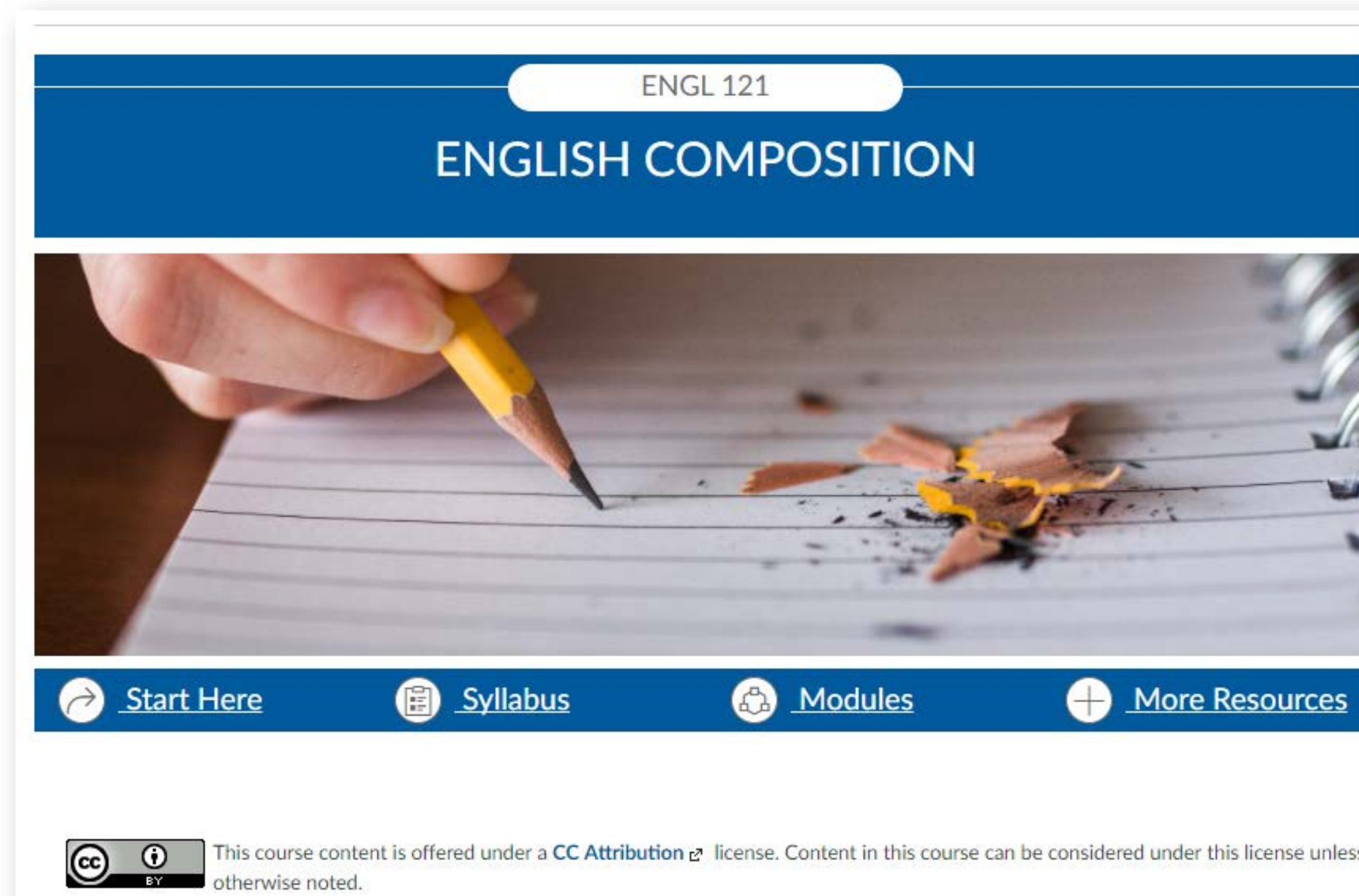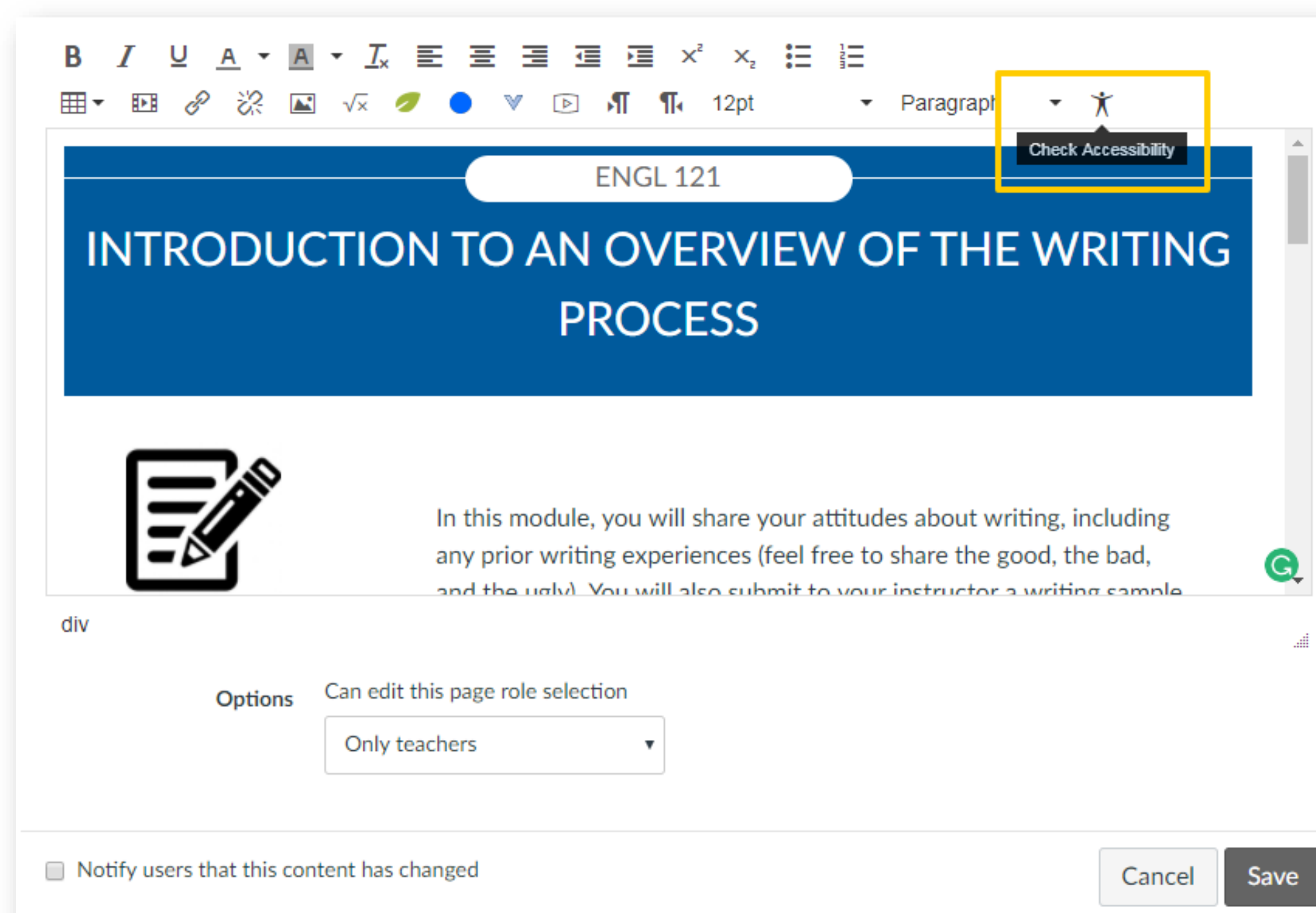