

Course Packet as a Primary Text





Course Packet:

Benefits, Merits, & Possibilities

- customized material that fits within an 18-week semester
- tailored material that more closely adheres to course objectives
- instructors personalizing the exercises and activities to better suit their own teaching style
- developing greater insight into one's course curriculum
- lower textbook costs for the students
- opportunities for semesterly revisions, modifications, and updates
- benefits the college, instructors, and students.



Course Packet:

Challenges, Difficulties, & Liabilities

- copyright
- course curriculum / SLOs
- substantial reading material
- oversight
- preparation time
- the administration & academic senate



Testimonials

“I’m course packet and textbook free. All my work is on MyCuesta. It’s behind a fire wall. No copyright infringement.” Dennis Baeyen

“I use custom publishing through McGraw-Hill. It’s a third-half the price of a regular text. Texts aren’t good. I only use half of them. I can change my custom text anytime. I use much of my own material: videos, multimedia, Powerpoint, and student-generated case studies.” Bill Snider

“I advocate for course packets. They’re harmless. I use it almost everyday, but I’m concerned about copyrights.” Jan Gillette

“Textbooks are necessary.” Greg Baxley, Dawn Smith, Ron Ruppert

“We need a textbook, but I use a course packet as a primary text for a 1 unit lab course. No complaints yet. I want to write a text.” Dawn Smith

“They need peer review. They need to comply with course outlines and curriculum.” Bill Snider, Ron Ruppert

“Most of my class is in the studio, and I created my own material. The students enjoy the authenticity of the exercises.” Wendy Wagner

“Textbooks seem wasteful. They’re an unnecessary burden to buy.” Vicky Bursey, Danny Faye

“It’s fun! I encourage more faculty to author. Thinking and researching improves our teaching. It’s good for the college, instructors, and the students.” Anthony Koeninger



The Future

With the help of the newly formed textbook affordability taskforce, the newly created director-of-professional-development position, and the reinstatement of the professional development committee, the opportunity for instructors to use their course packet as a primary text has never been greater. A coalition of these bodies can create a campus-wide policy and further foster cross-disciplinary dialogue on this issue.



Special Thanks!

Wendy Wagner	(Broadcast Communications)
Dennis Baeyen	(English)
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Celeste Brown	(Bookstore)
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