Autonomy & Authenticity

Open Pedagogy as a Motivator for First-Year College Students

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Our Goals

- Better understand how to use open pedagogy practices with first-year college students
- Explore assignments that provide students with authentic audiences
- Consider open pedagogy approaches with your existing course objectives
What Is Open Pedagogy?

**Open Pedagogy** is the practice of teaching and learning using open principles. The instructor utilizes Open Educational Resources and students create openly licensed and shared work with an audience beyond the course. David Wiley, who coined the term “open pedagogy” calls this work “renewable assignments.”

**Example:** Rather than asking students to write an essay proposing improvements to their city (intended for only the instructor to see), an open pedagogy assignment might ask those students to create a video, infographic, or letter to distribute to local lawmakers.
Example Open Pedagogy Assignments
Student Learning Outcomes for a First-Year Writing Course

1. accurately read and respond, in discussion and writing, to college level texts, and analyze them in detail, for both content and form;

2. independently create clearly written, thesis-driven academic essays of 4 to 5 pages, with few errors, using a process that includes generating ideas, drafting, critiquing, revising, and polishing;

3. plan and organize essays according to the logical and stylistic demands of specific academic audiences and writing situations;

4. identify and apply some basic elements of argumentative writing, such as examining evidence, developing a complex position, and answering objections;

5. locate information to address specific academic research problems, drawing on a larger understanding of modern information issues; evaluate their findings; and synthesize them with their own ideas in a meaningful and ethical way using MLA citation format;

6. participate constructively and respectfully in discussions and writing groups; independently analyze and improve their own and others' writing; and reflect independently on their own learning.
One Student Learning Outcome from a First-Year Writing Course

We’ll focus on one project that helps students meet this outcome:

Students will be able to locate information to address specific academic research problems, drawing on a larger understanding of modern information issues; evaluate their findings; and synthesize them with their own ideas in a meaningful and ethical way using MLA citation format.
Editing Wikipedia with Your Students
A First-Year Writing Course

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia
Students Contribute to an OER

Introduction to 19th Century Spanish Literature
Students Write Letters to the Editor for Local Newspapers

A First-Year Argumentative Writing Course
Other Examples

Across Disciplines

- Student-created grammar handbook
- OpenStreetMap
- Digital Storytelling via YouTube
- Student-created textbook
- Rijksstudio Award Innovations
How do you think Open Pedagogy affects student engagement?
Effects of Open Pedagogy on Student Engagement

- Students see themselves as creators and contributors to an ongoing conversation beyond the classroom rather than just passive consumers of information.
- They learn “soft” skills like communicating to various audiences, organizing ideas for a specific purpose, managing time, understanding the needs of a specific community, practicing empathy, etc.
- Students see “renewable assignments” as useful and find satisfaction in creating content that will be seen by a public audience.
- Their writing, researching, and editing skills improve similarly to a traditional assignment, but students and teachers report higher engagement.

(Roth, et al. “Assigning Wikipedia Editing...”)
Your turn!
What to do...

1. Make a list of course goals used in a course you teach regularly or are familiar with.
2. Share your list of goals with your group or partner.
3. Select one goal for your group/pair to focus on for the rest of this exercise.
4. With your group/partner, develop an assignment that would meet that course goal using open pedagogy practices, specifically an authentic audience beyond the course.
Share Out!
Final Considerations

What to plan for your open pedagogy assignment

- Ask students to sign Creative Commons licensing agreements
- Provide students with an alternative to publishing their work publicly
- Provide students with time for peer review and multiple drafts
Please complete our survey!

https://tinyurl.com/y8hgvvvd
Thank you!

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