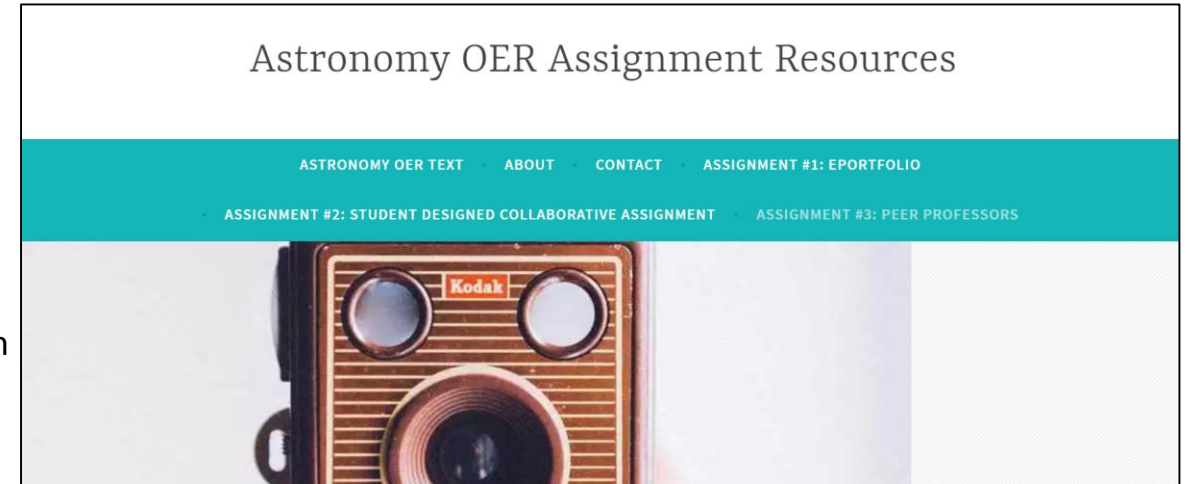


Open Pedagogy: Astronomy 101 Reusable Assignments

At Montgomery College, Instructional Designer Michele Knight and Associate Professor Dr. Carrie Fitzgerald have won an OER (DOER) Fellowship grant from the Open Education Group. “The express goal of the DOER Fellows Program is to increase instructional designer’s capacities to design effective and engaging learning experiences with OER.” (<http://openedgroup.org/doer-fellowship>)

Fitzgerald and Knight are designing three assignments for use in an Astronomy 101 course. These assignments will be showcased by the Open Education Group for open faculty usage and will be available on the Open Education Group Website by the April 2018 grant submission deadline.



Assignment #1- ePortfolio Assignment:

Students will first survey the reading and ask themselves “What do I know about this subject?” They will create 2-3 questions of their own. While reading, they will transform chapter learning objectives into questions. In the assignment, they will answer these questions, as well as their survey questions. Exemplary work will be shared in the OER commons.

Assignment #2- Collaborative Learning

Assignment: Students are to create five problems based on one of the chapter learning objectives, with the purpose of clarifying the material or helping to clear up common student misconceptions. Problems will be given to peers for consideration during class. Exemplary problems will be shared with the commons for other Astronomy Professors to use in teaching the topic.

Assignment #3- Peer Professors:

Students are to create a video tutorial to explain their favorite chapter topic to their peers. The tutorial is designed to teach a simple topic so the lecture will be six minutes or less. Videos should be created in a format that is easily shared and go beyond information presented in the text. Exemplary videos will be used in future iterations of the class to teach other students, and shared in the commons for other Astronomy professors to use in teaching students.