

OER Review of *English Composition I* by Lumen Learning

Open Textbooks Review Criteria

1. **Comprehensiveness** - The content covers all areas and ideas of the subject appropriately and provides an effective index and/or glossary

English Composition I, by Lumen Learning, is fairly comprehensive and does provide a convenient table of contents, which allows readers to link directly to specific chapters and readings. The text covers those genres of writing that are commonly taught in FYC courses.

2. **Content Accuracy** - Content is accurate, error-free and unbiased.

While the quality of the writing isn't great---in places the rhetoric is hackneyed, and the content is overgeneralized---it is written in a simple, straightforward style that allows for easy comprehension. Unlike many print textbooks, which are filled with superfluous information and too many graphics, the content of OER text is delivered in relatively plain and fashion and in digestible chunks.

3. **Relevance/Longevity** - Content is up-to-date, but not in a way that will quickly make the text obsolete within a short period of time. The text is written and/or arranged in such a way that necessary updates will be relatively easy and straightforward to implement.

Periodically, the text will link to external sites, most of which are up-to-date and relevant. Some of the video links are of poor quality (outdated videos or narrated PowerPoints) though the content is relevant and interesting.

4. **Clarity** - The text is written in lucid, accessible prose, and provides adequate context for any jargon/technical terminology used.

The text could definitely provide more explanation, context, and technical terminology. The explanations are sparse in places, lacking examples and technical terminology, the latter of which is necessary for instructors and students to establish a vocabulary that is common to the writing discourse community. An instructor would definitely need to supplement this text with other material.

5. **Consistency** - The content is internally consistent in terms of terminology and framework.

The textbook is consistent insofar as it is organized in the same manner as most print texts.

6. **Modularity** - The content is easily and readily divisible into smaller reading sections that can be assigned at different points within the course (i.e., enormous blocks of text without subheadings should be avoided). The text should not be overly self-referential, and should be easily reorganized and realigned with various subunits of a course without presenting much disruption to the reader.

Yes, the content is delivered in small, digestible bits, but it's sparse in places. I would likely need to supplement (or add to) this text.

7. **Organization/Structure/Flow** - The topics are presented in a logical, clear fashion.

Yes

8. **Interface** - There are no significant interface issues, including navigation problems, distortion of images/charts, and any other display features that may distract or confuse the reader.

N/A

9. **Grammatical Errors** - The text contains no grammatical errors.

Not per se, but the syntax is clunky in places.

10. **Cultural Relevance** - The text is not culturally insensitive or offensive in any way. It should make use of examples that are inclusive of a variety of races, ethnicities, and backgrounds.

The readings in the text touch upon wide variety of topics---race, women's rights, torture, social Media---and are mostly contemporary.

11. Are there any other comments you would like to make about this book, for example, its appropriateness in the local context or specific updates you think need to be made?

No

12. For what level would this text be appropriate (i.e. First year, Second year, etc.)

FYC

