GOING TEXTBOOK-LESS WITH OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Stephanie DeMichele, Instructional Technology Coach

Going Textbook-less With Open Educational Resources by Stephanie DeMichele is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. You are free to copy and redistribute this material in any medium or format and to remix, transform, and build upon the material under the following terms:

- **Attribution** — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.
- **NonCommercial** — You may not use the material for commercial purposes.
- **ShareAlike** — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Instructional Technology Coordinator, Wickliffe City Schools

Former high school English teacher, gifted + talented coordinator, technology teacher

Mom to two teenage boys

te(a)ch
technology integration ideas for K-12

Click a link below to access my social media accounts.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1

What are OERs? 5

CHAPTER 2

Creative Commons + Instructional Design 10

CHAPTER 3

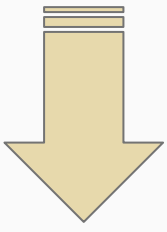
Managing OERs 17

CHAPTER 4

Where to Find OERs 25

CHAPTER 5

OERs: They're Not Just for Textbooks 30



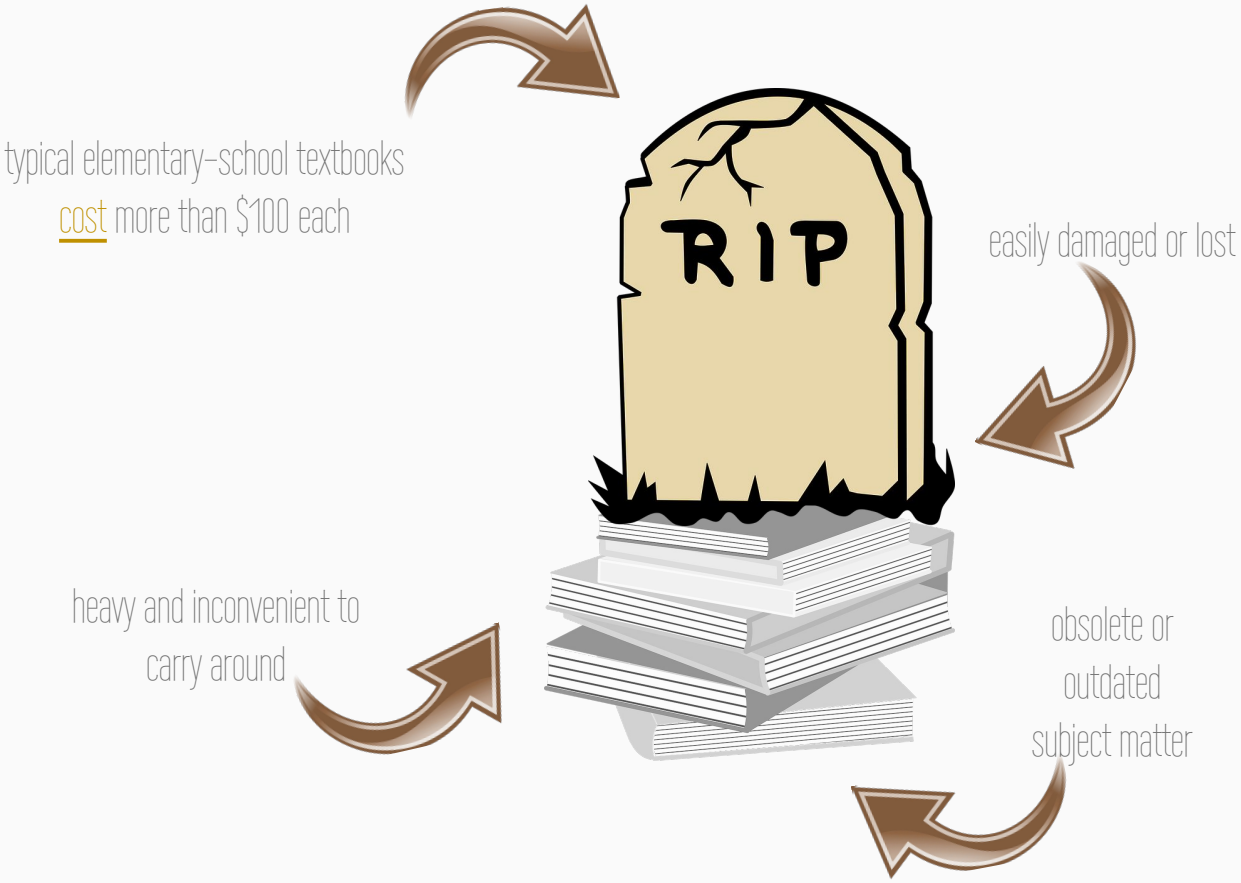
Click on these thingies-- they'll take you to important links!

