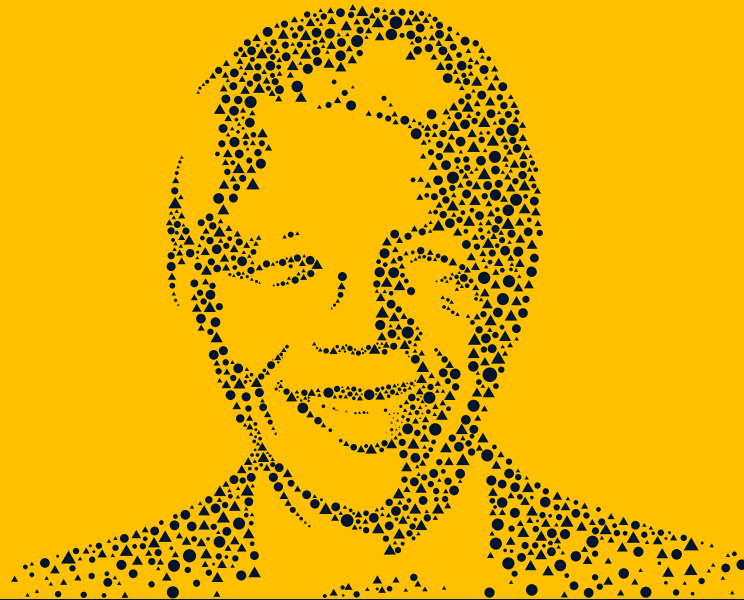


NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY

#OpenEdInfluencers



Becoming an Open Education Influencer

Project Leader: Mr Gino Fransman – Nelson Mandela University

Project Mentor: Dr Robert Farrow – Open University UK

Contributors: K Liberty, K Meyer, S Daffala & N Matyobeni - #OpenEdInfluencers @MandelaUni



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#OpenEdInfluencers (OElS)

#OpenEdInfluencers are ambassadors for Open who champion and increase awareness and use of Open Educational Resources

OElS facilitate the adoption, creation and licensing of OER

#OpenEdInfluencers energetically advocate for the use of Open Textbooks across purpose, faculties and schools

This project may be situated, and seeks to engage participants, primarily in the following SDGs:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning

Goal 8: Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

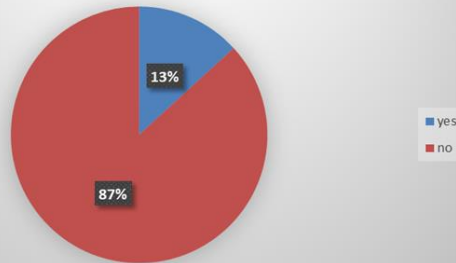
Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies



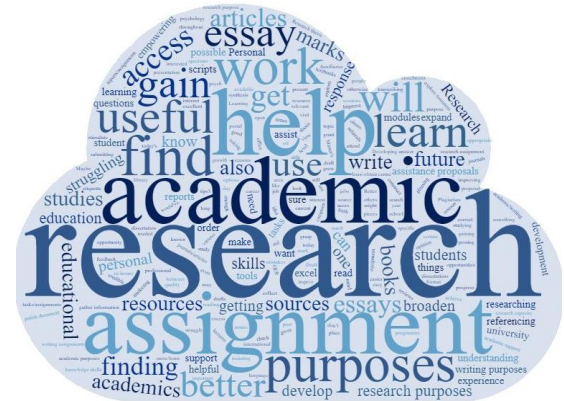
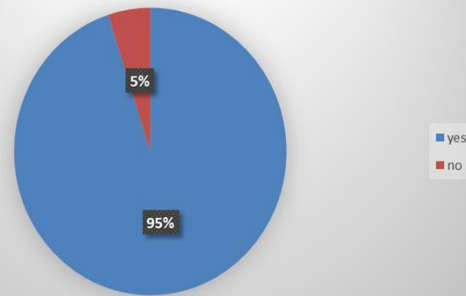
Why?

1. #FeesMustFall – access issues and high cost of post secondary education in South Africa drives students to violent protests. We are currently in a phase of discomfort where transformation of education has been called for, but is very, very slow
2. Groups of students (14) were asked if they knew about OER, whether they would use OER after being informed about it, and then shared for what purpose they would use OER.

Have you heard of Open Educational Resources (OER) before this session?
(tick one)



Will you use Open Educational Resources (OER) in future?



The #OpenEdInfluencers at Mandela University application for the Open Education for a Better World programme proposed the collaborative creation of an online training course.

Online participants may engage a guided, informative and practical journey to *Becoming an Open Education Influencer* (BOEI). This in order to support the empowerment of more competent advocates and champions, each able to take direct action for Open education.