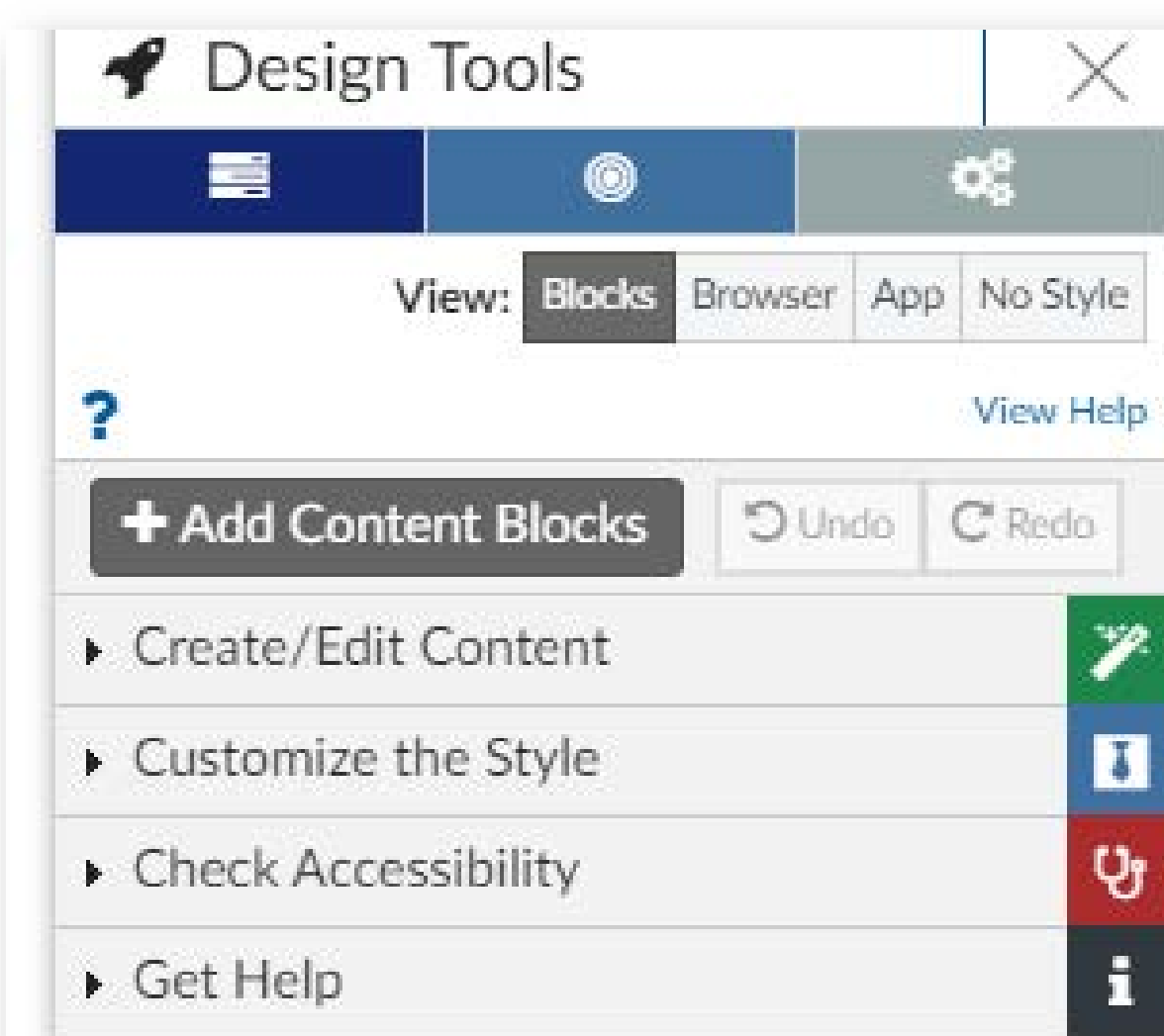# Building an OER Course Template

