



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & THEATRE

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Weinberg Memorial Library

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Thank you for the OER grant which gave me the opportunity to explore the use of Open Education Resources for my Writing 107 classes for Fall 2020. Using the OER Home page was a bit intimidating, but after attending a workshop sponsored by WML, I examined the various resources and found the most useful for my purposes to be OASIS. Within OASIS, I clicked on the Composition section and was surprised at the number of quality resources available. In the end, the texts/lesson I utilized were: Lumen Learning, English Composition I (https://courses.lumenlearning.com/waymaker-level3-english-gen/?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Foer.suny.edu%2Fcourses%2Fenglish-composition-i%2F) and Libre Texts, English Compositions II (Rhetorical Methods Based-Lumen) ([https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Composition/Advanced_Composition/Book%3A_A_English_Composition_II_-_Rhetorical_MethodsBased_\(Lumen\)](https://human.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Composition/Advanced_Composition/Book%3A_A_English_Composition_II_-_Rhetorical_MethodsBased_(Lumen))).

My selections were made based on my pedagogical approach to first year writing. The first text would provide students with foundational writing process instructions on creating thesis statements, writing paragraphs, organizing ideas, drafting and revising. The second text focused primarily on rhetoric: how to summarize, how to analyze texts and visual arguments, determining audience, researching and citing sources. It also contained a section on reflective writing which was useful as my students do reflections for each major writing project.

I provided students with a link to both texts in the syllabus, and, as well, in a module on D2L dedicated specifically to the texts. I also provided specific links in each weekly module set up on D2L. I chose the text lessons I provided to dovetail with each week's particular writing lesson or writing assignment.

At the end of the semester, I asked students to answer an eight-question survey with regard specifically to the OER's used. Twenty five of twenty-seven students in two WRTG 107 classes responded. While I anticipated that students would be appreciative of the cost saving, however, I did not anticipate the positive comments about the quality of the OER. One survey was thrown out for rating the class, not the text. Below are the survey questions used as well as the general responses, bolded:

QUESTIONS

1. What did you initially think when you heard you would not have to purchase a text for Writing 107?

The majority students had no misgivings; Most commented that they were appreciative of the fact that they did not have to spend any more money on texts. Seven students used the word "relieved" that they did not have to purchase another text; One student said she had some misgivings but was relieved after reading the first chapter/lesson. One student had misgivings and did not like the texts.

2. On a scale of 1-5, 1 being terrible and 5 being terrific, what did you think, overall, of the texts?

Fifteen students answered with a 5

Six students answered with a 4

Three students answered with a 3

One student answered with a 1

3. Were they easy or difficult to access?

Twenty-four students answered this questions. All students answered that the texts were easy, to access.

4. Were you concerned that the text would not be as good as purchased print texts?

Twenty-three students answered no. One student answered that they had a slight concern which was alleviated after the first lesson. One student registered a concern.

5. How would you rate the lessons on a scale from 1-5 for content?

Sixteen students answered with a 5

Seven students answered with a 4

One student answered with a 3

One student answered with a 1

6. How would you rate the lessons on a scale from 1-5 for ease of access?

Twenty -one students answered with a 5

Three students answered with a 4

One student answered with a 3

7. Do you wish more or less instructors chose Open Education Resources?

Twenty-four students who answered this question answered “more,” one with the caveat, as long as the quality of the texts was as good as a print edition and one student said the texts were fine but not outstanding; One student said “less.”

8. Would you recommend I continue to use OER for my future WRTG 107 classes?

Twenty-four students answered in the affirmative. Reasons listed were ease of use, quality of content, having everything in one spot, and saving money. One student answered no, citing that he was not engaged with the texts.

Overall, I was impressed with the breadth and depth of the choices for rhetoric and composition. The texts I chose fit my overall needs. English Composition I contained lessons on writing process foundations. I found the second text, Rhetorical Methods Based, lessons to fit in nicely with the specific approach I take to Writing 107. While these texts were easy to use, the overall process in searching for texts could be a bit intimidating as there are so many sources. Finally, I was very pleased with the choices available to me and my students. I was happy to provide my students with quality OER and do plan on using the same set of resources for Spring 2021 semester.

Sincerely,

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