The aim of the BOEI course is to support pathways for individuals and groups to act as Open Education Influencers. This is essential for those wishing to influence decision-makers through advocacy and facilitation, and who want to influence decision-making and practices through direct actions in Open education.

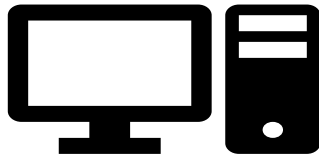


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This presentation is

1. a progress report,
2. an opportunity to situate the Course development process within the larger OpenMandelaUni project, and
3. an invitation for an Open community empowerment course building exercise aimed at sharing OER, yours and others.

If someone was to share news and information about your Open course, what would you want them to be able to do, and how would you want them to do it?



AS WE MOVE AHEAD:

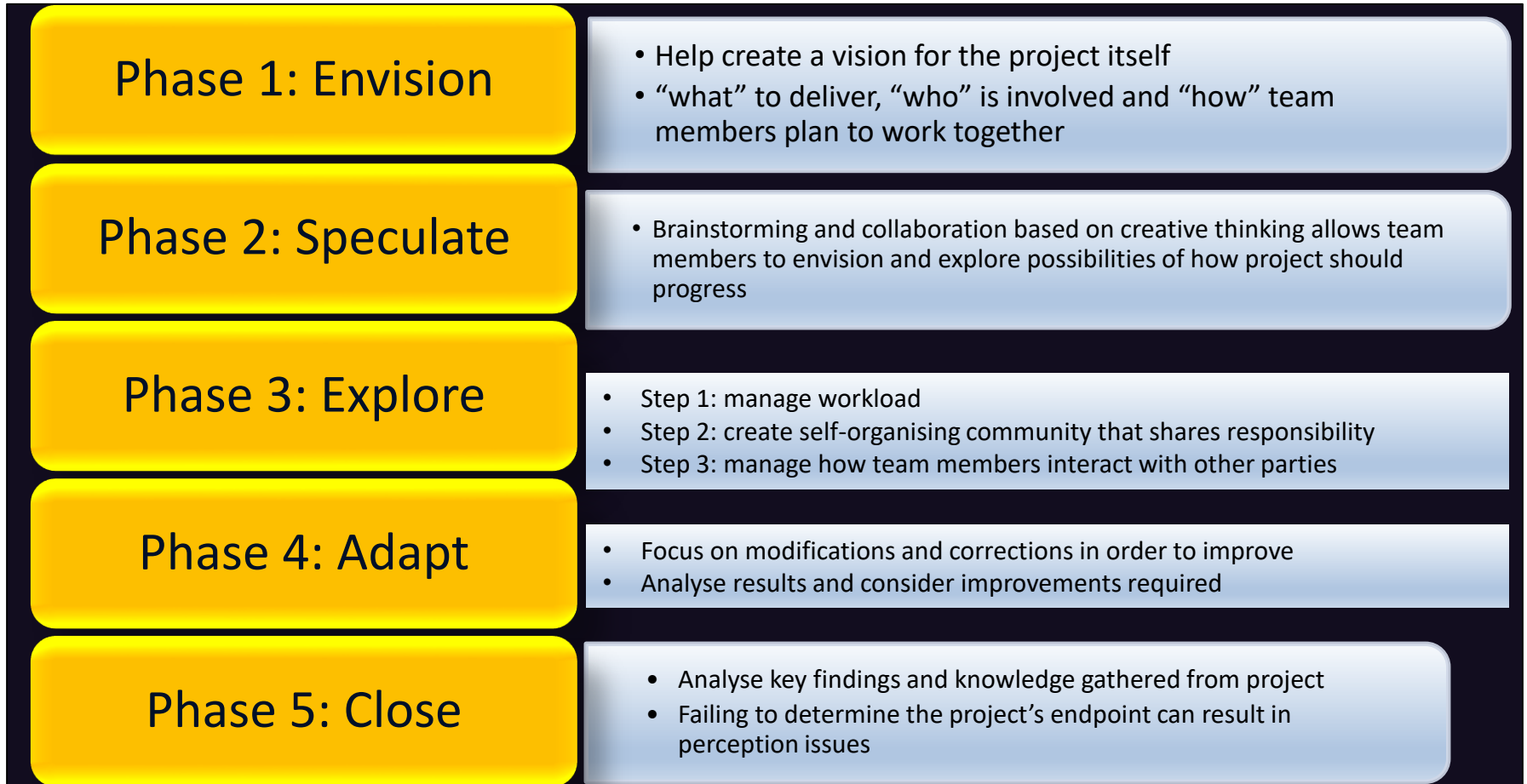
Please consider, write down, and do share responses to the following prompts via