CHAPTER ONE

What are OERs? And Why Should I Care?

WHAT'S WRONG WITH TRADITIONAL TEXTBOOKS?

Besides being unnecessarily expensive, traditional textbooks are an exercise in passivity; there's no active studying. Students can't write, highlight, or take notes in their books because another eight to ten years' worth of students afterwards have to use the same books, too. Not to mention that fact that textbooks are back-breaking, often get left behind and home or at school, and contain extraneous material that may not or will not get addressed during the course of a school year.



source: Scholastic.com

OERS ARE AWESOME!

They are materials which allow teachers and learners to reuse, revise, remix and redistribute the digital resources to their heart's content. Not only that, they're free, online & always accessible, open-licensed & easily shared, and my favorite--"curate-able." Mix it up to your heart's content!

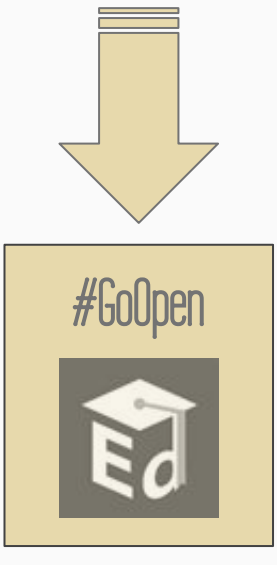
Think of it as your own little mixtape! Remember those?

image: Flickr

AND THAT'S NOT ALL!

OERs save time and effort with regard to resource development; they advance student learning; they keep educational materials relevant; customizable, and inexpensive; and they fuel collaboration. OERs are so engaging and innovative, in fact, that in 2015, the U.S. Department of Education announced the launch of #GoOpen, "a campaign to encourage states, school districts and educators to use openly licensed educational materials" for the purpose of granting all students access to high-quality materials to meet student needs. Currently, a cohort of ten districts nationwide has taken up the **#GoOpen** challenge to replace at least one textbook with OERs over the next year.

Affton School District, Saint Louis, MO
Colonial Public Schools, New Castle, DE
Oxnard Union High School District, Oxnard, CA
Department of Defense Education Activity
Grossmont Union High School District, La Mesa, CA
Kettle Moraine School District, Wales, WI
Lawrence Public Schools, Lawrence, KS
Mentor School District, Mentor, OH
Mountain Empire Unified School District, Pine Valley, CA
Vista Unified School District, Vista, CA



OERs EXPLAINED IN TWO MINUTES

Why Open Education Matters

Williamsfield SD

CHAPTER TWO

Creative Commons + Instructional Design

SHARE NICELY!

Just because it's on the Internet doesn't mean it's ripe for the taking. Content created in "the digital medium throws up an infinite number of possibilities that do not have a clear path within the copyright system." Copyright violations are not only more easily detectable on the Internet, they're also more likely to occur. The very stringent "all rights reserved" becomes the more liberal "some rights reserved." Therefore, if you use others' material to create your own OER, be sure to give credit where credit is due!

Creative Commons is a nonprofit organization that enables the sharing and use of creativity and knowledge through free legal tools or sets of licenses. A description of their licenses and what they do is available on the next page.

image: Wikimedia

CREATIVE COMMONS FOR DUMMIES

Attribution
CC BY

This license lets others distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon your work, even commercially, as long as they credit you for the original creation. This is the most accommodating of licenses offered. Recommended for maximum dissemination and use of licensed materials.

Attribution-ShareAlike
CC BY-SA

This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms. This license is often compared to "copyleft" free and open source software licenses. All new works based on yours will carry the same license, so any derivatives will also allow commercial use. This is the license used by Wikipedia, and is recommended for materials that would benefit from incorporating content from Wikipedia and similarly licensed projects.

Attribution-NoDerivs
CC BY-ND

This license allows for redistribution, commercial and non-commercial, as long as it is passed along unchanged and in whole, with credit to you.

Attribution-NonCommercial
CC BY-NC

This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work non-commercially, and although their new works must also acknowledge you and be non-commercial, they don't have to license their derivative works on the same terms.

Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike
CC BY-NC-SA

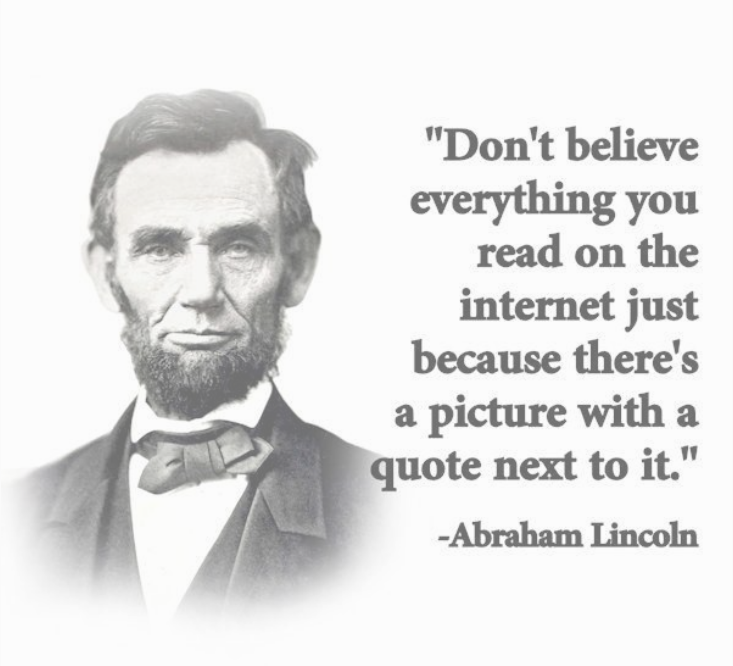
This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work non-commercially, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms.

Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs
CC BY-NC-ND

This license is the most restrictive of our six main licenses, only allowing others to download your works and share them with others as long as they credit you, but they can't change them in any way or use them commercially.

source: Creative Commons

EVALUATE FOR QUALITY + ALIGNMENT



As with all curricular materials, be sure to evaluate the content for quality and alignment with your curriculum and standards. As the teacher, you're the content expert. You know the objectives, essential questions, and "I Can" statements necessary for learning the material, so use your intuition. If you're still not sure, refer to these OER Rubrics created by achievethecore.org or these OER Rubrics by Temoa.

image: RacingUSA

DON'T FORGET ABOUT INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN!

- What do you want students to learn and apply?
- What content will you deliver, and how does it connect to the desired outcome and align with standards?
- How will you check for understanding and challenge students to apply their learning?
- How are you transitioning the learning from a passive experience to an active, creative experience?

The New Albany Plain Local Schools of New Albany, Ohio have some of the best curriculum maps I've seen.
Take a look at this 8th grade Social Studies map as an example.

source: Edutopia

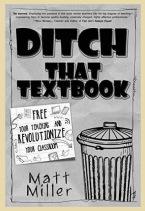
CREATE A "FLIGHT PLAN"

Teacher and author Matt Miller's inspirational eBook provides a clear, purposeful "flight plan" for setting up a textbook-less classroom. If you subscribe to his blog, you'll get a free copy of his annotated eBook, *Ditch That Textbook!* Use it as a model to learn to curate your own mixtape textbook.

Helpful Hint from Matt:

"Starting your planning with units you're more comfortable with gets you on a roll."

Buy Matt's New Book!



Make your flight plan

Review the resources we've covered so far and start thinking about how you'd like to "remix" one of your current units by collecting OERs.

Choose one unit with which you're comfortable. . .

What are the standards covered?

What activities, projects, and discussions would you like to include?

What about formative and summative assessments?

CHAPTER THREE

Managing Open Educational Resources

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

A learning management system (LMS) is a web-based platform for the "administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and delivery of electronic educational technology courses." There are a number of learning management systems out there to keep your digital materials in one place. Click on a link to learn more about each LMS.

schoology

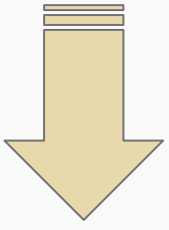
Wikispaces

edmodo

canvas

Google Classroom

moodle



Review Them!

source: Wikipedia

WEBSITE HOSTS

Another way to manage your OERs to is maintain a teacher website. There are a number of free website hosting services out there that are easy to use. Click on the icons below to learn which site host might be best for your needs.

