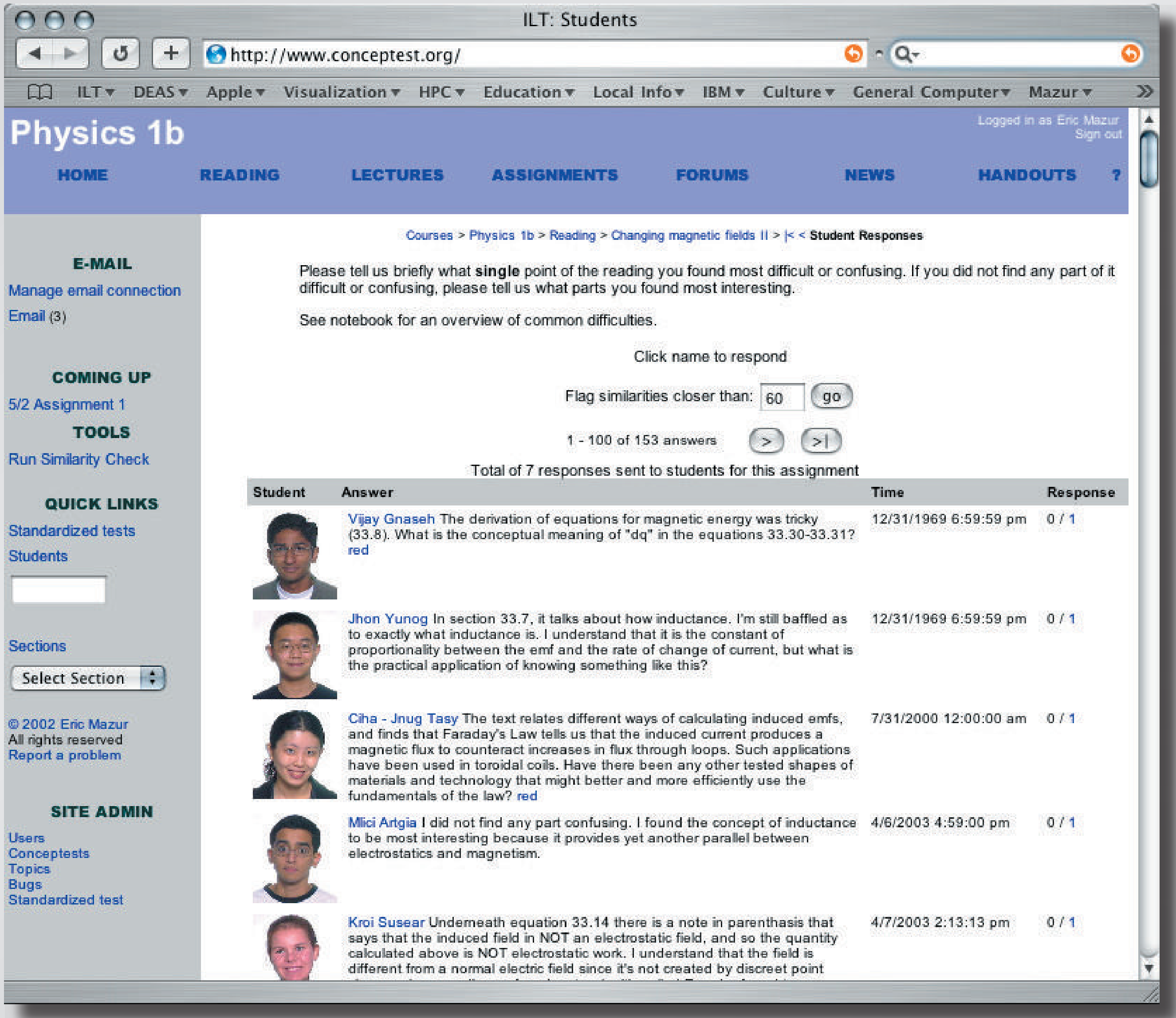


Preparing for class

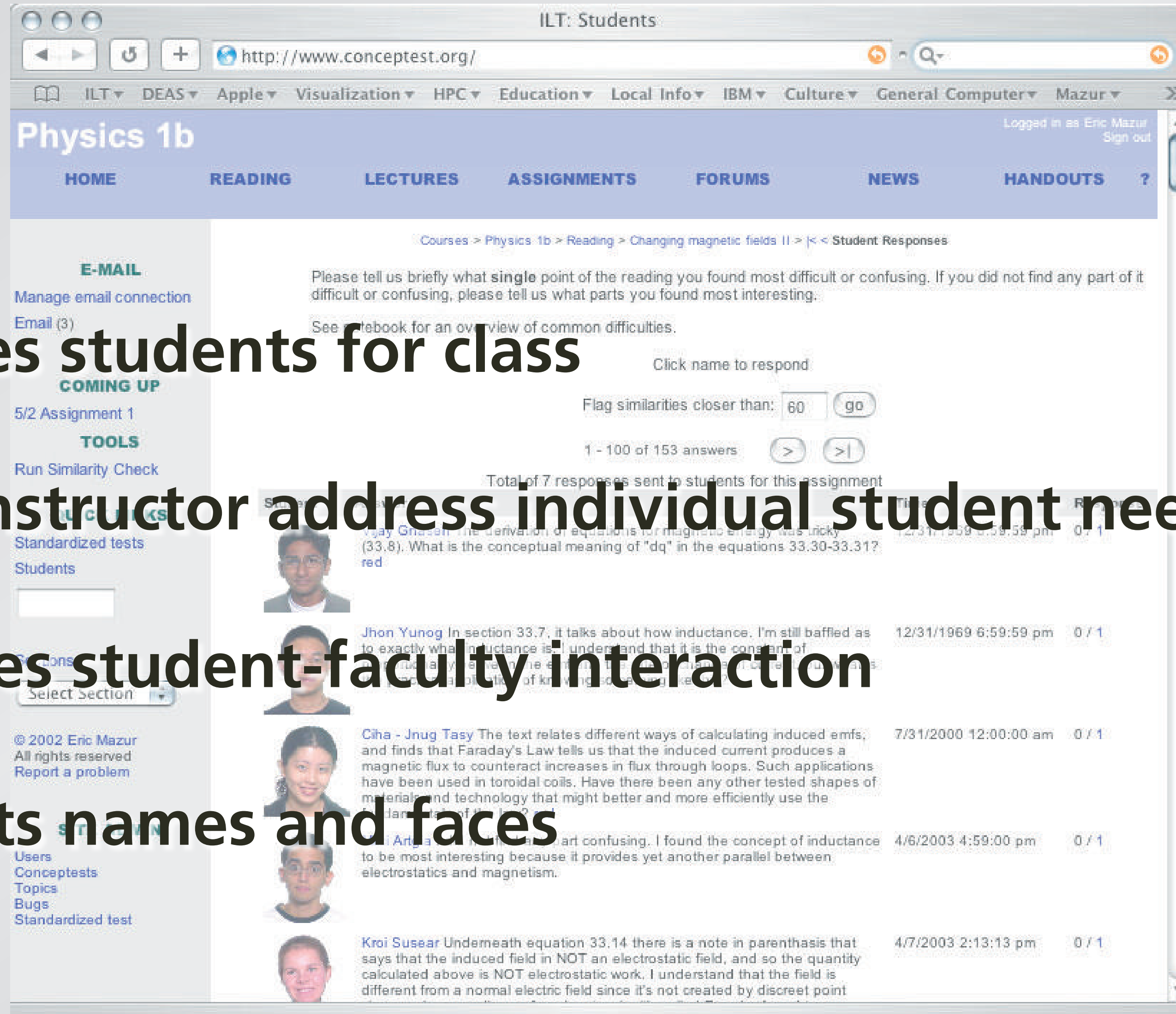


web-based pre-class assignment

Preparing for class



Preparing for class

