

Recommended Open Educational Resources for an Undergraduate Course in Composition 1

by Laurel Smith

Reading and Writing Strategies:

"Carol Dweck - A Study on Praise and Mindsets." *YouTube*, 30 Jan. 2014, youtu.be/NWv1VdDeoRY.

This video can be used as a brief pre-reading or post-reading activity connected to the full "Brainology" article. It can help students who may not have understood the reading. It can help students get an idea of what will be covered in the article. It can also work as a nice post-reading summary to remind people of what they read.

Dweck, Carol. "Brainology." *NAIS*, 2008, www.nais.org/magazine/independent-school/winter-2008/brainology/.

This article is one that I continue to use in most of my classes. It is a good first-week reading assignment. I use it as a springboard to discussions. The article discusses the differences between fixed and growth mindsets. It also explains how students develop a fixed mindset and how it can be changed into a growth mindset.

Dweck's article has served as a great springboard to many interesting opening week discussions. We talk about an area where we had difficulty and how we overcame that difficulty. It also leads to many good conversations about avoiding negative self-talk.

Glynn, Alexandra, Kelli Hallsten Erickson, and Amy Jo Swing. *You, Writing! A Guide to College Composition*. *Opendora*, 2019, <https://opendora.minnstate.edu/islandora/object/MINNSTATErepository%3A348>.

This particular OER text is useful for beginning level, first-year composition students. It can also provide supplemental information to an ALP (Accelerated Learning Program) course, such as Century College's English Express. This book reviews reading and writing strategies. The chapters are organized by parts of the writing process. In addition, the later chapters cover the research process and citation strategies.

This book could use more examples and more information about the types of papers students might write in college. However, overall, it is a useful text for beginning-level composition, especially when considering reading and writing in ALP courses.

Purdue Writing Lab. "Fallacies." *Purdue Writing Lab*, owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/academic_writing/logic_in_argumentative_writing/fallacies.html.

The Purdue Writing Lab gives a good general overview of logical fallacies and provides examples for students to consider. This is a useful source when completing the research paper because it discusses common logical pitfalls and how to avoid them.

---. "Research and Citation Resources." *Purdue Writing Lab*,
owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/resources.html.

The Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) has numerous citation guides available at this link as well as an overview of research strategies. I let students choose between MLA and APA citation and encourage them to use the citation style of the program they are choosing. This site is a good resource for brief overviews of MLA and APA citation. All their citation guides provide examples of in-text and works cited/reference page citations. and provides examples of in-text and works cited citations.

I use this formatting guide in all my courses. It is a nice introductory site to help students understand citation at a beginning level. Students will always be able to access these resources online for free.

"Summary Vs. Analysis." *UAGC Writing Center*, writingcenter.uagc.edu/summary-vs-analysis.

I use this to explain the difference between what an article said and what it means to the student. It is one of several resources that I reference to help students distinguish between what is explicitly stated and what have they implicitly understood (which is often different for different students).

Topical Readings (Kindness):

Beginning Level

Cain, Áine. "8 Ways Being Too Nice at Work Can Backfire." *Business Insider*, 25 Apr. 2018,
www.businessinsider.com/being-too-nice-at-work-can-backfire-2014-9.

Kluger, Jeffrey. "When Doing Good Means You're Bad." *Time.Com*, Jan. 2014, p. 1. *EBSCOhost*,
search-ebsochost-
com.cenproxy.mnpals.net/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=94510084&site=ehost-
live. (Accessible through the Century College Library.)

"A Simple Strategy to Improve Your Mood in 12 Minutes." *Iowa State University*, 27 Mar. 2019,
www.news.iastate.edu/news/2019/03/27/happiness.

Spalding, Jennifer. "Science Proves Kindness Is Your Competitive Advantage." *Forbes*,
6 Mar. 2018, www.forbes.com/sites/ellevate/2018/03/06/science-proves-kindness-is-your-competitive-advantage/?sh=69a8f9834b20.

Taibbi, Robert. "The Dangers of Being Nice." *Psychology Today*, Sussex, 21 July 2018,
www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/fixing-families/201807/the-dangers-being-nice.

I utilize these articles to help students get into the first topic of the semester. I have noticed students having difficulty committing to an opinion in the past three years. They are afraid of being “wrong,” and they are worried about being judged by their peers. This is a great topic because it is fairly low-stakes. There are also many directions that students can take the topic. These particular articles help students begin thinking about “yes, and…” or “no, but…” replies that they can make towards the claims. They are pop culture sources that give students a surface overview of some ideas about kindness.

Scholarly, Peer-Reviewed Level

Haslip, Michael J., et al. “How Do Children and Teachers Demonstrate Love, Kindness and Forgiveness? Findings from an Early Childhood Strength-Spotting Intervention.” *Early Childhood Education Journal*, vol. 47, no. 5, Sept. 2019, pp. 531–547. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1007/s10643-019-00951-7. (Accessible through the Century College Library.)

Stallman, Helen M., et al. “The Role of Social Support, Being Present, and Self-kindness in University Student Psychological Distress.” *Australian Psychologist*, vol. 53, no. 1, Feb. 2018, pp. 52–59. EBSCOhost, doi:10.1111/ap.12271. (Accessible through the Century College Library.)

These articles are longer, more in-depth, and peer reviewed sources that relate directly to kindness in education. Students can choose to narrow the topic in multiple ways. These articles serve two purposes. First, they provide data about the benefits of kindness and the importance of demonstrating it in school. Secondly, these are a clear contrast to the introductory readings. It shows students why scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles are more reliable, and it gives them an option for narrowing the topic. These two articles are not an exhaustive list.

Literature Readings (For Critical Reading and Analysis):

"Hmong Timeline." *Minnesota Historical Society*, www.mnhs.org/hmong/hmong-timeline.

Twin Cities PBS. "Dr. Mai Na Lee Escapes the Communist Pathet Lao." 19 Sept. 2017, *YouTube*, youtu.be/d2sGEbqwrn0.

---. "The CIA, the Hmong, and the Secret War." 15 Sept. 2017, *YouTube*, youtu.be/8Cf6osZDiog.

The timeline and the videos serve to provide information and background on the historical situation and, ultimately, war that frames *The Latehomecomer*. These sources are helpful to give students context to *The Latehomecomer's* events and descriptions.

Kao Kalia Yang. *The Latehomecomer : A Hmong Family Memoir*. Vol. [2017 edition.], Coffee House Press, 2017. EBSCOhost, search-ebSCOhost-com.cenproxy.mnpals.net/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1699120&site=ehost-live. (Accessible through the Century College Library.)

The Latehomecomer has been widely acclaimed through various awards and featured reading programs. It is a memoir of a family, which many students can relate to. It is easy to read and understand, and many students can relate to at least some aspect of the book. One drawback

of this book is that it is fairly long. However, the rich topics and ideas that come from the reading are a highlight of the unit.