



# OER Pilot for Composition & Literature

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## PROJECT BACKGROUND

- Pilot project for use of open educational resources (OER) for Composition & Literature (ENG 102), a writing course
- Project supported by a Maryland Open Source Textbook Initiative High-Impact OER Mini-Grant
- Traditional print anthology was replaced with Lumen Learning OER
- Goals: Explore possibility of using OER for this high-enrollment first-year course. Explore a broad range of composition resources to support the redesign of this course from composition and literature to advanced composition

## IMPLEMENTATION

- The project used Lumen Learning Candela and Waymaker resources for two face-to-face sections of the course during the Fall 2018 semester
- Lumen Learning resources used: *English Composition II*, *Introduction to Literature*, and *Writing Skills Lab*
- Because of quality problems, one of the pilot instructors stopped using the OER midway through the semester, replacing these with other OER

## IMPACT

- Pilot project impact: Two faculty members, two sections, 42 students
- Estimated cost savings of \$50 to \$87 per student (vs. new at online book retailers, campus bookstore)
- Learning impact: Students struggled to complete the Waymaker modules, but those who did seemed to benefit. The class grade distribution included a higher proportion of F's than usual

## IMPACT (CON'T.)

- Student feedback: On the college's student evaluation survey, students rated teaching materials lower during the OER pilot. The item is a Likert scale for the statement "Teaching materials are helpful." Only 68.9% of pilot students agreed with this statement, compared with 100% and 95.8% in the previous two semesters
- Instructor impact: The pilot resources made teaching more difficult; instructors needed to provide significant support for online materials as well as supplement with additional instruction

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Successes: One instructor experienced good multimodal information and examples on Waymaker, with strong content and well-designed assessments. The other instructor found that texts were often inaccurate and non-academic
- Challenges: Time-consuming modules, usability issues, and technical glitches. Online resources are difficult to use in a class that relies on students' access to texts in the classroom. Students rated the pilot OER low in helpfulness, potentially affecting student evaluations of faculty
- Advice to other faculty members: Seek support from your institution to develop OER with colleagues

## FUTURE PLANS

- No plans are underway to use OER for future versions this course. Instead, a single publisher's print textbook will be used for both courses in the ENG 101-102 composition sequence