[_openedinfluencers@mandela.ac.za](mailto:openedinfluencers@mandela.ac.za)

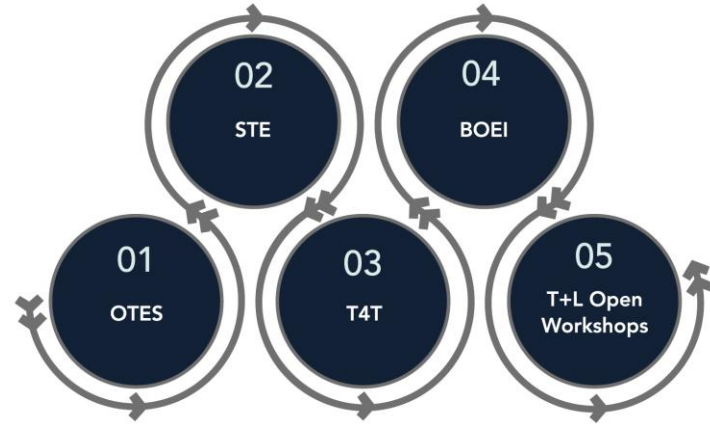
How would you want OpenEdInfluencers in your space to help start sharing news and insights about your Open materials?

If all of those 'expectations' were put into an online empowerment course, what materials, experiences and lessons would need to be included to enable participants to do what you expected?

5 Agile Project Management Model stages provided a framework for action. Establishing a group of Open Education Influencers at Nelson Mandela University in September 2018 meant their becoming empowered by doing in many instances.



- Academic Literacies & Writing Centre – Workshops
- Open Education Influencers (funding, recruitment, team, processes, booklet, branding & website)
- OE4BW - Becoming an Open Education Influencer: online course
- Student Awareness and Use of OER (Research)
- Student and Staff Textbook Experience (Research)
- Open Access Committee (Library)
- Nelson Mandela University Open Colloquium 2019
- Open Education Consortium OEGlobal, Italy (Nov 2019)



OpenEdInfluencers @MandelaUni Projects in progress

The BOEI Project cycle:

An agile project management approach was adopted in consultation with Project Mentor Dr R Farrow. Establishing a group of Open Education Influencers at Nelson Mandela University in September 2018 meant their becoming empowered by doing in many instances. Participating in OE4BW presented an opportunity to expand such a network of student advocates, and to incorporate inputs from educators active in the Open space in order to empower others for actions in Open.

Phase	Title	Weeks	Dates
1	Concept and Development: Setting up for BOEI	15	13 March – 28 June 2019
2	Making the course: Open Creation & Collaboration	8	29 July – 20 September 2019)
3	Application, Evaluation and Review	7	October – November 2019

Creating a concept document: The #OpenMandelaUni Phase 1 booklet (limited copies available at OE4BW 2019)

Item type: JPG File
 Dimensions: 1748 x 2480
 Size: 759 KB
 Availability status: Available on this device
 Activity: Shared

Open@Mandela booklet - Final1
 Open@Mandela booklet - Final2
 Open@Mandela booklet - Final3
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 Open@Mandela booklet - Final28



- booklet images
- booklet jpegs
- #OpenEdInfluencers@MandelaUni 12-01
- #OpenEdInfluencers@MandelaUni 13-01
- BOEI Badge 1
- BOEI Badge 2
- BOEI Badge-01
- BOEI Badge-01
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- gino_Open in office 2019
- Gino Fransman - Open Education ...
- Gino Fransman - Open Education ...
- hub coordinator s OE4BW 2019
- OE4BW logo UNESCO
- OpenEdInfluencers@mandela 16-01
- project leads_OE4BW
- SDGs

Kirsty Meyer: My experience as an Open Education Influencer at Nelson Mandela University has been eye-opening, educational and exciting. I was pleased to discover that Open provides a solution for students who struggle to acquire prescribed textbooks due to financial strain. I am excited to be a part of the solution and to spread Open's initiative throughout the university, and beyond. Working on the BOEI project was beneficial to me as a final year humanities student. The project required research similar to what I was studying in my courses, enabling me to study better and to physically perform the researching processes that I was preparing to be examined on. In future, I look forward to being exposed to a variety of opportunities with Open, and hope that my duties as an Open Education Influencer can bring the same opportunities to other students.