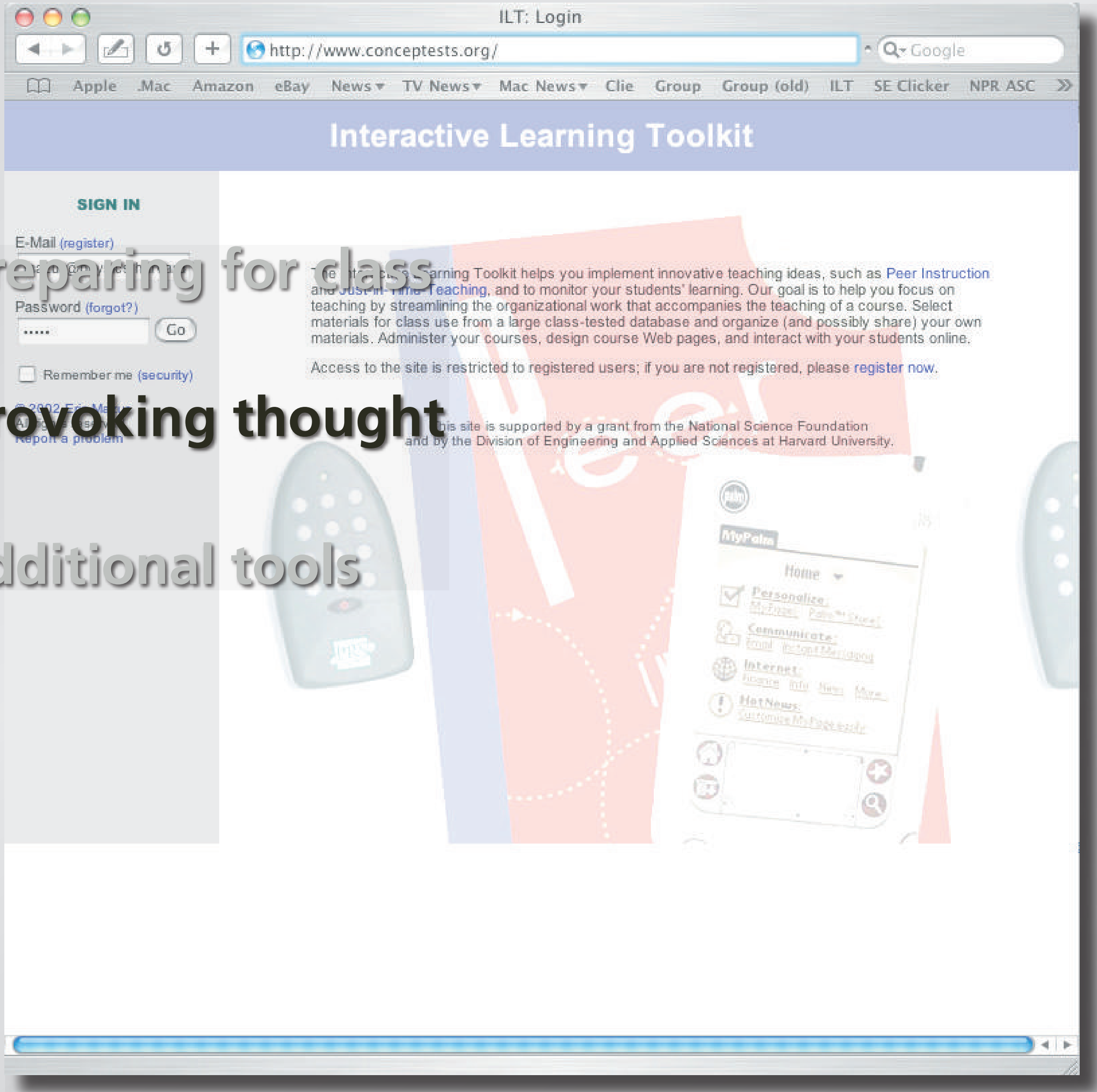


Benefits:

- prepares students for class
- helps instructor address individual student needs
- increases student-faculty interaction
- connects names and faces

