

Questions:

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1. Are you a student who has engaged in an open pedagogy project, or a faculty member who has asked students to do so? Or maybe a staff member who has helped design one?

I am a senior at Keene State College. Over the years I have had many classes that were the traditional classes with lectures and exams. However, over the past two years I started to see a change in education at Keene State College. Over these past two years I have been engaged in many open pedagogy projects. I have also been in a leadership role of helping design an open pedagogy class and boy it was a lot of work but fun!

2. What kind of open pedagogy activity were you involved with?
 1. If you want, you can say what kind of course it was (topic, year level)-though note that this might identify you if you don't want to be identified.

My first experience with open education and open pedagogy was in my Bio 110 course called Molecules and Cells. This was the first class I took with a flipped classroom. We had videos online to watch, a free textbook we used called Openstax, and PowerPoints that were uploaded. We had all our information and sources online to use as we went through the material at our own pace. Then in class we came with questions. I realized how much more I was learning when I was able to use a bunch of different resources and was prepared before class. I was able to make more connections in class when going over material. This concept continued on to my genetics class with this flipped classroom.

The next year I was in a neurobiology course. This course was the first time I had heard anything about open education and open pedagogy. We were trying to incorporate technology in a new way. Not knowing what we were doing we tried to use blogposts and twitter while still participating in the traditional classroom teaching. At this point I was really confused and saw no benefit of having a website and writing blog posts and using twitter. This was a learning experience for both me, my classmates and professor as well. It wasn't until I was in my tropical marine class where I finally understood what open education and open pedagogy meant. During this class, we had to set up the grading scheme, we got to decide

what we wanted to write about on our blog posts, as well as using twitter in an educational way.

Throughout my last two years at Keene State I have seen the movement towards open ed. Most of my classes are moving towards the use of free textbooks and the use of twitter.

3. What were the benefits of this activity?

The benefits of these activities and classes were connections! I never realized how many connections you can make using twitter. I have made some many connections and learned so much by using a simple social media app in a way that benefits me in an educational way. Yes, twitter can be used in an educational way. If you want to learn more take a look at my blog post I wrote (<https://haleyzanga.wordpress.com/2017/10/30/twitter/>). I have realized that doing blog posts, using twitter and making an electronical portfolio that it has created a personal learning network. I am able to keep adding to my E-portfolio. I can continue to take my education and learning even after a semester long class. With this type of learning, learning doesn't stop after the class. I have seen this first hand as my tropical marine classmates are still connected through twitter tweeting back and forth using our course hashtag.

Some other benefits to this is that I became a better writer when I had to write all these blog posts. I used to hate writing but by being in a course that allowed me to write about what I wanted I become more engaged and interested in the topic. I actually started to enjoy writing these blog posts. I was able to be creative with them as well. I knew that these blog posts could potentially be seen by people outside of Keene State so I wanted to make sure my information was accurate and written well. I had never taken a class where I, the student, could decide what I wanted to learn about. I realized there is so much out there and so many things I am curious about and to have that ability to choose to look in-depth on a topic was rewarding. It is a known fact that when students are more engaged and are interested in a topic they will remember more. I can truly see that I have grown as a student by using this type of education/learning.

1. If you were a student, what did you get out of it?

What I got of this style of learning was that education doesn't just have to be based on lectures and exams. The way we are taught and learn can change from the traditional class. For years we have done the same thing over and over when teaching and learning. We as students sit down for two hour lectures, forced to memorize this information and then have to show we "know" it by regurgitating on an exam. For years, I had learned how to memorize things so I could get A's on my

exams but if you asked me the next day what I studied I would have no idea. We have become so focused on doing well in school that we actually aren't learning the material. I have taught myself how to do well in classes, but in reality, I do not remember much from those classes. By using open pedagogy I have become more interested and engaged in my classes and ultimately that has made me a stronger student I believe. I have also made connections I never could have imagined or done in a traditional classroom. These are just some of the things I have gotten out of using Open Ed and open pedagogy at Keene State, but the list could go on and on.

4. What were some challenges or barriers you faced?

Some of the challenges I faced was uncertainty. As a student who has never used this kind of learning before I was scared honestly. Education is super important to me as I want to go to medical school to become a doctor. I thought that using twitter or writing blog posts would not help my education whatsoever. I could have never imagined I would learn anything in classes that were set up like this, but why would I have any other ideas about this set up? I have never experienced this type of learning before. We as students were always taught never to use the internet and the downsides of it, so it seem kind of contradictive. However, through these types of courses I learned how much more is out there! I learned that it is really how you use the internet and what you take out of it to benefit you. I had to overcome the thought that learning and education could only be beneficial when taught in a traditional classroom style. Through my many courses I overcame this and now hope to tell other faculty and students the benefits of using Open Ed and open pedagogy.

1. What potential problems with this kind of activity should others be aware of?
2. Any advice?

If I had to give one piece of advice it would be to teachers. I know that many teachers are still hesitant on moving towards this style of teaching, but I urge you to try it for one semester. See if there are any benefits, or feedback from the students. You may actually learn something new out of it as well. This style of learning and education really works. So, I am urging every faculty out there to try and incorporate this into your curriculum. I am sure your students will thank you. Especially if you include a free textbook! If you can't find resources out there make your own! This is a great way to get you and your students involved all together working towards a common goal/project. It can build and build each semester.