Drexel Libraries Faculty Fellowship Summary Vito Gulla August 2019

In my time as a library fellow, I was tasked with developing open-educational resources (OERs) materials that could be used in composition classes at Drexel as well as gauging faculty interest for OER materials.

Over the course of two trimesters, I wrote 20,000 words of an OER textbook that is free to use for any composition instructor. This text introduces students to the conventions of specific genres and forms and the writing process, but more importantly, it is a guide to the near limitless options a writer has at his or her disposal, aiming to get students into the right mindset and realize the vastness of their choices depending on their specific rhetorical situation.

I also developed over 100 writing exercises to accompany the textbook for the composition classroom. These exercises are specifically designed to help student writers master a particular aspect of writing, whether it be conquering structure, style, research, or argument. Some, for example, ask students to read through an essay and complete its conclusion while others ask students to write as many variations to a sentence as possible.

Lastly, as part of my fellowship, I consulted with other faculty in the department about their awareness and willingness to adopt OERs in their classrooms. I conducted a focus group learning how instructors use the current composition text and what the barriers exist preventing wide-spread OER adoption throughout the department.