Outline

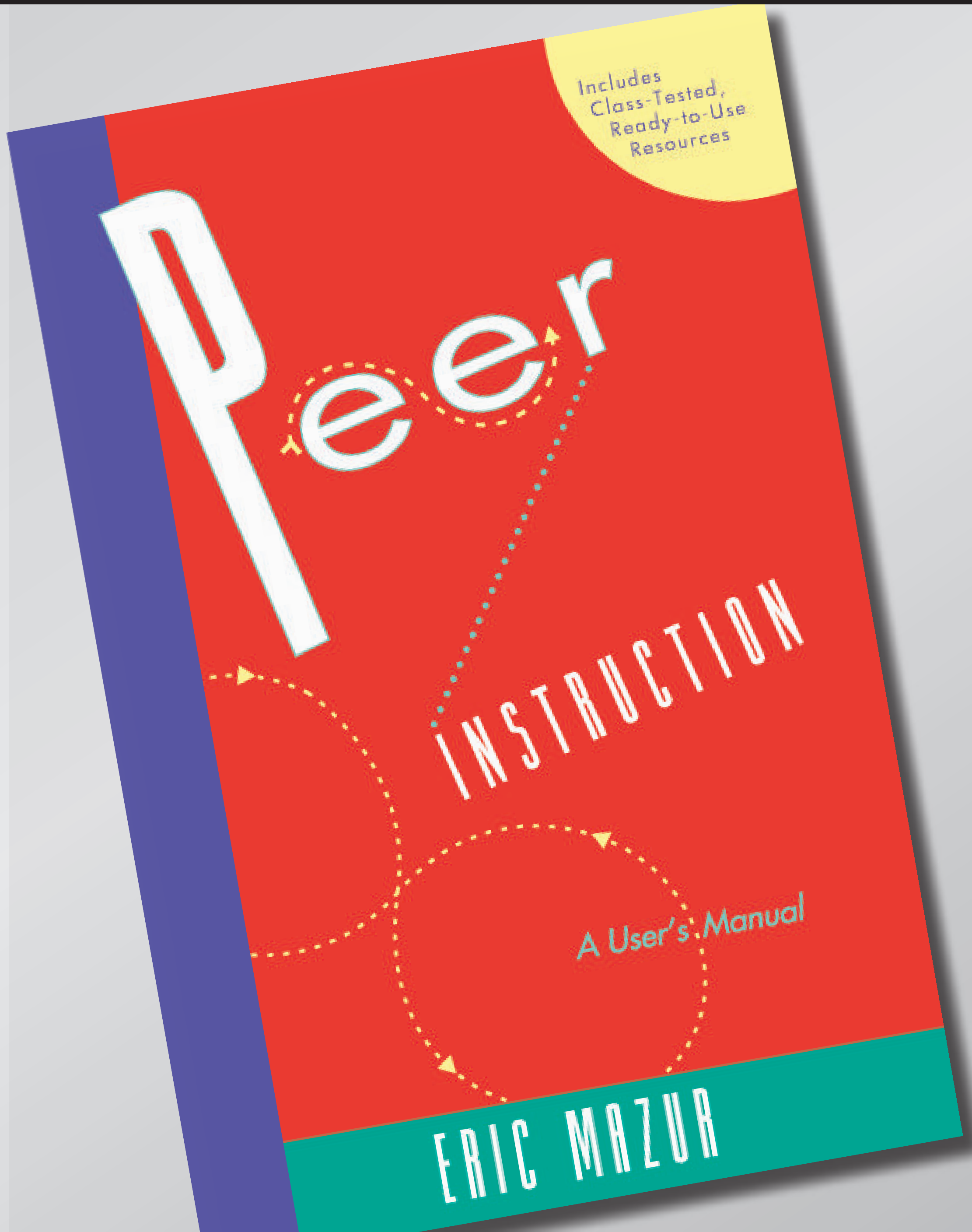
- preparing for class
- **provoking thought**
- additional tools



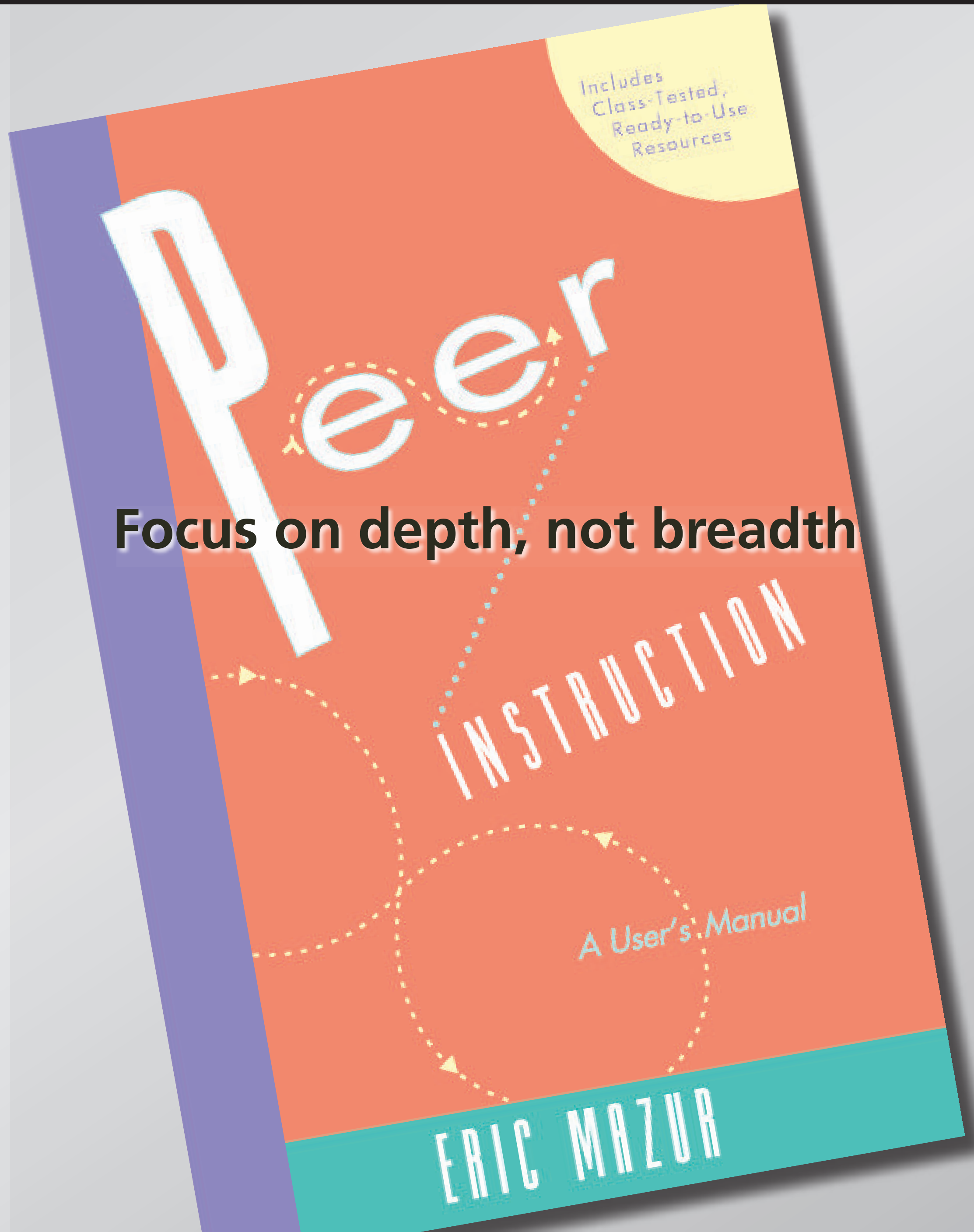
Provoking thought

What to do in class?