My personal favorite!

weebly

yola

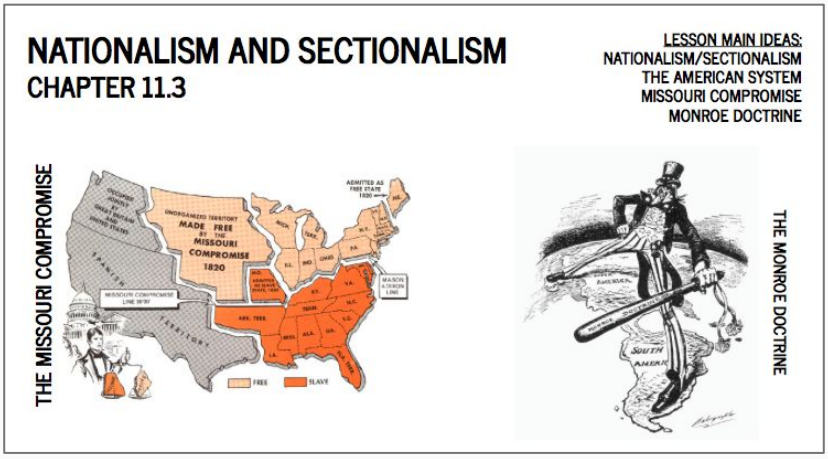
webs

Google Sites

SiteGround

GOOGLE SLIDES > SLIDE DECK

Middle school social studies teacher Matt Macfarlane decided to make his own online textbook based on content from the paper and DVD versions of his students' textbooks. Using Google Slides, Matt makes chapter "slide decks" with interactive content. It's an ambitious and innovative project, but Matt's students are more engaged and learn more. Take a look at some of his work by clicking on the icons below.



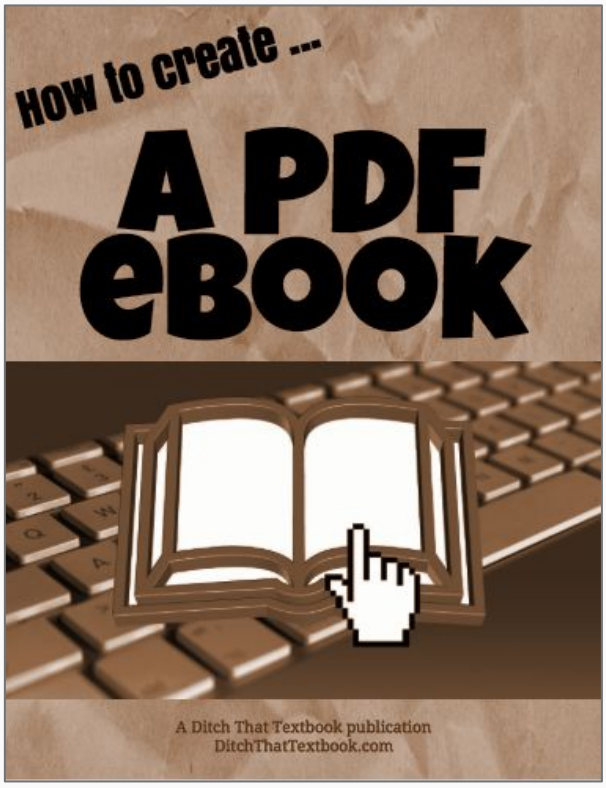
Visit Matt's Site!

GOOGLE SLIDES > PDF E-BOOK

Ditch That Textbook! author Matt Miller creates his own eBooks from Google Slides and exports them as PDF files. Why not do the same with your content? (This eBook was made that way!). Once you've created an eBook for your students, you can

