

## Tips for SPARKS Teachers

Thank you for using the free SPARKS online activities! We hope the simulations and reports will assist your efforts to teach *Introductory Electronics*. If you have further questions, see our contact information at the end of this document.

- **The SPARKS project portal:** <http://sparks.portal.concord.org>  
This web page provides access for students and teachers to the project.
- **Watch getting-started videos.** Below the sign-in box, click the links to view short videos that provide a project overview, and demonstrate the sign-up process for teachers and students.
- **Please sign-up and login.** Teachers will sign-up to “create a class” and select activities for students. Students will sign-up and then log in to your class for us to record, summarize, report, and analyze their responses. Teachers must log in to view reports on student progress.
- **Sign-up and create a class.** A one-time process to get started.
  1. Provide your name and email address, and choose a username and password. Check your *InBox* for an activation email.
  2. Click the link in the activation email to return to the portal, and log in.
  3. “Create a class” by providing a class name and a short, unique “class word” to identify this class. Also, please help us by typing the name of your school in the *Description* box.
  4. Drag from the list of available activities to the *Class Assignments* box.  
**Note:** The *order* in which you select them is the order the students will see. We recommend using the same order of increasing difficulty as we’ve listed them, including the *Student Survey* activity at the end.
- **Provide students with “class word.”** After students sign-up and login, they will enter your “class word.” This is necessary to record their progress.
- **Examine student data.** Click REPORT for each activity to review student progress and performance. Click on a student’s name to dig a little deeper.
- **Encourage students to complete the Student Survey.** We appreciate student reactions to the activities, collected by the brief *Survey* activity.

For more information about the SPARKS project and resources, visit:

<http://concord.org/sparks/virtual-electronics/>

Or contact the project staff:

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