Kelly Liberty: Before I became an OEI, I did not *know* much about Open Education. Since becoming an OEI my knowledge on the topic has expanded. Not only did I learn about Open, but I became more aware of other students' experiences with the high costs involved with traditional textbooks and how that impacts their educational experience. I realised that I was not the only student who didn't want to buy textbooks for courses anymore because of the unnecessary expenses involved. This motivated me even more to be an advocate for OE. Being part of the BOEI project has improved my research, teamwork and communication skills. I have much to learn on this journey and hope to use my experience as an OEI to help students and lecturers alike by creating awareness and advocating for Open. One of the most valuable lessons I learnt from being an OEI is that we all have the ability to contribute to change and united we can change the system of education that limits access to students.

Sumaya Daffala: Being an OEI has been an enlightening experience. As a student I have experienced the struggle of expensive education and the difficulties faced with the high prices of textbooks. The work that we have engaged in has brought a new perspective to minimising expensive education. Being an OEI is forward thinking, in that I - as an OpenEdInfluencer- am finding solutions for issues that I face. I'm part of the solution. I have a seat at the table!

Reflections on being an OpenEdInfluencer and student



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Design matters

Only Open content for use in the course, material being created should always be Openly licenced

Course duration

30 hours

5 Of 6 modules with 3 hours content engagement per module

notionally adding 6 – 10 hours to engage with, implement and reflect on practical tasks set in Modules 6.



Ubuntu



Facilitation



Influencing



Open



Advocacy



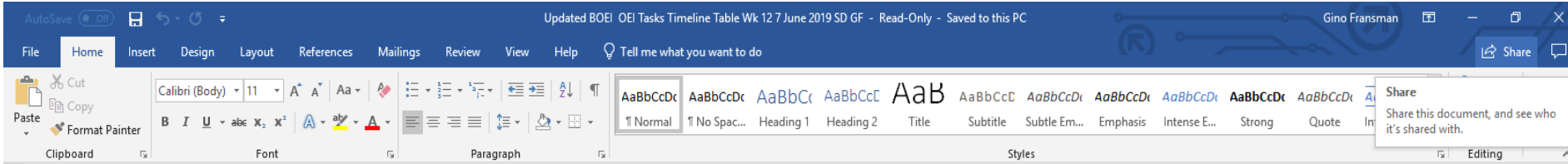
The SDGs

and a stand-alone final project. A platform for sharing projects is currently under construction at <https://openedinfluencers.mandela.ac.za>

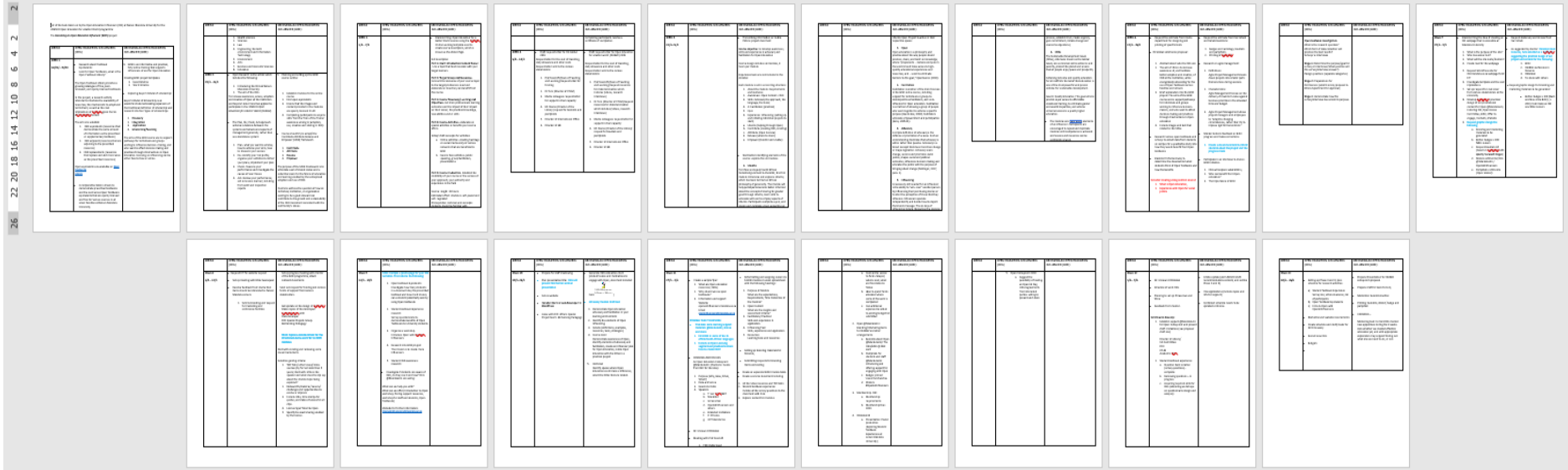
See the extended narrative for additional insights into course design and research materials.



