Implementation
Automotive Related Industry is taken by automotive technology majors in the first semester of their program. The course provides an introduction to the automotive repair industry and covers automotive terminology, shop and personal safety, handling and storing of hazardous materials, identification and operation of shop equipment and specialized tools, and identification of hand tools. The class provides competency-based application of NATEF automotive repair tasks in a working shop environment.

I adopted MyAutomotiveLab to help students understand the textbook material. Every week I give two assignments—one assigned early in the week and one later in the week. Both include a textbook reading and corresponding assignment in MyAutomotiveLab. I space the assignments to ensure that students stay engaged in the material throughout the week and do not put off until the last minute all of the weekly work. Generally, I allow two attempts on quizzes and three attempts on other assessments.

Assessments
35 percent  Quality of work: lab and portfolio
20 percent  Automotive classroom theory (MyAutomotiveLab)
20 percent  Attendance
10 percent  Work habits lab
10 percent  Attitude
5 percent  Care of tools lab

MyLab Benefits
The material within MyAutomotiveLab makes it easier to me to prepare for class—I no longer need to create my own assignments to reinforce the reading. In addition, it is customizable—I can tailor it to the needs of our courses.

For students, MyAutomotiveLab provides a variety of benefits. First, automotive students are “hands-on” people—most are not enthusiastic readers. Yet, in the automotive trade, reading comprehension is important. As a practicing technician, they need to be able to read and understand the shop manuals and decision trees that are a typical part of diagnosing a problem. MyAutomotiveLab reinforces reading comprehension and critical thinking. Students enjoy the interactive assessments and appreciate the help. Most important, my students are earning higher test scores than they did without these additional learning aids. In addition, the due dates in MyAutomotiveLab help foster work ethics and accountability. In practice, if a technician doesn’t finish a job on time, he isn’t paid. By not accepting late assignments in MyAutomotiveLab, I help prepare students for the reality of their careers.

Conclusion
MyAutomotiveLab is used throughout our program. It engages students and enhances their understanding of course material, thereby improving their exam grades.

Submitted by James Haun
Walla Walla Community College

“MyAutomotiveLab helps me study and better retain the information.”
—Student