Meredith Snyder

Summer Student Award Final Report

This summer, I worked with Dr. Teresa Zackodnik to develop and curate an online bank of annotated teaching resources for the 84 instructors teaching in 77 sections of First Year English. In Fall 2016, the department’s existing six first year offerings will be replaced by two newly-designed courses: ENGL 102: Introduction to Critical Analysis, and ENGL 103: Case Studies in Research. My work over the summer focused on ENGL 103: Case Studies in Research, which emphasises teaching research as discovery, inquiry, and process through a scaffolded approach and marks a shift from how we had conceptualized First Year English in the past. My work involved several stages:

- Conducting an extensive literature search of current scholarship related to teaching research skills to undergraduate students, particularly in the humanities, selecting articles for inclusion, and composing brief descriptive annotations for each of the selected articles.
- Curating and annotating materials contributed by members of the department who attended a retreat focused on the development of the new courses in spring 2015.
- Soliciting, editing, and annotating contributions to the resource bank from members of the department more broadly.
- Developing an easy to navigate website to disseminate these materials to instructors as they design courses to suit the new model.
- Developing materials to support the continued maintenance and use of the resource bank by the department over time.

In September 2015, I presented the resource bank to the department’s Undergraduate Program Committee, where it was enthusiastically received. The Committee will use the resource bank as they work to develop support materials for ENGL 102: Introduction to Critical Analysis during the 2015-2016 academic year. The project could usefully be extended both to solicit additional contributions to the Case Studies in Research resource bank and to develop an equivalent resource bank for Introduction to Critical Analysis.