Provoking thought



Provoking thought



Focus on depth, not breadth

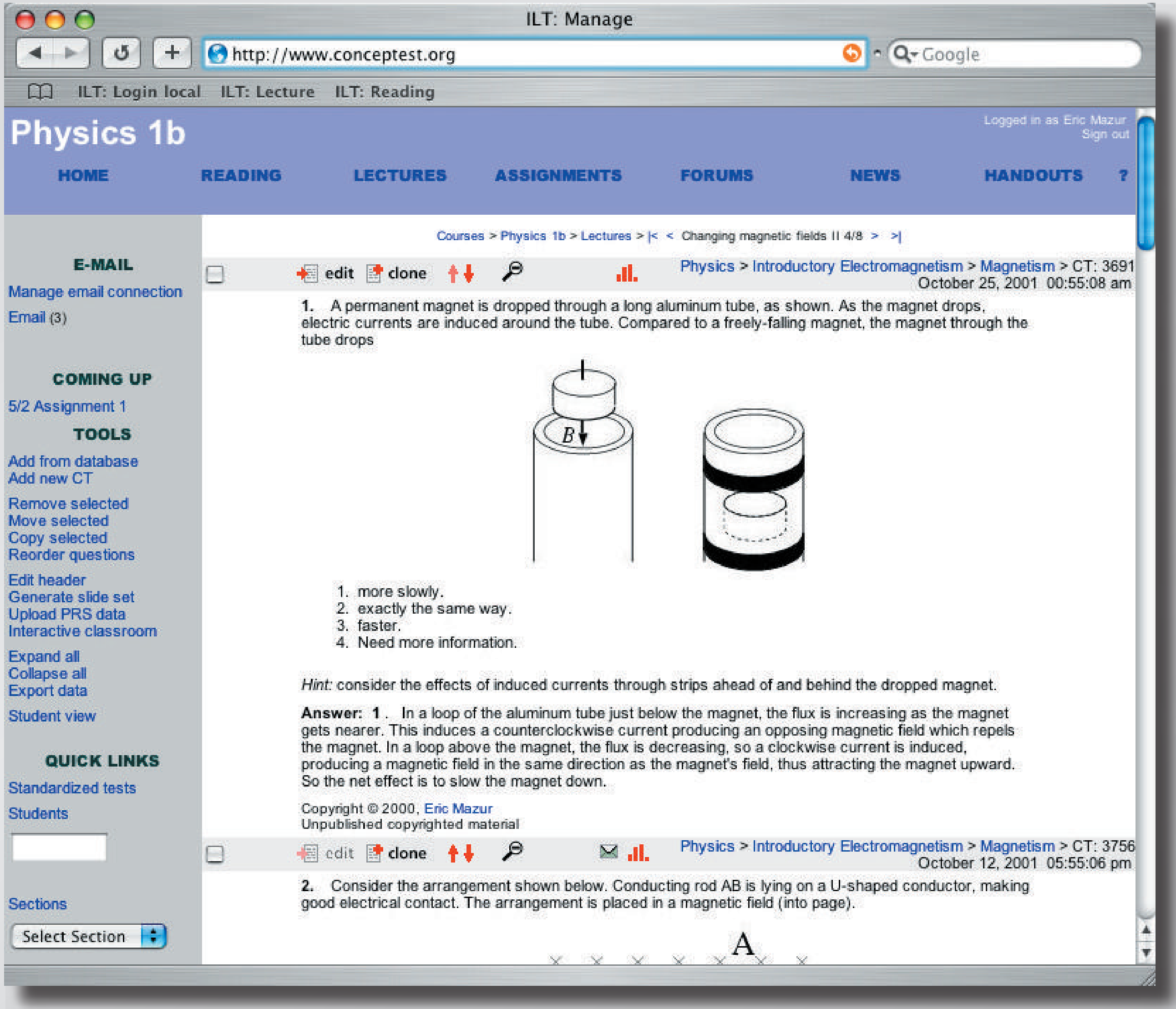
Provoking thought

Provoking thought

Some hurdles:

- finding materials
- collecting and managing feedback
- providing materials to students

