CATS – Don’t procrastinate! Being proactive in completing an online study tool leads to better test scores

For this CATS, I wanted to look at if there is any difference in test scores between students who quickly complete an online study tool prior to the exam and students who take hours or days to complete the same study tool. I gave my introductory Psychology students over a week to complete the online study tool (a Collaborate Learning Unit or “CLU,” name courtesy of Dr. Coleman) for each exam (data from 3 exams included in this analysis) and categorized them based on if they took less than an hour, from an hour to a day or more than one day to complete the study tool. I found a significant main effect of time spent on CLU and test grade, students who took less than an hour to complete the CLU had the lowest scores on the exam (M=64.38, SD=16.67), followed by the students who took less than a day (M=75.13, SD=11.88) and the students who took more than a day had the highest test scores (M=76.57, SD=10.12), F (2, 78) = 6.33, p<.01. I will show my students this finding and encourage them to take lots of time to study for the next two exams we have in our course, it could increase their score by an entire letter grade!