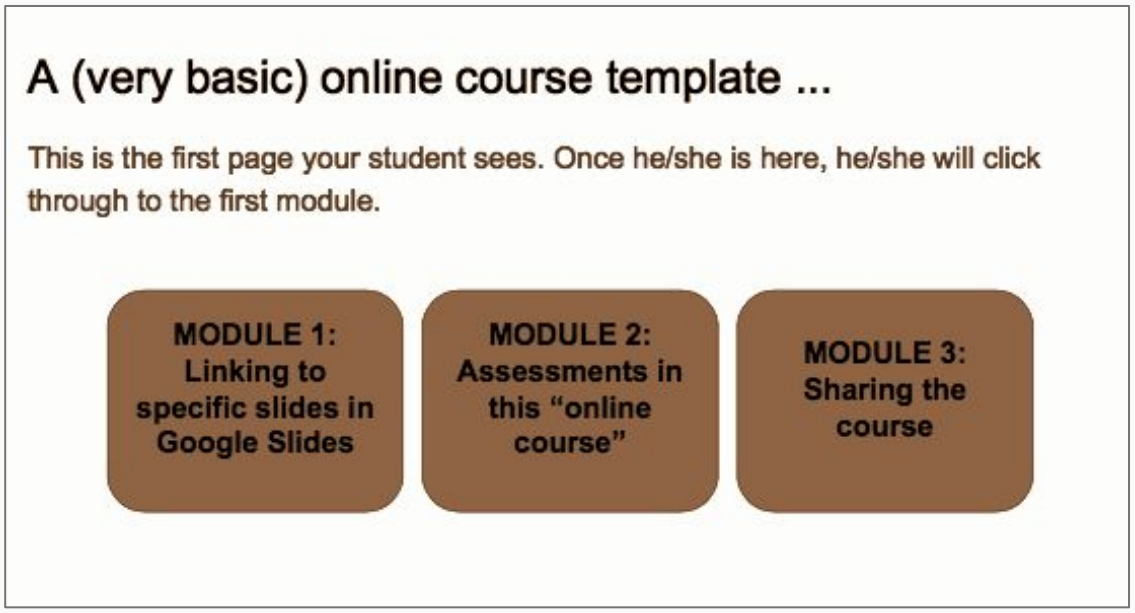
- email it
- share it on social media
- add it to a website / LMS

Click this link to see a tutorial!



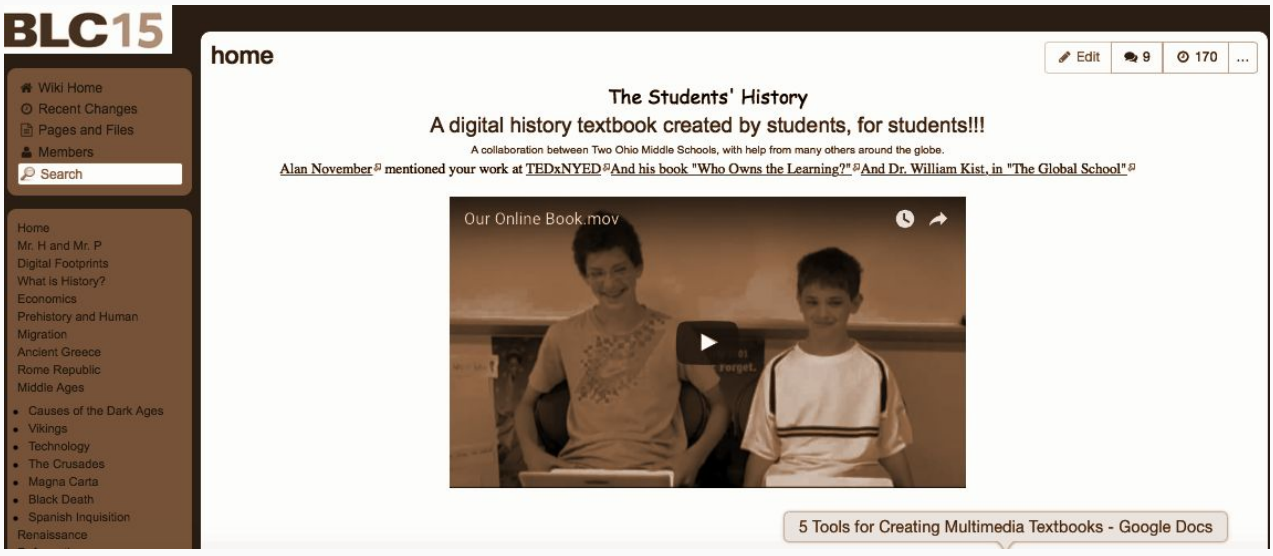
GOOGLE SLIDES > ONLINE COURSE

If you're ambitious and skilled with Google Slides, you might want to consider taking it a step beyond and create your own online course. Self-paced and self-directed, an online course provides for differentiation. As you can see in the figure below, once you set it up, students work through the modules you've created. Teachers could customize content for inclusion students or for students with special needs.



STUDENT-CREATED TEXTBOOK

Since creativity is the highest level of thinking (as maintained by Bloom's Taxonomy), you might want to follow the example of Garth Holman, whose students create their very own textbook as a course-long project--one chapter at a time!