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## PROJECT GOALS

- To create an OER course template that can be distributed to faculty interested in implementing OER in their courses
- To ensure that OER content is accessible and meets the WCAG 2.0 Guidelines
- To remove the design barriers for faculty using Canvas as their OER platform
- To design the instructional materials in a way that encourages student engagement while promoting the Canvas Accessibility Checker

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Use a Lumen Learning course integrated into Canvas via a Common Cartridge
- Collaborate with eLearning to ensure universal design principles are implemented—place majority of OER content into Canvas Pages
- Use the Canvas Accessibility Checker to verify content created in the Rich Content Editor
- Use a third-party tool called Design Tools to create content and also to check accessibility for heading structure, images, and links



## CHALLENGES

- Close captioning audio/video created by instructor
- Integrating OER files (ex: Word docs, PDF, G-docs) into the native Canvas interface as Pages
- Scaling the OER template—encouraging faculty reusing or remixing OER to begin with accessibility standards in mind
- Building an Attribution creator to be used directly on the Canvas Page

## FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- Integrate an eLearning-approval process where faculty teaching with OER use the endorsed Canvas course template
- OER course template will establish continuity of experience for online courses as well
- Courses that adhere to universal design principles will benefit all students, not just those with documented disabilities
- Begin tracking success rates in courses implementing the OER course template

*When I saw the texts were "FREE" this immediately became my favorite course.  I won't get into the college textbook scam controversy, which reminds me too much of big pharma, but I really appreciate links and readings provided as they are for this online course.  I think it is the future of education, and that future is now.*   ---Student in Fall 2017 course