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A Move from Disposable to Renewable Assignments

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OER enabled constructionist pedagogy

Veronika Dolar, Ph.D.
May 31, 2018
NE OER Summit
Background

- New faculty at SUNY Old Westbury
- Mission: Social justice
- Department of Politics, Economics and Law
- Teach intro micro and macro economics classes
- Health Economics, Labor Economics, Food and Wine Economics
Background

• Use of OER material in all courses this past (Spring 2018) semester
  o Intro to Microeconomics (Lumen Learning textbook)
  o Intro to Macroeconomics (Lumen Learning textbook)
  o Intro to Macroeconomics – online (Lumen Learning textbook)
  o Food and Wine Economics (multiple Lumen Learning textbook)

• Authoring OHM algorithmically generate questions for Micro and Macro sections of Lumen Learning textbook
We learn by doing things

- We learn best when we’re “actively engaged in constructing something that has personal meaning to [us] – be it a poem, a robot, a sandcastle, or a computer program.”
- -Seymour Papert*

*Seymour Aubrey Papert was a South African-born American mathematician, computer scientist, and educator, who spent most of his career teaching and researching at MIT. He was one of the pioneers of artificial intelligence, and of the constructionist movement in education.
We learn by doing things

• “Learning“ happens especially felicitously in a context where the learner is consciously engaged in constructing a public entity.”
• -Seymour Papert
Type of assignments

• Move from knowledge “consumers” to knowledge “creators”.
• From disposable assignments destined for the recycled bin.
• Towards renewable assignments where your work adds value to the world.

YOUR WORK MATTERS!
Your Work Matters

- As you participate in this course you will have the opportunity to create a wide range of learning artifacts.
- Because these artifacts are at the core of your learning experience, it is critically important that you own these artifacts and have ongoing access to and control over them. Consequently, all of the learning artifacts that you create for this course will be stored in a digital space that you control rather than a course management system.
- If you’re going to invest the time and effort to create these artifacts, make sure that they live much longer than the duration of any one course and that they benefit many more people that just you.

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The Campfire

- The proper way to view this course is as a “place” for people to congregate, tinker a bit and build some learning artifacts, share, critique, and improve each others’ artifacts, and generally enter into relationships of sharing and learning.

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A Guide to Making Open Textbooks with Students

- https://press.rebus.community/makingopentextbookswithstudents/