Welcome to The Lab!

The Lab is a practice space designed to prepare you for the experience of being a teaching assistant in a chaotic lab class. In a real classroom, you’ll be working under time pressure, helping students debug complicated lab setups and responding to rapid-fire questions. But, as a teacher, you have a second mission: helping students make sense of their misconceptions and turning the lab into a learning experience. It sounds like a lot to balance, doesn’t it?

The Lab simulates the time pressure and physical equipment of a lab classroom, letting you develop your own strategies for prioritizing learning in the face of chaos and urgency. You’ll have the chance to play both as a teacher, hunting down misconceptions and providing lab instructions, and as a student, putting pressure on the teacher to keep the lab moving forward and handling the lab equipment. If time allows, it is highly recommended to experience both roles.

Before starting play, decide who will be the teacher and who will be the student, then distribute the materials below. In addition to the sheets and lab equipment provided, a timer will also be necessary. If this is your first time using the lab equipment for the game, it may be a good idea to spend a minute or two playing with the plugs and dials to familiarize yourself with the setup.

**Teacher**

* Teacher scenario sheet
* Misconception tracking sheet
* Apparatus diagram (teacher version)
* Lab protocol sheet

**Student**

* Student scenario sheet
* Lab completion sheet
* Apparatus diagram (student version)

Once you have your sheets, read them carefully and resolve any questions before starting play. Don’t show your apparatus diagram to the other player, and if you’re the teacher, don’t show your lab protocol sheet to the student.

When you’re ready to start, set a 7 minute timer and spend the next 7 minutes working to achieve your goals in The Lab. Be sure to keep track of your score on your score checklist as you go.

When time’s up, tally up your score marks and go through the suggested set of debrief questions on the reflection sheet. If you’d like to play again after reflection, be sure to use a new student apparatus sheet and protocol sheet.