

2005 APS March Meeting

Monday-Friday, March 21-25, 2005; Los Angeles, CA

[Session N17: Research on the Learning and Teaching of Physics](#)

8:00 AM-11:00 AM, Wednesday, March 23, 2005

2005 3 23 8:00 - 404 B

Sponsoring Unit: FEd

Chair: Gary White, American Institute of Physics

Abstract: N17.00010 : Students' reasoning regarding entropy and the second law of thermodynamics in an upper-level thermal physics course

10:12 AM-10:24 AM

[Preview Abstract](#)

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We have been extending our investigation of student learning in thermal physics to the upper-level course targeted primarily at junior and senior physics majors. We are monitoring the progress of the students as they attempt to unify the macroscopic and microscopic/statistical viewpoints into a coherent understanding of thermal physics concepts. We will report on initial results of this work regarding the development of students' understanding of entropy and the second law of thermodynamics.