ABSTRACT

CASSIE CURTIS. Using Multimedia Technologies to Meet the Goals of Universal Design for Learning in Composition Courses: A Curricular Unit

(Under the direction of Professor Nancy Penrose.)

This paper establishes a connection between the goals of Disability Studies pedagogy and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in order to suggest a feasible means for instructors to design their courses in light of these conflated theoretical frameworks. The student populations taking composition courses utilize varying learning styles and modes of meaning making. As a result, instructors interested in increasing all students’ access to learning must carefully consider ways in which to meet the needs of diverse student populations. This paper builds on composition and education scholars’ suggestions in order to offer another viable means for meeting the goals of accessible learning frameworks in the composition classroom. Specifically, in an effort to create meaningful learning opportunities for learners with varying modes of making meaning, composition instructors can utilize multimedia technologies in their curricula to meet the goals of UDL by representing new content in multiple ways, providing students multiple opportunities to express their new knowledge, and building community in the classroom to sustain learner interest and motivation.