



Increasing Student Engagement Using OER in Developmental English Course

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

- ENGL-096 (developmental reading); ENGL-097 (developmental writing); ENGL-099 (integrated reading & writing)
- We're a reflective division – always revising our curricula
- Consequently – often experimenting with new texts based on best practices to engage, motivate, involve, and elevate our developmental students
- OER – newest “experiment”
- Pro: Digital / free text – huge benefit for developmental students who often didn't purchase textbook, coursepacks, or class novels
- Con: developmental learners = less likely to have active reading strategies / benefit from working with paper texts
- **Our primary focus: how can we get developmental readers and writers to practice active and engaged learning**

IMPLEMENTATION/RESOURCES

- Karen – awarded MOST Grant
- Sarah – awarded internal HCC Grant
- Collaboration with Lumen
 - Karen attended seminar and training
 - **Technical support from Lumen for Candela**
 - Collaboration among partners

OER – defined: *two types of texts*

1. OER – free, Creative Commons materials and resources compiled into a *Lumen* Textbook
 - *Engaging Readings*
 - Our “traditional” textbook/handbook
2. Articles
 - Found publically available online (or)
 - Available through our library databases

IMPACT

- Number of students impacted in the most recent semester
 - 650 students at start of semester
- Estimated cost saving **per student** in the most recent semester
 - For 096 –\$64.00/student
 - For 097 – varies, up to \$25.00/student
 - For 099 - \$64.00/student
- Estimates savings for HCC students Fall 2017: **\$32,916**
- Other impacts:
 - TBA: Surveying students this year

LESSONS LEARNED

- Reception by HCC faculty and students
 - Still waiting for feedback from faculty and students across 3 courses
- Pedagogical Implications –
 - Although concerned about digital text with this student population (would they read, would they interact with text?)
 - Anecdotal conclusion based on our observations within 5 classes: **teachers can successfully encourage engagement and active reading even with a digital text by incorporating note-taking into the curriculum:**
- Students will take notes if teachers
 - Require note-taking
 - Teach (and model) note-taking
 - Quiz (open notes)
 - Demonstrate usefulness of notes by
 - Using them during class activities
 - Consulting them to deepen new lessons and unpack new concepts

FUTURE PLANS

- Our goals for subsequent semesters
 - More faculty training to easily integrate e-text into curriculum
 - Continue to collect data and feedback
 - Continue to evaluate faculty and student reception