BOEI TRAINING MODULES							
	Ubuntu	Open	Facilitation	Advocacy	Influencing	SDG's	
Purpose							
About Module							Expectations
							Requirements
							Time Outcomes
Open Content							Insights
							Assessment
Facilitation/ Practical							Skills
							Experience in Application
Influencing Task							Skills
							Experience
							Application
Resources							Learning Tools
							Resources



Phase 1 required multiple activities to recruit, appoint and situate an OpenEdInfluencer team inside a university. Then, inclusion in the OE4BW program, acceptance to OEGlobal19, and gaining institutional support. Page upon page of tasks completed for the BOEI project, or now underway, reflect part of the journey.



It also provides a beginner blue-print to empowerment as what an OpenEdInfluencer is able to engage with, do and share.

How the BOEI project developed-starting point:

OpenMandelaUni &
OpenEdInfluencers,
OE4BW,
Open Colloquium,
OEGlobal19

Main challenges

Building a course from an idea still taking shape.

Institutional lack of awareness and use of open.

How the BOEI team overcame them:

Being a unified team, with a common goal helped.

Laughing.

Not being afraid to try, and get feedback.

Asking for help, and including others.

Lessons learned

The project required much more energy, attention and effort than anticipated.

Don't be afraid of your mentor.

If you share, you can get feedback.

You need a team, each part engaged and active.

Teams require blood, sweat and tears to work.

You need to give it, then you can expect it.

Set a schedule.

Keep on doing.

"Just thinking isn't doing much."

There's a lot more work to do.

The role of OE4BW

- Vehicle for spreading Open
- Mentorship opportunity
- Networking opportunity
- Added legitimacy to advocacy efforts at MandelaUni

Relationship with the mentor

Set a schedule of meetings, and allowed flexibility when required.

The experience has been high quality, friendly, well informed, direct and guiding in nature.

Often clarified activities within frameworks of reference, which was very useful

Having an experienced and prolific (academic and project) mentor motivated the OEI team to be better.

Hub coordinator

Very professional, attentive to detail and maintaining contacts between PL and PM, and progress updates were regular.

Joined project meetings between PL and PM.

	The BOEI Course	OE4BW
<p>Plans and suggestions for the future</p>	<p>Plans</p> <p>Phase 2 & 3 – collaborate and create.</p> <p>Appoint additional OEIs @MandelaUni after completion of BOEI course. Activate them.</p> <p>Establish trial OEI cohorts in multiple spaces.</p> <p>Suggestion</p> <p>students who participate as OEIs after the course deserve to be remunerated for efforts. This is in recognition as professionals in training, and for the amount of work and time required to <i>do</i>. See <i>Humanising Pedagogy</i> (Zinn & Rodgers, 2012) and Nelson Mandela University Mission and Values (Nelson Mandela University, 2019) as part of our approach.</p>	<p>Thank you for inclusion, it has been a driver and motivation to be even more proactive in the <i>doing</i> part of Open, and for efforts at Nelson Mandela University to gain better traction.</p> <p>The program timeline is a bit out of sync, as it may combine two aspects of the OE4BW program, but these are actually separate and require separate interventions or engagements. The course creation requires the practitioners’ workshop at the start of the inclusion into OE4BW. The presentation of results or product should be set later.</p>

Kinds of feedback/support we would appreciate:

We want to know:

All of it!

We want to know about what you need to share your materials.

We want you to share news of this potential sharing mechanism and opportunity.

How to include some of your materials and experiences as we seek to empower champions for Open Education, so we can all contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through direct action.

How?

If someone was to share news and information about your Open course, what would you want them to be able to do, and how would you want them to do it?



THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Please consider, write down, and do share responses to the following prompts via

openedinfluencers@mandela.ac.za

How would you want OpenEdInfluencers in your space to help start sharing news and insights about your Open materials?

If all of those 'expectations' were put into an online empowerment course, what materials, experiences and lessons would need to be included to enable participants to do what you expected?

Works consulted

- Nelson Mandela University, 2019. Mission, Vision & Values. [Online] Available at: <https://www.mandela.ac.za/About-us/Our-impact/Mission,-Vision-Values> [Accessed 27 June 2019].
- Petrides, L., Levin, D. & Watson, C. E., 2018. Toward a Sustainable OER Ecosystem: The Case for OER Stewardship. [Online] Available at: <https://careframework.org/> [Accessed 27 June 2019].
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- Zinn, D. & Rodgers, C., 2012. A humanising pedagogy: Getting beneath the rhetoric. *Perspectives in Education*, 30(4), pp. 76-87.



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