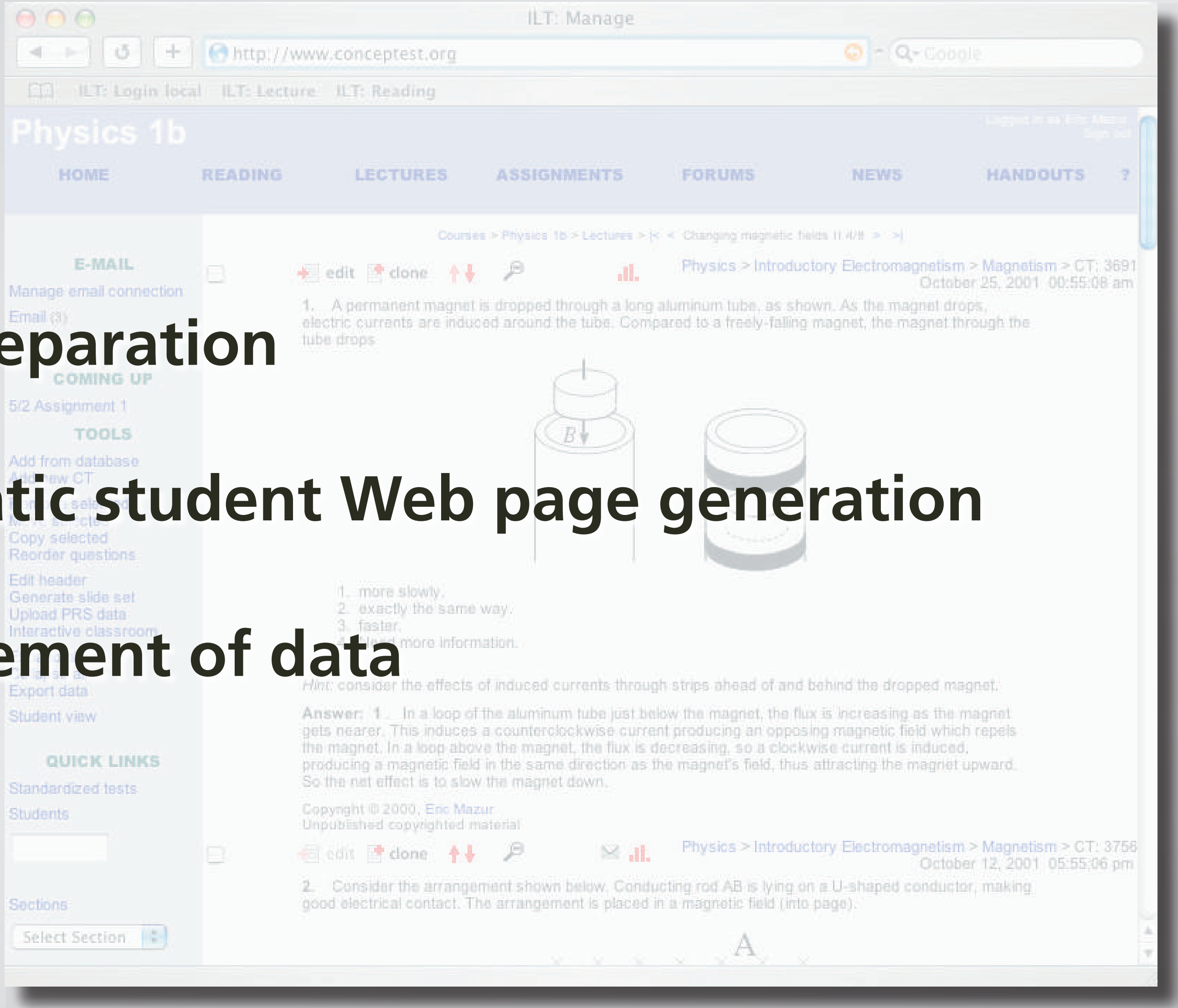
Provoking thought



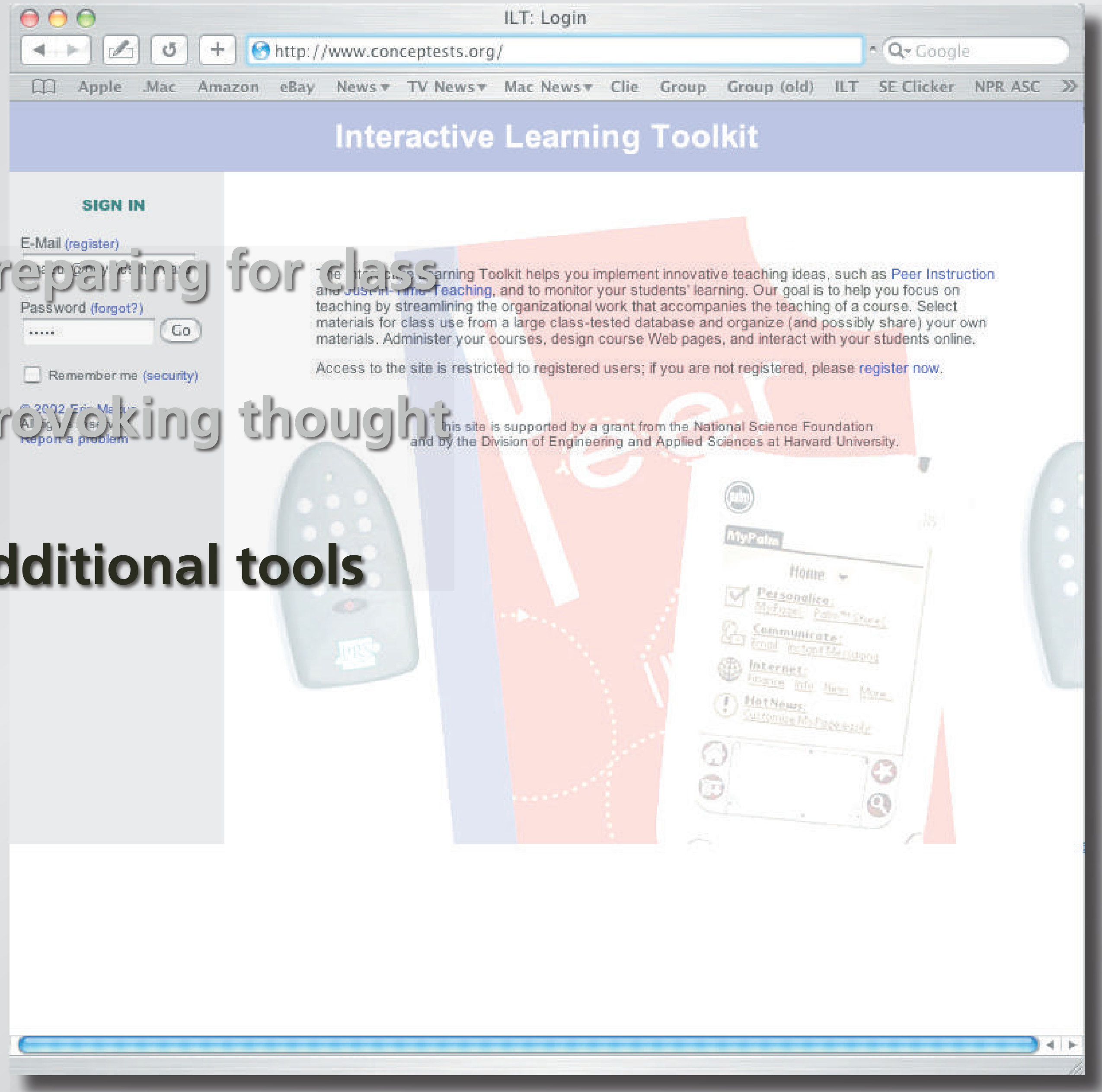
Provoking thought

Benefits:

