Developing Writers: Using H5P to Support Composition Practice

With exponential growth in recent years, H5P – the open tool for developing interactives to support formative classroom assessment – has been a game-changer in open education, offering a significant challenge to the growth of for-profit homework systems. Despite its popularity, many practitioners who love H5P are only scratching the surface of its capacity and flexibility. In particular, H5P has been underutilized in the development of composition and writing practice; a perception that it is best geared to supporting the learning of closed-ended content persists. But the Documentation, Summary, and Essay tools offer a tremendous amount of potential for guided practice in composition courses. In this presentation, participants will take a deep-dive into using H5P for developing essay writing skills and explore how to use the built-in feedback mechanisms in H5P to support self-development in student writing. By the end of the session, all participants will have a clear understanding of how to use H5P for composition practice, and will leave the session with a sample H5P exercises to work from as they develop their own work.

Extended Abstract Questions:
- How does your session address the UNESCO OER Recommendation? This presentation is part of a larger capacity building project to help develop understanding of and skills with H5P. As a useful component for building truly interactive OER, H5P is an area where capacity building is particularly important.
- Briefly Describe Your Initiative: This work emerges out of my successful BCcampus OER/H5P grant project, which funded the development of “homework system”-style add-ons for the popular Writing for Success textbook. The goal of this session is to expand awareness of H5P as a tool for building interactives that go beyond course content and allow for skills development. The attendees will leave with access to some H5Ps using the Essay, Documentation, and Summary types that can be remixed and repurposed for their own use. One example can be found at https://brenna.trubox.ca/wp-admin/admin-ajax.php?action=h5p_embed&id=1 if the adjudicators are curious about what this work looks like.
- Address Lessons Learned: In this session, I will highlight issues of accessibility in using H5P and how to design for equity. These lessons came out of my work on the grant. I will also provide attendees with a “positive practices” document to encourage the effective use of feedback in open-ended H5P exercises, learned through a lot of trial and error!