Read More About It

CREATE A MULTIMEDIA TEXTBOOK

If you're a tech-savvy teacher, you might want to consider using any of the tools listed below to create your own textbook. Blogger Richard Byrne provides a comparison chart of five platforms for doing so. Click the link to learn more.

5 Tools for Creating Multimedia Textbooks- Richard Byrne - FreeTech4Teachers.com

	Platform/ Operating System	Publishing format	Supports collaboration	Embedded media types supported	Tutorials	Costs and other concerns
LucidPress lucidpress.com	Web	Web, PDF	Yes	Videos, images (audio if linking to file)	bitly.com/1CMrxd4	Free for K-12. Can integrate with Google Drive.
iBooks Author apple.com/ibooks-author	Mac only	iBook	No	Videos, images, audio	bitly.com/1CX9jmt	Free. Output can only be read on Mac or iPad
WidBook widbook.com	Web	Web	Yes	Videos, images	bitly.com/1CMtKFy	Free. Public ebook gallery contains some questionable content.
CK-12 Flexbooks ck12.org/teacher	Web	Web, ePub, Mobi, PDF	No, but you can import shared Google Docs	Videos, images (audio if linking to file)	bitly.com/1H2w4aY bitly.com/1vx1oHy	Free.
Book Creator redjumper.net/bookcreator/	iOS Android	ePub	No, unless you share an iPad to combine contributions.	Videos, images, audio	bitly.com/1vx318g	Free - $4.99. Must read on iPad or Android tablet.

CHAPTER FOUR

Where to Find OERs

FREE INTERACTIVE CONTENT

Click the icons below to learn more about the OER platforms.

- interactive mini-lessons, simulations and eTextbooks
- save resources in groups using folders and subfolders
- network Hub for groups to create & share resources

- lessons, assessments, interactives
- FlexBook concept allows teachers to curate textbooks by remixing materials
- 15,000 standards-aligned Flexbooks can be shared & customized

- lessons, assessments, resources, & textbooks
- educator-vetted materials
- math, science, computer science, English & study skills

FREE INTERACTIVE CONTENT

Click the icons below to learn more about the OER platforms.

OpenEd

- offers an NGA-oriented) assessment tool
- assessments are “resource-backed” with videos & games for each question
- recommends just the right resources for a student to watch or play to gain mastery

BOUNDLESS

- content that ranges from lessons to entire textbooks
- adaptable PowerPoint templates and pre-made quizzes
- subject experts develop broad outlines to determine the key topics to be covered and to pull the content together

SAS Curriculum Pathways

- interactive animated lessons
- audio, visuals and interactive elements
- resources are directly aligned with state and national standards

FREE INTERACTIVE CONTENT

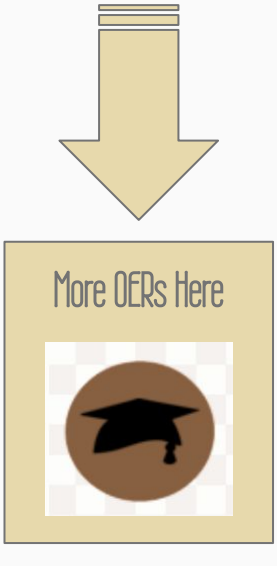
Click the icons below to learn more about the OER platforms.

LearnZillion

- lesson plans & videos
- resources linked to CCSS
- emphasis on using modeling/pictures to demonstrate concepts

PBS LearningMedia™

- more than 100,000 digital resources & 205 media partners
- productivity tools for teachers
- trusted content & homework support for students



MIXING YOUR OWN CHAPTER: 5 EASY STEPS

1. Choose ONE unit/chapter/concept/standard.
2. Decide what content you will deliver and how it connects to the desired outcome.
3. Choose your delivery method: LMS, website, or Google Slides?
4. Choose ONE of the OERs reviewed in this eBook and search for content.
5. MIXTAPE TIME! Start curating that content.

CHAPTER FIVE

OERs: They're Not Just for Textbooks

DITCH THOSE WORKSHEETS + ASSESSMENTS

Once you decide to ditch your textbooks, give some thought to pitching the paper, too. The lists below are by no means exhaustive, but serve instead as a starting point towards creating a paperless classroom. Click on any of the links to access the educational technology tool.