- easy preparation
- automatic student Web page generation
- management of data

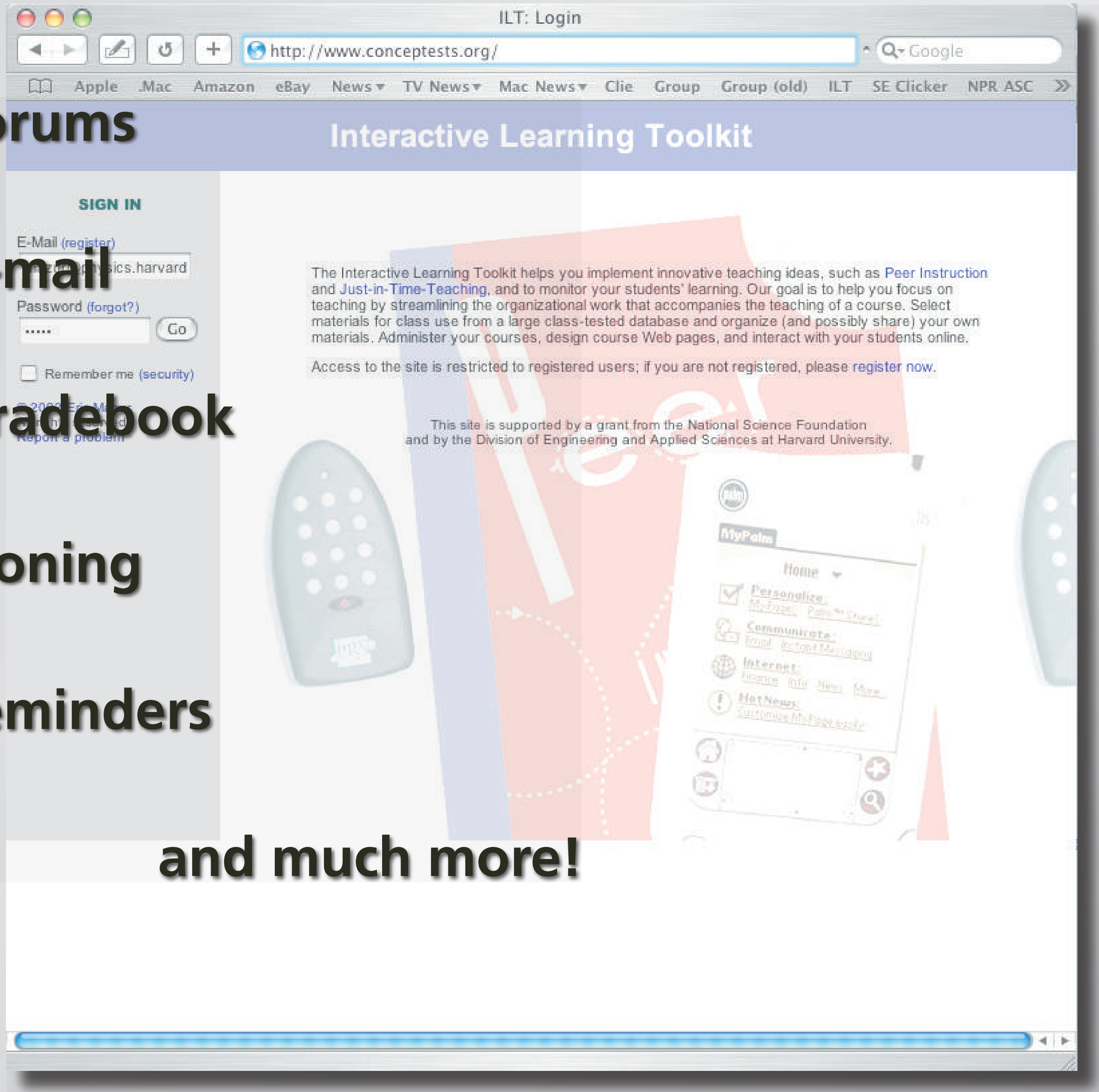


Outline



- preparing for class
- provoking thought
- additional tools

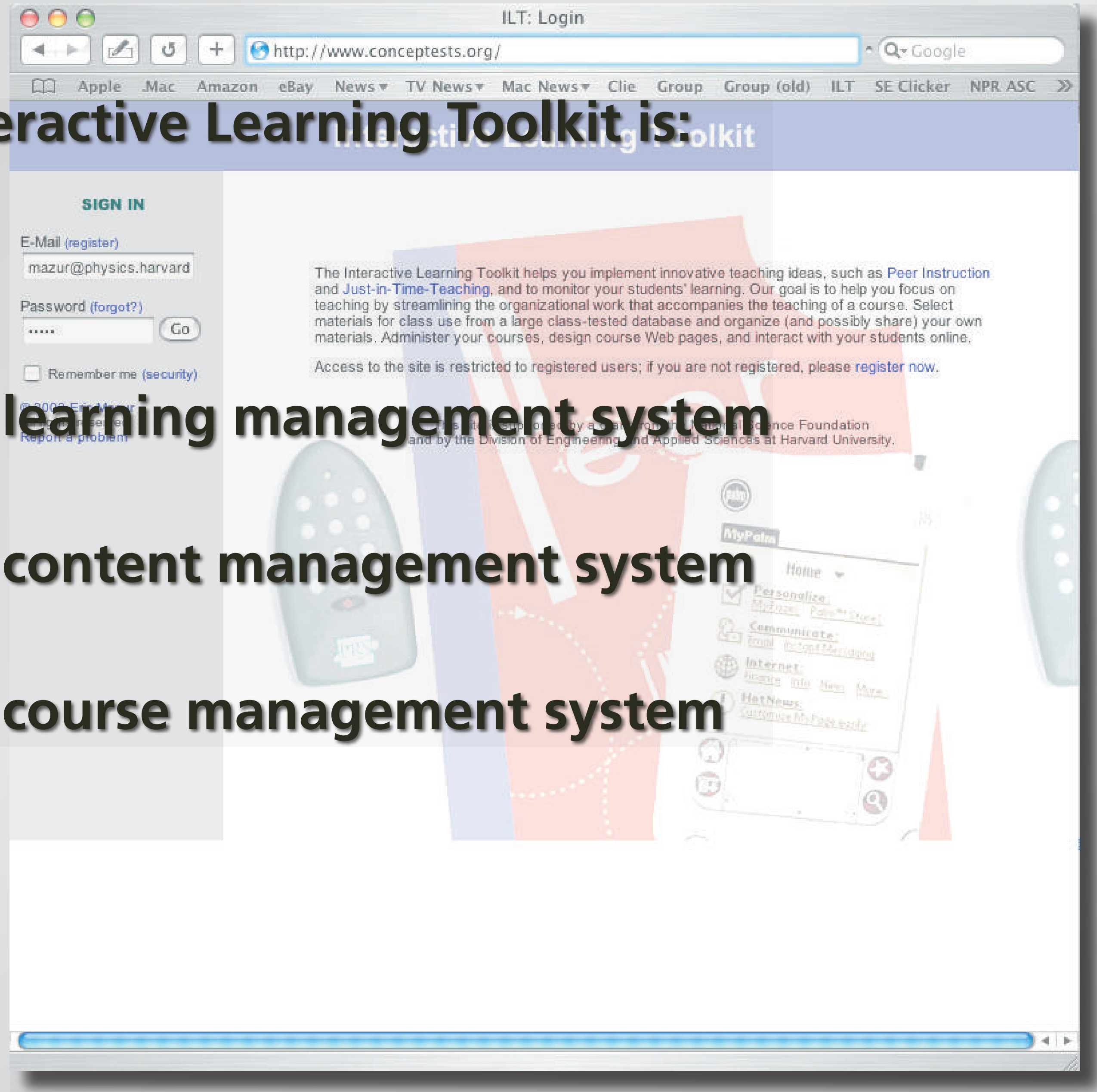
Additional tools



- forums
- e-mail
- gradebook
- cloning
- reminders

and much more!

