

Tips for SPARKS Students

Thank you for using the free SPARKS online activities! We hope the simulations, reports, and tutorial screens will assist your efforts to learn *Introductory Electronics*, and prepare you for the real lab experiences.

- **The SPARKS project portal:** <http://sparks.portal.concord.org>
This web page is the doorway to the activities for both students and teachers.
- **Watch getting-started videos.** Below the sign-in box, you can click the links to a short *Introductory Video*, and student *Registration Instructions*.
- **Sign-up and login.** As demonstrated in the introductory videos...
 1. Sign-up by providing your name, choosing a password, and selecting a few security questions/answers (in case you forget your password). If you're 18 years or older, read over and agree to the consent form (check "Yes"), and click *Submit*.
 2. Make note of your username provided by the portal. Use your new username and password to immediately sign in.
 3. Scroll down and enter the "class word" provided by your teacher. Click *Submit* and *Join*.
- **Select and complete activities.** Start the first activity.
 1. Click the "run..." link for the first activity chosen by your teacher.
 2. Read the instructions and questions, adjust the simulated equipment, measure and/or calculate to supply the correct answers, and click *Submit*.
 3. At the end of each level, look over the progress report. If you're having trouble, click and view the suggested *Tutorials*.
 4. When you consistently see "green" on a report (earning full points), we encourage you to go to the *Activity Summary*, and move on to the more challenging levels in this activity to earn even higher point values!
 5. When you've completed all levels of an activity, scroll down and click "Return to the SPARKS Portal" to select the **next activity** in the list.
- **Complete the Student Survey.** We value your opinion! Please give us a few reactions to the activities, collected by the brief *Survey* activity. (If not found in your class list, it will be in the "SPARKS Activity Library.")

Again, **THANK YOU!** for your participation in this
National Science Foundation project.

For more information about the SPARKS project and resources, visit:
<http://concord.org/sparks/virtual-electronics/>