Paperless Assessment Tools

- Edulastic
- Google Forms
- Kahoot
- Plickers
- Quizbean
- Quizalize
- Socrative

Digital Storytelling Tools

- Animoto
- BookCreator
- Lego Movie Maker
- Little Bird Tales
- ShadowPuppetEDU
- Storybird
- Tellagami

Show What You Know

- Blabberize
- Canva
- Glogster
- Haiku Deck
- Picktochart
- PowToon
- Thinglink

Screencasting Tools

- Educreations
- Knowmia
- Screencast-o-Matic
- ShowMe

DITCH THOSE WORKSHEETS + ASSESSMENTS

Click on any of the links to access the educational technology tool.

Deliver Content

Annotate
Movenote
Nearpod
Peardeck
Zaption

Gamify Your Classroom

Class Badges
Classcraft
Credly
Flip Quiz
Jeopardy Labs
Jeopardy Rocks
Make Badges
Super Teacher Tools

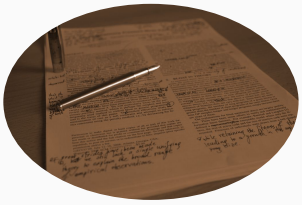
Show a Video

Crash Course
DiscoveryED
#Education
Khan Academy
Math Train
Planet Nutshell
SchoolTube
SlackMath
TeacherTube
TeachingChannel
WatchKin
WatchKnowLearn

Make Grading Easier

Flubaroo
JoeZoo
Kaizena

20 Ways to Ditch Those Worksheets



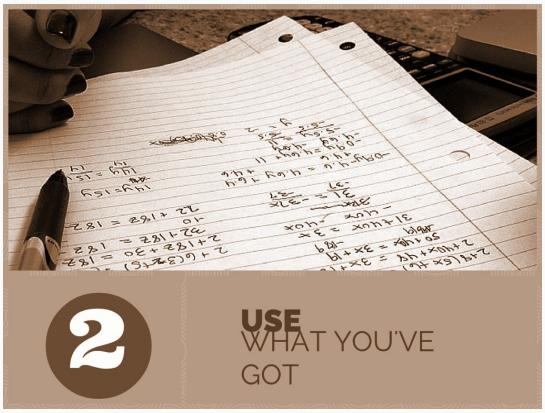
10 Creative Alternatives to Research Papers

Free eBook: 101 Ways to Ditch That Textbook

SOME FINAL CONSIDERATIONS. . .

1 **TAKE** BABY STEPS

Any attempt to make a change is overwhelming, so the best place to start is to take baby steps. Don't overhaul your curriculum. Start slowly but purposefully. Don't try to eat the watermelon whole! Tackle one chapter or unit at a time.



2 **USE** WHAT YOU'VE GOT

Don't start new. Don't reinvent. With the Internet, there are so many ideas and resources out there and so many educators willing to share, that it doesn't make sense to reinvent the wheel. Look at what you already have. What can be revised? Re-envisioned?

3 **MAKE** IT A HABIT

It takes doing one new behavior once a day for 21 days for it to become a habit, so commit to it. It will be different, and maybe a little bit difficult at first, but stick with it because if you do at least one a day, it will become so much easier and almost routine.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS + THANKS

We are the sum of all the people we meet, and I've been lucky to meet some amazing technology integration specialists who read my every email, answered my never-ending texts, replied to my incessant tweets, and endured my endless phone calls so that I could better learn to be a better instructional coach.

I'm especially indebted to **Matt Miller** and **Matt MacFarlane**, who provided most of the inspiration and half of the content of this eBook.
Thanks, boys, for being the educators I aspire to be.

Speaking of boys, I dedicate --as always--the entirety of my efforts to my own two boys. Tyler and Robbie, I love you to the moon and back.

Resources Consulted

Richard Byrne
Garth Holman
Matt Macfarlane
Matt Miller

"About - Creative Commons." Creative Commons.

Blake, David. "Why Open Education Matters." YouTube, 5 June 2012.

"How Williamsfield Schools Decided to #GoOpen." YouTube. U.S. Department of Education, 16 Sept. 2015.

Prabhala, Achal. *Copyright and Open Educational Resources*. Vancouver, BC: Commonwealth of Learning, 2010.

Rapp, David. "The End of Textbooks?" Scholastic Inc., Nov. 2008.

"U.S. Department of Education Launches Campaign to Encourage Schools to #GoOpen with Educational Resources." U.S. Department of Education, 29 Oct. 2015.

Cover photo: Wikimedia