Additional tools

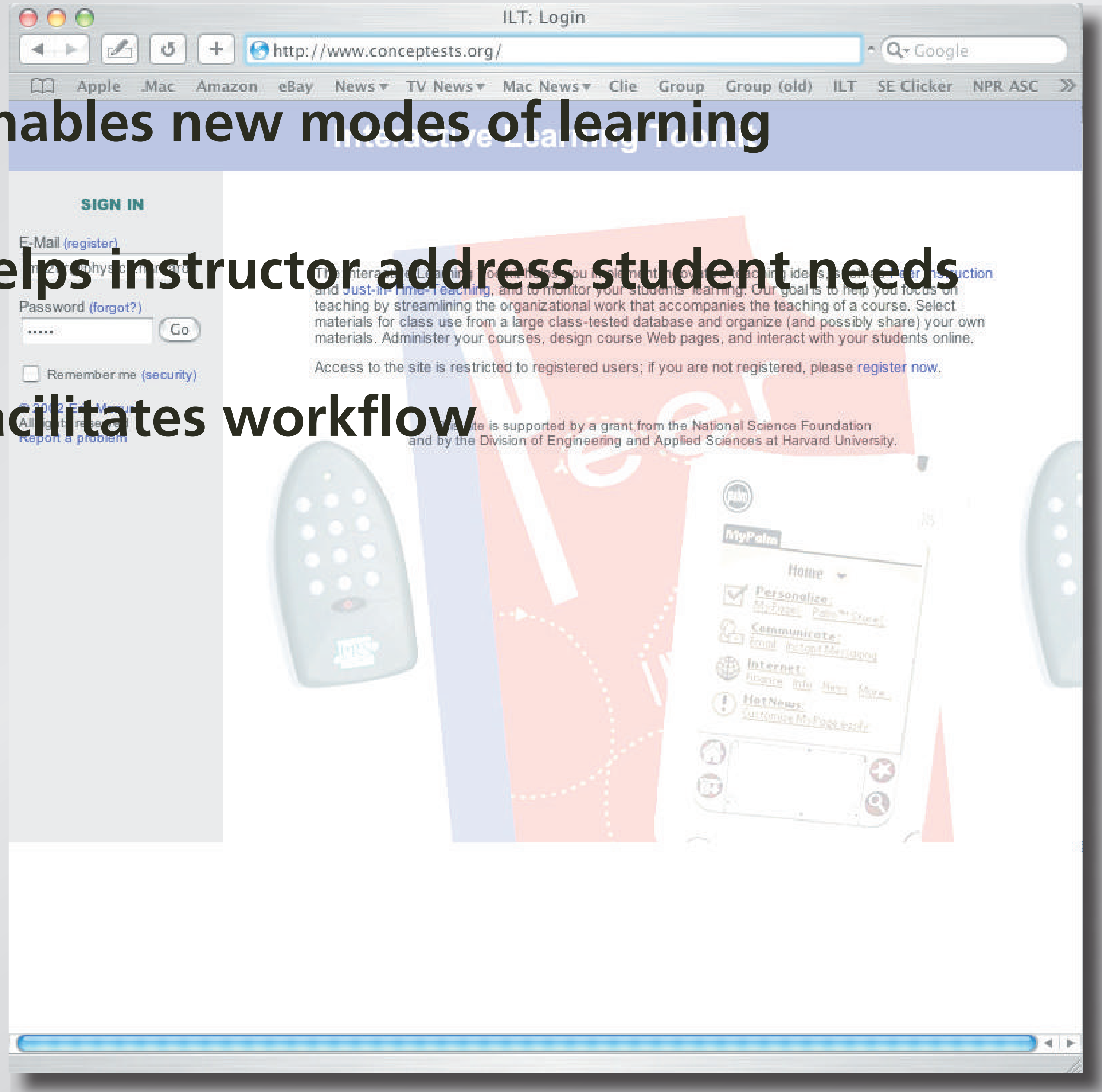


Interactive Learning Toolkit is:

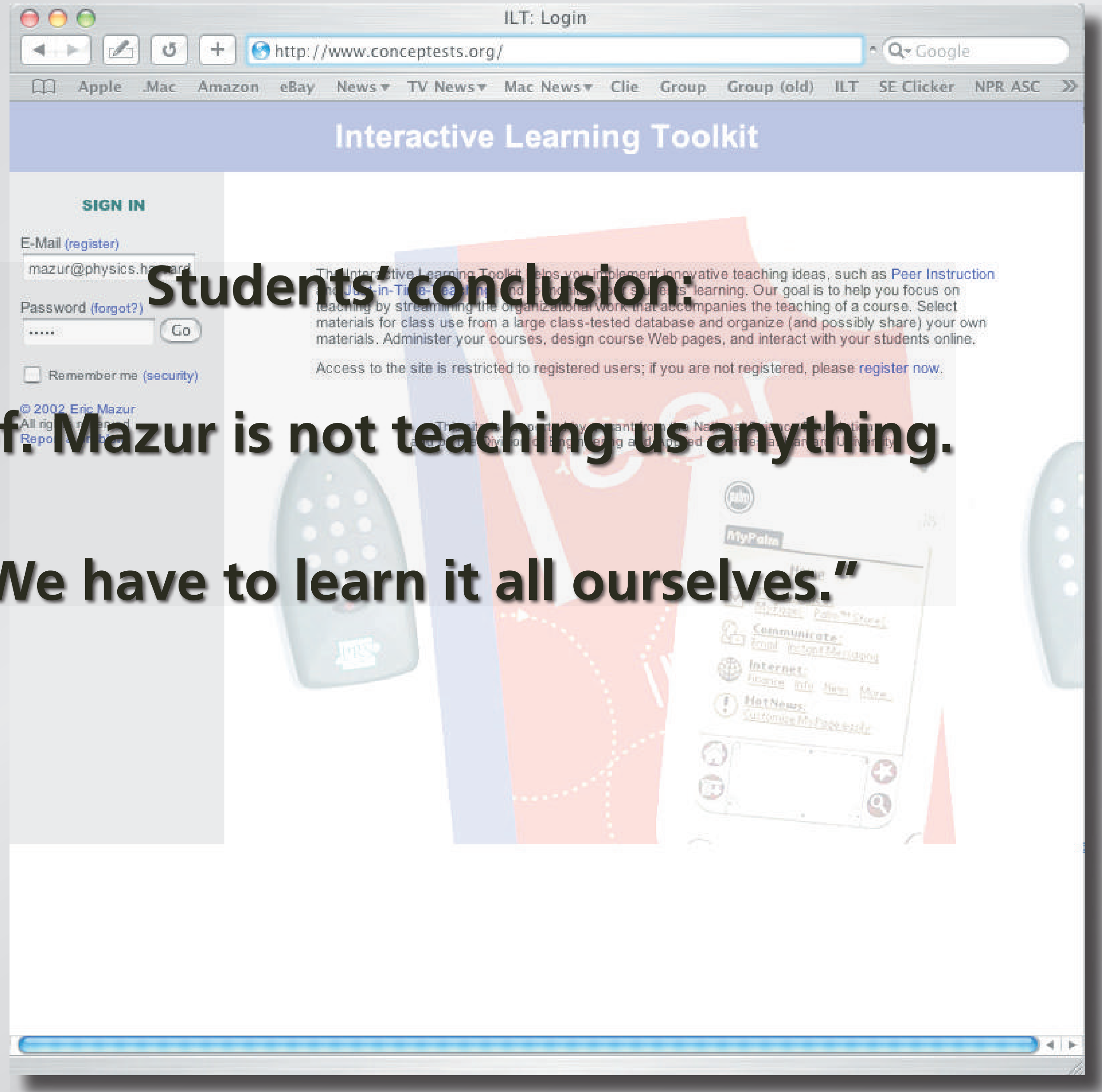
- a learning management system
- a content management system
- a course management system

Summary

- enables new modes of learning
- helps instructor address student needs
- facilitates workflow



Summary

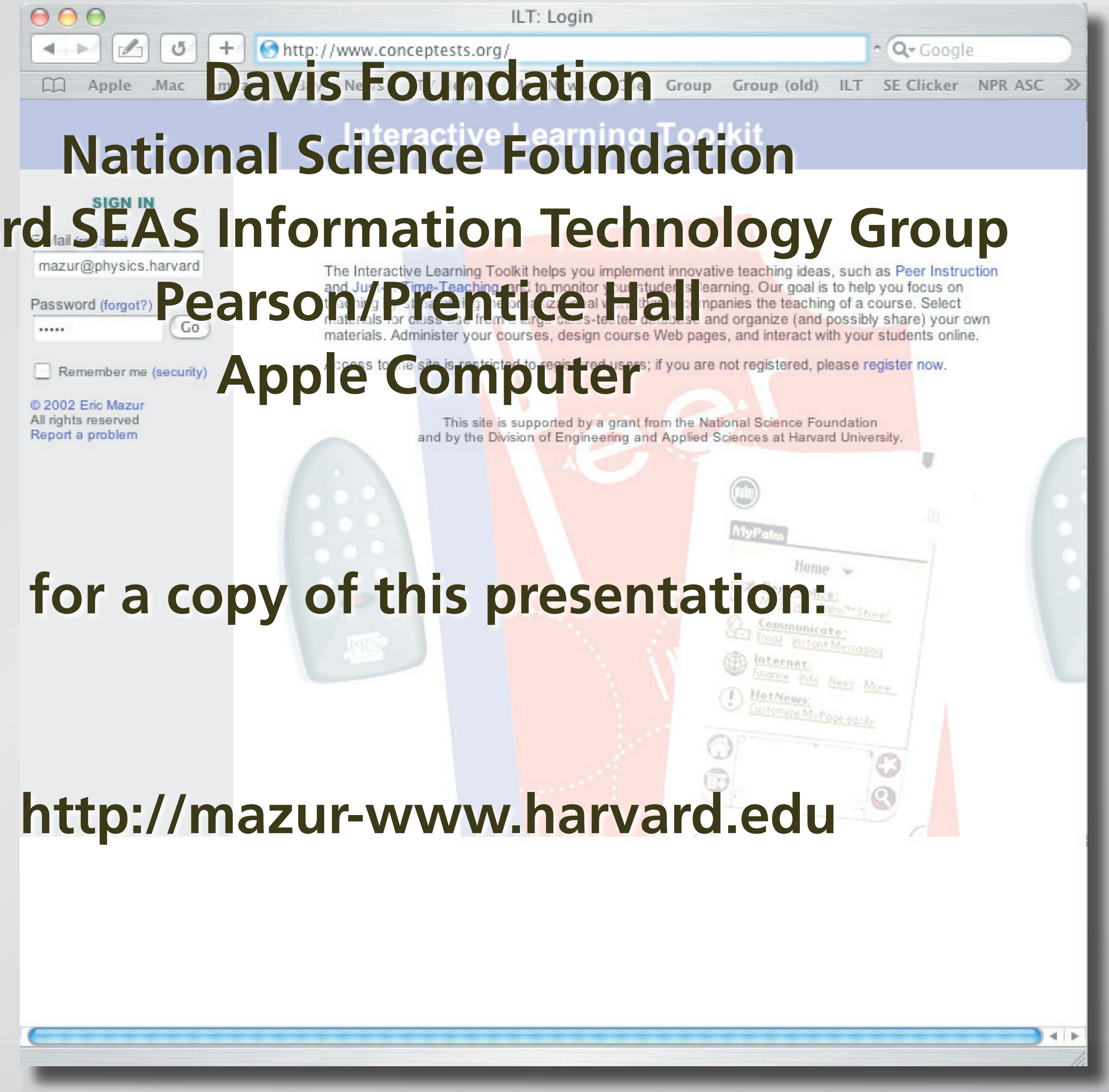


Students' conclusion:

"Prof. Mazur is not teaching us anything.

We have to learn it all ourselves."

Support:



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